Comments read by Michelle Bork during public commentary at the June 21st Bedford Township Board Meeting

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In late January of this year, I filled out an application for the “Communications and Cable Committee” in hopes there would be a new committee formed after the discussion at the November 2015 board meeting.

Soon after I filled it out, I was contacted to join a meeting to discuss the possibility of a new committee formed. At that meeting it was discussed that an “Exploratory Committee” was going to be formed to see if there was a NEED for a “Communications Committee”.

Late February of this year, Greg Stewart and Nancy Tienvieri formed an “Exploratory Committee” with Greg LaScala, Jodi Russ, Ed Manuszak, Nate Elarton, Carrie Setzler, Nancy Tienvieri and myself on the committee.

Our committee met every week for 1-2 hours working on reasons “why Bedford needs a Communications Committee”. We spent hours researching our community to find out how they communicate best. I met with a variety of residents from all different age groups from around to township to collect data and compile information for our group.

For the next 9 weeks we spent hours working on mission and vision statements, strategic goals, responsibilities and recommendations for a new “Communications Committee”. We created a PowerPoint presentation that included all of our research accompanied by the statements, goals, and recommendations. Everything in the presentation was pointing to the need for a “Communications Committee”.

The presentation was on May 5th to the Township Board. After discussion and answering all of the questions, the board voted unanimously in favor of a “Communications Committee”. When asked at the meeting if all of us on the “Exploratory Committee” would continue to be on the new “Communications Committee” we all AGREED.

Now on June 21st, 3 Township Board meetings later, I see that there will finally be appointments to the new committee. The agenda reads the appointments of: Jodi Russ, Nate Elarton, and Lori Welling.

I am very confused about this selection.

1. Why aren’t the members from the “Exploratory Committee” on the agenda for appointment?
2. Why is there someone on the agenda that was not on the original committee to be appointed BEFORE the other 5?
3. Why we were never contacted after our presentation?

I spent 9 weeks pouring my heart into this project to better our community. Not seeing my name or the names of the other 4 committee members on the agenda for tonight’s meeting was extremely disappointing. The lack of consideration for our time and effort put into this project is frustrating.

Ironically, whoever set the agenda for tonight’s meeting needs to work on their communications skills.

Michelle Bork