

Gene Sock, 9289 Crabb Road

This info was read at the January 17, 2006 Township Board Meeting during the public comment time.

I have been a member of the Township Cable Committee since 2003, but I am here tonight speaking as a private citizen and a Buckeye Cable subscriber.

I believe that the Cable Committee provided packets to all Township Board members during the last week of December stating the recommendations from the cable committee's November meeting.

I would like to read from one of those pages with states the purpose of the cable committee and its members: (see attached page)

These are the facts as I see them concerning the Cable agreement between Buckeye Cablevision and Bedford Township.

- 1. Bedford Township adopted Ordinance No. 86 on March 4, 1999, which established the franchise rights agreement between Buckeye Cablevision, Inc and Bedford Township.**
- 2. As part of the agreement, the Township established a 3-way partnership among the Township, Buckeye and Bedford Public Schools in which each entity was to contribute 1/3 of the cost of the local origination studio established on Bedford Public School's property.**
- 3. The arrangement in the agreement is that Buckeye would collect the franchise fees monthly from cable subscribers and pay the franchise fees to the Township. The Township would then pay Bedford Public Schools both Buckeye's share and the Township's share. Currently each Buckeye Cable subscriber pays a 4% franchise fee on each monthly bill, which is in addition to his or her monthly cable charges.**
- 4. The agreement never stated nor was it ever intended that Bedford Public Schools be held to any performance standard whatsoever in order to receive its share of the funding. Bedford Public Schools was to provide the local origination studio and has done so.**
- 5. Bedford Public Schools has faithfully (and voluntarily) provided local origination services in the community, which includes broadcasting the telethons, election coverage, sporting events and at one time the taping of Township board meetings.**

6. The Township, which desired to have its meetings taped, hired Triple L. Productions to provide this service. According to an article in the Toledo Blade on August 29, 2002 it stated that Bedford Public Schools also submitted 3 proposals to provide the service to tape the meetings but the cheapest of those was still \$3,000 more than the Triple L. bid Triple L. began providing this service in the fall of 2002.
7. After the Township hired Triple L, the Township discontinued paying Bedford Public Schools its share and Buckeye Cablevision's share of the Franchise Fee to help fund the local origination studio. This was against the protests of Bedford Public Schools officials who felt that the Township was wrong. In the minutes of the August 20, 2002 board meeting when the decision was made to hire Triple L the Supervisor reminded the board that no matter what the board decided on whom to hire to tape the meetings, they would still be liable to pay the franchise agreement to the schools.
8. Information provided by Mr. Ted Magrum, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations for Bedford Public Schools indicates that Bedford Public Schools consistently received payments of \$10,000 from Bedford Township and \$10,000 from the company providing cable service until May of 2002.

Bedford Public Schools has not yet received payment from Bedford Township or Buckeye Cable for the following years under the current franchise agreement: 2003, 2004 or 2005. According to information provided by Bedford Township the cable franchise fees collected by Buckeye Cable from cable subscribers and paid to Bedford Township was approximately \$165,000 in the 2003-2004 fiscal year and \$175,000 in the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

9. In Summary, these are the facts as I see them based on my personal research of the contract and information provided by Bedford Township and Bedford Public Schools. I apologize if I have misinterpreted any of this information. My goal is not to point fingers and place blame but encourage our Township officials to acknowledge if mistakes have been made..... they should correct them without hesitation. Lets do the right thing for our cable subscribers and our kids. Thank You.....

Wilburn vows to resolve dispute over cablevision payment

BY JOSHUA KENNEDY

For the Evening News

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP — An advisory panel to the Bedford Township Board Tuesday night questioned the recent removal of several members and challenged the board publicly to set aside petty politics and pay \$60,000 to Bedford Public Schools.

Several board members in turn chastised the members of the Bedford Township Cablevision Advisory Committee for "airing dirty laundry in public" and "going to the press."

"I resent that committee going to the press," Trustee Paul Francis said. "They advise this board, not The (Toledo) Blade, The Monroe Evening News or the Bedford NOW. I've looked at their purpose statement and cannot find anywhere where they are supposed to advise the press."

"This shouldn't have happened this way."

The cablevision committee effectively has been disbanded, forbidden to meet and has seen several longtime members — including former chairman Steve Lennex — not reappointed since recommending that the township repay the schools three years worth of local origination payments at \$20,000 a year.

The squabble started about a month ago when the cablevision committee — a group of volunteers who oversee the township's contract with Buckeye Cable Co. — publicly announced that the township has been withholding annual payments due to the schools.

The franchise agreement with Buckeye includes language that the township will receive 4 percent of the cable company's local revenues. The same contract created a three-way partnership in which the cable company would pay the township and the township would pay the schools.

The contract was set up so that the schools would get \$20,000 — \$10,000 from the cable company and \$10,000 from the township — each year. The money would help fund the broadcasting program. That money was paid to the schools from 1999 to 2002.

"There is no language anywhere requiring students to tape meetings," Mr. Lennex said. "How you could somehow extract that is beyond me."

In August, 2002, the previous township board hired Triple "L" Productions of Lambertville to tape twice monthly township board meetings and air them on the local public access channel.

