

I would first like to report on the positive issues in Delran.

First, a special thank you to the engineering firm of Adams, Rehmann & Heggan for donating 4 Phillies Box seats and parking pass to the Duda Family. I just wanted to let the former principal's family know that they are still in our thoughts during this difficult time.

I am happy to report that the Delran Business Assoc. had their first meeting with businesses on September 13<sup>th</sup>. They distributed the proposed by laws and are gearing up for continued growth. They are still reaching out to more businesses and I encourage any business owners in the audience to contact them and join this organization. Their second meeting will discuss board and committee selections.

The roads to be repaired have been announced and they are: All of Jacqueline Avenue, Westover Drive, Westover Court and Sawmill Court.

I am happy to report that Council agreed to pass the first reading of the ordinance regarding curfews in our parks. I know a lot of residents have been concerned about the recent acts of vandalism and the intrusion on a resident's home in Summer Hill. Thus approving a 9 pm. curfew when there is no Delran AA games scheduled or 11 pm. on nights that there are games scheduled with permits.

I would request that Councilman Macey or Councilman Hermansky please report out on the progress of the application for six single family homes on the parcel between Pancoast and Harper Blvds. In their reports.

I wanted to say that Council is also actively pursuing a large parcel of land for open space. We are taking the necessary steps in finalizing this effort.

Now I want to discuss the issues that concern me as the minority opinion on Council.

I was told on September 19<sup>th</sup>, at our work session meeting that Councilman Macey is now planning to revise the Anti Nepotism Ordinance to try to get a consensus. At the previous meeting, it looked as if we could finally pass this ordinance because we could get the three votes needed. Now, it is becoming clear that this is a game that my fellow councilmen are playing. It has become apparent that they just don't have the nerve to go on record and vote against this ordinance. It appears that they are just going to play musical chairs with the vote until it goes away. I question their motives and exactly who it is that they are trying to protect. These delays surely do not protect the taxpayer's interests.

Since, I was trying to keep specific examples of nepotism confidential in our town; apparently it hasn't been an effective way to show how much we need this ordinance. Thus, I have decided to put together some of the easy to see examples of why not having this law is hurting the taxpayers.

There are several instances where there are particularly troubling circumstances surrounding township employment. It seems that the position of Assistant Superintendent at the Sewerage Authority is available only for relatives of mayor and council and is only necessary when a relative needs the position. One of Mr. Ogozalek cousins was promoted from Assistant Superintendent to Assistant Superintendent/Director of Operations, with a pay increase, a year or so before retiring. That means that his state pension would be calculated on his higher pay level. Then, the position became "unnecessary" for a couple of years.

When the prior Superintendent, George Connard, retired, the Acting Superintendent was removed from his position to return to the position of Operator and the Mayor's brother –in- law was promoted to a position that suddenly became necessary. The position was that of "Assistant Superintendent".

There are others. There is one department in the Township where a wife is the assistant to her husband.

I had hoped that I would not be forced to have to discuss details in public meetings but the deception that there is no real need for this ordinance has gone on long enough.

Now I want to address these flyers that have been illegally placed in resident's mail boxes and that were mailed to my residence this past Saturday afternoon and also mailed to other residents.

The first thing I want to say is that I think the content of one of the flyers, referring to me as a Jesus betrayer and referencing 9-11 was totally disgraceful. I also want to make note that I am the minority on this council and I've

only been in office one year. Not one of my four fellow councilmen except the Mayor tonight, who have been in office from 6-11 yrs, took responsibility for their votes nor did they publicly come to my defense. This caused me to have to come to my own defense.

I requested the hard copy of the minutes as evidence of me personally questioning almost every line item on the budget, and insisting on having the special meeting prior to the public meeting on Feb.27<sup>th</sup> to see if we could go over it one last time.

I realized that they were not transcribed; they were very general and non specific. I submitted an OPRA request for copies of the original tapes of the budget meetings. I received the copies of the meetings and they were unintelligible. I questioned our Township Clerk how they were copied; she stated that since these were recorded on mini micro cassettes we could only copy them from one machine to another through the air. Our recording device appears to be from the 1960's. This is how we give copies out over the years.

OPRA (Open Public Records Act) requires you to give out audible tapes, I know a year ago resident's received OPRA tapes on Sewer Authority minutes and they were inaudible.

So at the last work session, I requested that the Township Clerk purchase an up to date recording and tape duping device and Councilman Macey said, "What if we don't want it?" This makes it appear that Council doesn't want residents to know what is really going on. This makes it much more difficult for people to find out the real story about the budget. This also misleads the public regarding the minutes that we have fought so hard to get on the township web sites.

I feel having audible tapes available from all of the township meetings, planning board, zoning board, Sewer Authority and township committee meetings should be made a priority. This is unacceptable and unethical especially since it has been known that this has been going on for a long time.

Before I go on any further, I want to thank Jamie, our Township Clerk, and Adel, our Mayor's Administrator, for all the additional work that this situation has created for them.

Regarding the second flyer about cronyism that was sent to my residence, I had made a couple of nominations to the boards once I was elected to office over a year and a half ago.

One was to nominate myself to one of the two council seats on the planning board and the other was the nomination of Gary Catrambone to the Delran Sewer Authority. Gary is very knowledgeable about the Sewer Authority since he started watching there activities nearly 10 years ago. There have been numerous allegations regarding the Sewer Authority's reinstatement of the previously "unnecessary" position of Assistant Superintendent, The position which happens to be the Mayor's brother-in-law. By the way, Councilman Bert Hermansky personally asked Gary Catrambone if he would serve on the Sewerage Authority back in 2000.

I wanted a presence on both boards overseeing their processes. Both requests were not honored.

These nominations were provided, by mail, **only** to the Mayor, the Administrator and Council members and were discussed in a closed work session with only the Mayor, Administrator, and Council members present, so isn't it interesting that this information came to me on a flyer with the other anonymous budget flyer in my mail.

Just yesterday, another flyer was sent to the Mayor, in care of the Township Administrator, indicating knowledge of the fact that the County Prosecutor decided not to investigate the previous flyer referring to Jesus and 9-11 as a hate crime. This flyer requested that, in light of this information, the police not be involved with the investigation since this was political activity. The only people with knowledge of the prosecutor's determination were Chief of Police, Administrator, Mayor and Council.

This leaves one conclusion, someone sitting up here is feeding this information to this unregistered group of anonymous people.

Thank you,  
Ken Paris