

WHY SHOULD I VOTE FOR YOU? (Jeff Zink)

A Tool to Help Question and Evaluate Candidates for Bedford Township Office

- 1) **Priorities** – What should be the top five priorities of Township Hall over the next four (4) years? (1 = most important) Why do you feel these are the top five?
- a _____ Improving police protection
 - b _____ Improving fire protection
 - c _____ Improving parks and recreation
 - d 1 Promoting economic development
 - e _____ Reducing the size of Township government
 - f _____ Full Disclosure of Township financial records (publish on Township web site)
 - g 5 Maintaining and improving infrastructure (roads, water, sewer)
 - h _____ Reducing litigation against the Township
 - i 2 Up-dating Planning, zoning and land use
 - j _____ Promoting greater fiscal responsibility and lower taxes
 - k _____ Improving services for citizens and being more customer friendly
 - l _____ Improving the use of the Township Public Access Station on Buckeye Cable.
 - m 3 Making better, bold and courageous decisions that benefit the entire township long term in spite of intense written and vocal pressure from special interest groups.
 - n 4 Recognizing and protecting the property rights of all citizens
 - o _____ Improving the use of the Township web site to communicate with residents.

Why do you feel that “Your top Five Priorities” are the most important?

First, by selecting only 5 of the 15 it appears that I don't have an opinion or place importance on the other 10. I would like to address the items not marked. Police, Fire and Parks are of the utmost importance, however, at this time we seem to be adequately protected and have ample park space. Police and Fire are on the November ballot and I believe they will be renewed. If the Park Board is able to continue maintenance and to make small improvements within their budget in this weak economy I believe for now that is sufficient.

As far as the other 7, well all I can say is seriously? Living within your means, being considerate, telling the truth and avoiding not reducing litigation is something my parents and teachers taught me years ago. If elected I hope and pray that at least 4 of the 7 board members share the same view.

My top 5 - (1) If the new board members are successful in promoting economic development they will need to be prepared to (2) streamline the zoning and planning process and thus (3 & 4) be willing to make the tough decisions while protecting the property rights of the new owners / applicants and their existing neighbors by exercising some old fashioned skills of negotiating and compromise. Lastly (5), who waits until they are bedridden to see a doctor only to find out now it's too late, who waits until the roof leaks to get an estimate and now doesn't have enough money to repair it only because they just over extended themselves by purchasing a Gulf front condo? Isn't that the way our government has been working? By suggesting that I can accommodate everyone with a smooth ride and solve all the drain issues in the next 4 years would be foolish and if anyone votes for me because they believe I can are naïve. However, because of my experience in planning, designing, installing and maintaining infrastructure in

addition to budgeting, I believe we can find and make a few more line item cuts, appeal to the County and State for additional funding to make a start.

2. What is your position on economic development for Bedford Township, especially the Temperance area? What is your plan to encourage economic development?

I won't be daring enough to suggest who and what it is that I would like to see or not to see. I have friends and associates, public and private who's welfare depends on attracting clients to expand or relocate to this area. To mention only a few, they include land owners, business owners, realtors, architects and engineers, contractors and recent graduates who are seeking employment. I'm in touch with them on a regular basis and it's with their encouragement and our working relationship that I am campaigning for the office of Trustee.

3. What is your position on "Town Hall Meetings" where township officials can meet with residents to discuss their concerns and to keep them informed of what is going on in the township? Would you be willing to have these on a monthly basis and also have them televised?

As an elected official any means of meetings or media to keep residents informed or to hear concerns would be encouraged. I have attended town hall meetings and I have watched televised meetings. The very sad truth is unless there is an emotional event taking place, very few people attend. That said, I'm open to anything. I intend to keep my ear to the ground, listen to my friends and neighbors from inside the grocery store to the church parking lot.

4. What is your position on using the Township Access TV Channel on Buckeye Cable to communicate with the public? For example, a monthly one-hour TV show hosted by the Supervisor or Clerk to get current information out to residents about various issues, township boards and up-coming meetings. Since most Township Board meetings do not last the full 3 hours that is allotted, this show could be broadcasted at the end of one of the meetings each month with the public in attendance.

See #3

5. What is your position concerning having all board members being fully informed before decisions are made at Township Board Meetings? Do you think that there is enough discussion on issues by all board members when decisions are made currently?

