
Public input comments at BFCESD meeting

2 messages

Town Cedar lake <supervisor1@cedarlakets.com>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 7:30 PM

To: Maryhelen Drew <clerk@cedarlakets.com>

BFCESD Public input 10-08-2020

My name is Tony Wolff and I am a resident of Cedar Lake. I have attended a number of these meetings as a member of the audience and a few times as a commissioner representing Cedar lake township. At the beginning of each of these meetings you call for "Pubic input", let the person speak, and then ignore what is said. I have never witnessed any of the commissioners attempt to answer a question the public may have during public input. I have never heard a question being added to a future agenda in order to get them an answer. I have read past meeting minutes that made me wonder what transpired at a meeting, even meetings I attended. I also find it almost impossible to research past minutes because they are often not posted on the village website. With these experiences, it is my opinion that this commission does not conduct its work in a transparent way that is consistent with other government boards that represent a constituency, and subsequently, you are not being accountable to the taxpayers who fund this commission.

I offer something I witnessed myself as an example of the dubious conduct on the part of this commission. The Chairman of the Town of Cedar Lake, Ken Leners removed Jon Sleik from his position as representative because he was not performing his duties as he was instructed. As the representative of Cedar lake at the time, he was also the president of this commission. At the next meeting of the BFCESD, Ken Leners attended as the representative of Cedar lake with the six other entities present. During that meeting,

Romaine Quinn who represented the Town of Birchwood resigned his position and named Jon Sleik as his successor, by the way, to a town of which he is not a resident, only so that they could preserve his position on the board and vote him in as President again before the meeting was adjourned.

I have heard a number of commissioners berate Ken Leners because he seems the only one who dares question how money is allocated for operating expenses, how the commission is run without any by-laws, or how fundraising for the new building is conducted. They follow this up by their insistence that one commissioner should not dictate how the group shall decide an issue. It seems to me however, that's exactly what is happening when they go along with how Jon Sleik tells them how it should go.

When this commission was formed, it required the signatures of all seven entities that comprise this commission. My most recent observation is that the signature block of the new by-laws that is on the agenda to be voted on tonight has but one signature required, that of Jon Sleik.

It is my opinion that in order for the BFCESD to succeed going forward, and especially for the prospects of a new fire department building being built, the president of the Commission, Jon Sleik should resign his position. I believe that the president of this commission should be someone dedicated to transparency, and who resides in the town they represent when they make important decisions that will affect taxpayers for years to come.

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Anthony J Wolff

Town Cedar lake <supervisor1@cedarlakets.com>
To: Maryhelen Drew <clerk@cedarlakets.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 6:33 PM

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Anthony J Wolff