Several of those board members said they hired the outside broadcasting agency because the students missed taping more

than a year's worth of meetings. That seems to be the crux of the issue: whether the schools were obligated to provide services for the local origination funds they received through the cable contract.

Local origination funds — money generated by the fees the cable company charges residents — total about \$170,000 a year in Bedford Township. The cablevision committee says the township owes the school \$20,000 a year — \$10,000 from the cable company and \$10,000 from the township — for each year since 2002.

"Your predecessors were wrong," Mr. Lennex told the board Tuesday night. "And you, too, will be wrong if you don't see this opportunity to correct this. And it saddens me to say this, but a few of you are more wrong."

The matter was slated for discussion at Tuesday night's meeting, but never made it to the agenda. In the meantime Mr. Lennex, a member for 12 years, and Bernice Heidelberg a Whiteford Township representative, were not reappointed to the panel over the holiday weeks.

"I don't think they were removed," Mr. Francis said. "Their terms had expired."

"I said I would try and bring new blood into these committees," said Supervisor Walt Wilburn, who was home battling throat cancer when cablevision committee members called his home to argue about the missing payments.

"This is not Walt's — or the current administration's — problem," said Gene Stock, another cablevision member. "It's not anybody's fault. I'm not here to point fingers or decide blame. Let's do the right thing for Bedford Schools and our kids."

Several school board members and Supt. Jon White were in attendance, but did not speak publicly. Mr. Wilburn did say a joint meeting between the township board, the schools and what's left of the cablevision committee will be held Jan. 31 at the township hall.

"I have worked hard through the years and it's always been a mission of mine to make sure that businesses, government and the schools work hand in hand. We are the three strongholds of the community," Mr. Wilburn said.

"This is an embarrassment to me. Airing our dirty laundry that's been laying around for four years before I came on the scene. Sorry I got ill. Well, I'm back now and we're going to sit down like ladies and gentlemen and we're going to fix this. That's what our children expect us to do."

"They don't expect us to bicker in the newspaper about it. I'm sick of it. We're going to solve this problem and get it taken care of."

MEN - 1/18/06

Bedford Twp. Board takes control of cable access

TEMPERANCE — In a surprise move, the Bedford Township Board last night stripped control of the local studio for public access cable away from the Bedford Public Schools and "officially" moved it a quarter-mile south to the township hall.

The board voted unanimously to amend one of two ordinances that govern cable television operations in the township.

The move comes after a contentious meeting last month with former members of the township's advisory cable committee during which they alleged that the township owed the school district tens of thousands of dollars in back franchise fees.

Township officials stopped paying the district \$10,000 a year in 2002, shortly after they agreed to hire Triple L Productions of Lambertville to broadcast township board meetings. Previously, high school students in Bedford's broadcast journalism program taped the meetings on a scattershot basis.

While several issues of disagreement remain over the township's decision to withhold payment, township legal counsel Phil Goldsmith said the amendment passed last night "clarifies" where public access broadcasts originate within the local cable system.

"This resolution will move the location from the school system to the township hall, then further work will be done on the repeal of [an earlier and conflicting cable ordinance], bringing further clarity to the issue," Mr. Goldsmith said.

"This is just the first step in the process of trying to get this thing straightened out where everyone could understand it," Supervisor Walt Wilburn said.

However, the board did not discuss the outstanding monetary issue between the schools and the township.

In a related move last night, the board accepted the resignation of Gene Stock from the cable committee. Mr. Stock, a longtime community activist, had been a leading voice calling for the township to pay the school system a share of franchise revenues.

Bedford Now

Friday, March 3, 2006

Stock quits 2 seats; DiPofi to replace him

BY JOSHUA KENNEDY
Bedford Now

Bedford Township activist Gene Stock has resigned from both the township's Economic Development Corp. (EDC) and the cablevision advisory committee.

Mr. Stock, a Bedford native, cited politics over the cablevision committee's recommendation that the township repay \$60,000 in skipped payments to the Bedford Public Schools as part of a cable franchise agreement with Buckeye Cable Co.

Mr. Stock was one of two members on that seven-member committee who was reappointed in January after initial debates over the payment and how the matter has been publicized.

The board wasted no time



GENE STOCK

in filling Mr. Stock's vacated seats. At the same meeting where they officially accepted his resignation, they appointed Vince DiPofi, current Temperance Action Committee (TAC) chairman.

Mr. Stock said he hasn't ruled out further volunteer work on the township's behalf but said that he's disappointed by the current board's wrangling over money owed.

SOUTH COUNTY

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP

Stock vacates 2 board posts

The Bedford Township Board is seeking to fill two posts vacated recently by longtime community leader Gene Stock.

Mr. Stock recently resigned his posts on the township's Economic Development Corp. (EDC) and Cablevision Advisory Committee.

The committees have recommended Vincent DiPofi Sr. as a replacement. The posts' terms would run from March 1 to Dec. 31, 2009. Trustees are

scheduled to decide on the appointment at their meeting at 7 tonight.

The five-member cablevision board meets at 7 p.m. the third Monday of every month. The nine-member EDC meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month.

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 21, 2006

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