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LETTERS: Too much whining by ex-Upper Providence supervisor

Friday, November 4, 2016

I read with some amusement John Pearson's letter in support of expanding Upper Providence's Board of Supervisors.

To address his baseless and insulting accusation first: I am not "aligned" with any one supervisor. I am, and always will be, an independent voice for this township. For Mr. Pearson to insinuate that I need to align myself with a man in order to get anything done is misogynistic and ignorant. Where was Mr. Pearson when I led the fight to save Parkhouse? He was cowering in the background lest he upset his Democrat bosses at the county. Where was Mr. Pearson when I led the initiative to televise township meetings? Throwing up roadblocks and making excuses. Where was Mr. Pearson when I led the charge to get the township off of their Cadillac healthcare plan? Trying unsuccessfully to organize the employees against it.

I believe that my job as a supervisor is to always do what's best for the township and I believe that Mr. Barker is also guided by this same principle. While he and I do not always agree in the best manner in which to implement that principle, we often arrive at the same conclusion because it is not a political agenda or personal vendetta driving our decision making process.

In June of this year, the Montgomery County Planning Commission praised the Upper Providence trail program as the model for the rest of the county. This system is the sole purview of Upper Providence Parks Director Sue Barker. She has and continues to do an outstanding job for our township. Who she is related to is only an issue if her performance is subpar or if you are John Pearson and you think that your girlfriend should be a candidate for every open position that comes up in the township.

The record will show that in the four years that Mr. Pearson served with me, he never cast a single "no" vote, including the one on Sue Barker's salary. And while Mr. Pearson's recollection of our conversation is wholly inaccurate, it should be noted that Sue Barker remains the lowest paid director at Upper Providence Township, even after Mr. Pearson voted "yes" on her raise.

Unlike Mr. Pearson, I will not engage in misquoting him for my own political purposes, but I am sure that it will come as no surprise to anyone who knows him that I have been subjected to many comments from him that would make even Donald Trump blush.

For all of Mr. Pearson's faux outrage over how the township is being run, he and the rest of the members of "Upper Providence First" have only spoken at two meetings this year: first, to lend themselves as bit players in Mike Vereb's political theater back in May, and again in June in an effort to get the Board of Supervisors to vote to place their request to expand the Board on the ballot. This request was based on the presentation of improperly collected petition signatures of questionable veracity.

When I asked to examine those petitions, my requests were repeatedly ignored by petition organizer Jim White and rudely refused by John Pearson. Neither of these gentlemen has been forthright when questioned directly on their intentions to run for the open seats their ballot initiative will create if successful.

It is not my fault, nor Mr. Barker's fault, that Mr. Pearson was an ineffective township supervisor, but his disingenuous whining in service to creating two new positions on the Upper Providence Board should be instructive to voters as to the motives behind it.

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