

GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

100 HELEN STREET
LEWISTOWN, PA 17044
717-242-2334

Mark M. Ellinger, Chairman

William W. Page, Vice-Chairman

James A. Smith, Supervisor

Township Office
 Police Department

Code Department

Road Department
 Sewer & Water Department

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Lewistown Sentinel
Lewistown, PA 17044

In response to Council President Shade's recent article in The Sentinel, the Township would like to bring light to the untrue statements made by President Shade. Granville Township did abolish our Sewer Authority and in turn made it a Department within the Township. Her only factual statement. The rest of her comments in reference to Granville Township are all false.

In our situation our Authority never functioned 100% independently like the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown (MABL). The Township since installing our first sewer line has always maintained the payroll, pension, insurances, etc. for our Sewer Department. We invoice the Sewer Dept. monthly for the costs. We have never raped, pillaged or stolen from our Sewer Department for the General Fund as she implies or as the Borough is planning to do with MABL dollars.

We didn't realize that another governmental body or constituents wanting to ask questions or disagreeing with public officials was an attack. It is not the intent of a Countywide Authority to "continue attacks". We can't continue something that never occurred. If it was, why would Lewistown Borough have three (3) seats at the table? We as a group of neighboring municipalities have never been "anti-Lewistown". We have publicly asked for Lewistown Borough to come to the table to find a resolution that suits the entire County and Lewistown Borough has refused. We feel her statement "Lewistown Borough Council reached out" to be false. The only correspondence Granville has received is a refusal to provide a copy of the adopted Ordinance. Our response: "an additional 30 days are required to respond because a legal review is needed to determine whether the records are subject to access." President Shade goes on and on about MABL wasting money on legal fees and they are going to waste Borough tax dollars on a legal review of whether they are required to provide a copy of an Ordinance? Government 101 tells us all Ordinances and Resolutions are public record under the Open Records Act.

Her mortgage analogy only works if Lewistown Borough paid the mortgage. The MABL ratepayers of Granville, Derry, Brown, Union, Armagh, Burnham, Juniata Terrace and Lewistown paid the mortgage through water bills. Again not one cent over and above the

quarterly water bill since the early 1940's has Lewistown Borough made any investment in the water system. She is basically telling ratepayers "Yes you paid the mortgage but now you will be forced to pay rent on the house".

The truth is that Lewistown Borough in the early 1940's paid \$40,000 towards the water system and has not invested a cent since. The Borough was offered around \$9 million, refused and Council counteroffered \$13 million as a return on the \$40,000 investment and the majority of Council refused their own counteroffer.

Granville Township governs with openness and integrity. We welcome any resident of the Commonwealth that is interested to request records, ask questions, attend meetings. We won't hide behind unnecessary executive sessions, blatant stall tactics when asked for copies of our records (that we all know are public record), advertise ordinances on Friday and adopt Monday so no one has the chance to review. We aren't trying to hide anything. Granville Township has never monetized our sewer system for the General Fund. The outstanding debt of the Sewer Dept. is for investments into the Sewer System. Operating any Sewer or Water system is extremely expensive and any money taken in needs to stay within that system. Whether the plan raises rates now or in the future those dollars the Borough are proposing to take away are dollars that can't be invested in the system they were intended to fund.

Those dollars collected from water bills were never intended to pave Lewistown Borough streets or other "capital improvements". Again published with such vagueness that it leaves residents wondering what Council intends.

It is our job to serve the people that elected us with openness and honesty. We think it's time for Lewistown Borough Council to operate in that manner. The primary election is on May 18th. Encourage your Lewistown Borough neighbors, friends and relatives to get out and vote for candidates that support open and honest government. Candidates that support water revenues should pay for water improvements and maintenance.

Also ask yourself, if what they are planning is so "Right" why are Representative Hershey and Benninghoff supporting legislation to make what they intend impossible?

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