

August 16, 2015

Dear Berwick Township Supervisors,

I am writing in response to what I witnessed and experienced at the Township Supervisor's meeting on Monday, August 10, 2015. I have been a Berwick Township resident for 17 years. I have been attending township meetings for two years. I am appalled and embarrassed by the behavior of some of the supervisors, namely, Tom Danner and Bob Foltz.

The following is a description of what I saw and heard at the 8/10/15 meeting. At least three supervisors (Mr. Danner, Mr. Foltz and Pete Socks) made snide and under their breath comments throughout the meeting, some of which the public could hear. What will be next, passing notes? Mr. Danner used the public comment portion of the meeting to issue a lengthy statement regarding the office manager cell phone. This should have been part of the township meeting agenda. After the zoning office, Mike Hartman, gave his report, the questions and comments to him were demeaning and disrespectful. It appeared that you were purposefully trying to publicly humiliate him. This is not an appropriate way to treat a colleague. Worst of all, is the way citizens were disrespected. When a resident asked what the process was for reviewing automatic bill list invoices, Mr. Danner was evasive. When I tried to clarify the question, asking for a yes or no answer, Mr. Danner got louder and more defensive and continued to dance around the direct question, never really giving a satisfactory answer.

If this was the first time I saw and heard behavior like this, I might give you a pass and chalk it up to having a bad day. Unfortunately, this behavior is all too common and is a typical part of most meetings. I find this unacceptable for our elected public officials.

I expect our elected and/or appointed township supervisors to be knowledgeable, professional and most importantly, respectful to each other and especially to your constituents. The citizens of Berwick Township certainly deserve to have representation that is mature, transparent and acts in the best interest of the entire township. If you can't take criticism and scrutiny without becoming defensive, disrespectful and intimidating in response, perhaps you should not be sitting on this board. At the very least, I strongly recommend the Board taking classes in effective communication, public relations and professionalism.

I'll continue to attend Township Supervisor's meetings and encourage other Berwick Township residents to do the same. I also expect acknowledgement of this letter during the correspondence portion of the September meeting. Thank you for addressing these concerns.

Sincerely,

Barbara Shorb