What kind of question is this? I just took a break to think about this one! If you think I will not take the time to be informed and willing to discuss the agenda items then please vote for someone else. Reading between the lines I believe you are insinuating that the outcomes of certain agenda items are predetermined before the meeting and it only appears that they are not informed and therefore discussion is lacking. If I have taken your question wrong I apologize, if I'm on the right track I would tend to agree that at certain times it appears as such. Again, I intend to be informed and willing to discuss the issues.

6. Do you feel that the current practice of having a township attorney in attendance at all Bedford Township meetings is necessary?

No, but I can't speak for the other 6 board members. There have been only a few instances where I needed to consult an attorney for advice while trying to make a decision. Up to now I have been capable of rendering opinions and decisions on my own using good common sense

and judgment and hopefully I and at least 3 others on the board will be capable of continuing that tradition. Does the township need an attorney? Absolutely, at every meeting, no.

7. What do you see is your role as a member the Bedford Township Board? Do you think that all board members should take the responsibility for placing topics on the meeting agenda?

I would be 1/7th of a team and hopefully a team of people who share the same ideas and principles. I understand that trustees do not chair the meetings but a trustee should assume the role of leadership. I intend to be a leader,

8. Over the past 8 years the current Bedford Township Board has made a number of important decisions. Do you agree with their decision on the following matters? If not, what is your opinion on these decisions?

I may be the exception in as much as it is now fashionable during a campaign to criticize past events. Hind sight is always 20/20 and to get on board and offer opinions based on the public's perception is ineffectual and a waste of time as my focus is on the future. The following questions are best suited for incumbents seeking reelection. I will however reiterate my position at the times the following were relevant.

a. Bedford Township was involved in 3 major lawsuits in the past 4 years which cost residents thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of lost time by Township officials.

Albring rezoning – recommended approval 1st meeting.

Whitman rezoning – recommended approval contingent on a narrow strip behind Indian Rd be reserved for transitional zoning. I fully realize that contingencies cannot be part of a motion but hopefully negotiations were happening behind the scenes.

b. Continued the previous township board's practice of salting away taxpayers' funds (over 1 million dollars) to be used for the construction of a new township hall, even though these funds could have been used for such things as road improvements, park maintenance, police and fire protection.

Even in today's tough economy a portion of our income should be set aside. When a sum of money amounts to a million a plan along with some restraint should have been presented to the residents for consensus.

c. Construction of a new township hall.

Too late, it's nearing seven years old. Could a little self restraint have been exercised. – sure. It's easy seven years later to criticize. The real lesson to be learned is that there was a lack of planning and the request for proposals (rfp) were too inconclusive to make a determination of who submitted the best price rather than who submitted the best design. To put it in better terms, how long is a rope?

d. Denial of bringing a major retailer to Bedford on the Whitman property.

There may have or may not have been a retailer behind the scenes. By denying the rezoning request one could certainly conclude that is what happened. In any event that is behind us, but from this point forward all planning and zoning decisions should not be made based on personal

preferences. They should be based on clear facts such as, is sewer, water and drainage available to the site? Will the existing roadways accommodate the request or is the applicant proposing and willing to pay for the upgrades? Are we willing to interpret the master plan as a guide and be flexible or conclude that is absolute gospel? Once more, let's move forward.

9. What are some new ideas that you would recommend if elected? What is your "Vision" for Bedford Township in the next 4 years?

I would rather bring back some old "ideas" before trying out new ones such as living within your means, being a good listener, exercising common sense and unfair as it is making equitable decisions does not mean everyone gets the same size slice.

The only way to gain experience is to make mistakes and the only way to avoid mistakes is to gain experience. My ability to see 4 years forward is limited and that tends to make me hesitant about making promises. If you recall just 4 years ago our leaders promised we would be eating cake and dancing in the streets by now. I've made mistakes and learned from them and try not to repeat them. In addition to promoting Bedford the only 2 promises I'm willing to make is that whatever comes before the board will receive my utmost and unbiased attention and I promise that some residents will never be happy. Please bear in mind that there have been riots over the outcome of a sporting event.

10. How should the public hold you as an elected official accountable for your campaign promises and your votes?

As stated above I am going into this with my eyes wide open. There are 2 sides to every issue so no matter what happens on any given day the issue of accountability will be split. The choices are an "ata a boy" or a recall petition filed.

Submitted by Jeff Zink