Dear Board Members,

Over the last several years, I have watched your meetings online, and I have to say, it is amazing how little actual business seems to get accomplished when so much time is consumed by residents who seem more interested in criticizing, arguing, and grandstanding than having productive discussions. In particular, the amount of time Marie Digangi takes up, often speaking in a hateful and confrontational tone, is exhausting to watch.

I have to wonder: How many staff members have been driven away over the years because of this kind of behavior? And more importantly, has any of it actually accomplished anything worthwhile? Or is the constant conflict the whole point?

Marie, I find it particularly ironic that you spend so much time questioning staff members about attending meetings in other municipalities. Perhaps you should apply that same level of scrutiny to yourself. Why are you attending Littlestown School Board meetings and raising cane when you do not even live in that school district? Several of their YouTube videos show you attending those meetings and behaving much the same way you do at Huntington Township meetings. Apparently, your passion for public oversight has no geographical boundaries!

Ever since COVID, it seems everyone has become a self-appointed expert, earning imaginary degrees in medicine, law, government, and just about everything else. Everyone knows everything, everyone has an opinion, and everyone is convinced they are the smartest person in the room. Unfortunately, COVID also seems to have brought out the worst in a lot of people. Common courtesy, respect, and the ability to disagree without acting like a bully appear to have gone out the window.

Marie, let me offer a little constructive criticism of my own.

You spend an extraordinary amount of time criticizing other people, recording meetings, researching individuals, and broadcasting your opinions. Have you ever stopped to consider how you come across to everyone else? Constantly belittling people, speaking down to them, and looking for something to criticize is not the way to win people over. Quite the opposite, actually. If you treat people with hostility, do not be surprised when they are less than enthusiastic about responding to you. Respect is a two-way street, not a privilege reserved for the person holding the microphone.

And the YouTube videos? Absolutely ridiculous. Who has that much time and energy to devote to publicly scrutinizing and criticizing other people? Oh, right—a bully who has mistaken a camera and a platform for accountability. There is a difference between holding

public officials accountable and making a hobby out of humiliating people. Perhaps it is time to step back and reflect on which one you are actually doing.

And Marie, since you seem to have difficulty participating in the Pledge of Allegiance, I have taken the liberty of including a copy of the words for you. Hopefully, this will help you join in next time. After all, if you are going to spend so much time criticizing everyone else, surely you can find a moment to participate in something as simple as the Pledge of Allegiance. Consider it a little homework assignment.

And while we are on the subject of your research habits, I would love to know what qualifies you to review and scrutinize township staff members' résumés. Is this an official part of your job description, or have you appointed yourself the township's unofficial HR department? Do you honestly believe it is your responsibility to investigate every staff member's qualifications simply because you disagree with something? There is a difference between legitimate oversight and obsessively searching for something to criticize. Perhaps instead of spending so much time reviewing other people's résumés and personal backgrounds, you could focus that energy on the actual business of the township. I am sure the board and staff would appreciate a little less self-appointed auditing and a little more constructive participation.

And speaking of your research, regarding the information you recently presented about someone's background: this was already public knowledge months ago. You did not exactly uncover a government conspiracy. Sometimes, old news is just old news. Not every piece of information you discover needs to become a public spectacle. Perhaps directing some of that energy toward actual township issues would be a more productive use of your time.

I also found it rather interesting that Mrs. Wallen was able to speak for nearly 10 minutes without any apparent issue with being heard. But the moment she brought up the ADA statement, suddenly there seemed to be a problem hearing what was being said. What a coincidence, right? The timing certainly raises some questions. It is amazing how hearing difficulties seem to arise at the most inconvenient moments. Perhaps the residents need to start speaking up about this behavior and asking some hard questions themselves, especially if these situations are resulting in additional costs to the township. After all, township money is taxpayer money, and residents have every right to expect it to be handled responsibly. Maybe if more residents demanded answers, there would be less room for these little games.

Mark Leer, I have had the experience of speaking with you a few years ago, and unfortunately, the attitude I encountered then does not appear to have improved. Your continued dismissive and confrontational demeanor speaks for itself. It is not difficult to

understand why there was opposition to your continued involvement. You worked for the township for 16 years, but you have been away from that role for several years now. Things change. Costs change. Circumstances change. The township does not exist in a time capsule simply because you remember how things used to be. Perhaps acknowledging that would go a long way. I sincerely hope that if your name ever appears on a future ballot, voters take the time to consider not only your experience, but also your attitude and approach to public service.

And Cody, as the saying goes, *the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.* Unfortunately, that expression comes to mind when listening to you speak. Your tone and approach often seem remarkably similar to your father's. As a board member yourself, you should understand that your words and actions carry additional responsibility. Some of your comments and conduct come across as intimidating and threatening toward fellow board members, which is especially concerning coming from someone who is supposed to help lead the township.

We have heard repeatedly about how long you have been attending board meetings, dating back to when you were a child. Congratulations on your attendance record, I suppose. But having attended meetings since you were nine years old does not automatically make every opinion correct, every criticism justified, or every confrontation productive. At some point, it is time to stop reliving the past and start contributing constructively to the present. You are not simply an observer anymore; you are part of the board, and with that position comes accountability. You cannot demand accountability from everyone else while acting as though you are exempt from it yourself.

Enough is enough.

The behavior displayed at these meetings is embarrassing. These are public meetings intended to conduct township business, not personal stages for grudges, arguments, and online content. Residents should be able to attend, ask questions, and participate without worrying that they will become the next subject of a YouTube video, be ridiculed, or have their words twisted to fit someone else's narrative.

To the Board Members: I genuinely do not know how you sit through some of these meetings and continue to maintain your composure. Listening to people speak to you with such hostility and disrespect, meeting after meeting, would test anyone's patience. I commend you for continuing to show up and attempt to do your jobs under these circumstances.

And then everyone wonders why it is so difficult to find people willing to run for township positions or serve their community. Really? Who would willingly volunteer for a role where

they can expect to be criticized, insulted, recorded, and publicly ridiculed for simply trying to do the job? Public service should not require someone to sacrifice their peace of mind just to serve their neighbors.

Accountability is important. Asking questions is important. Disagreement is healthy. But none of those things requires hostility, intimidation, or a complete lack of respect.

If the goal is truly to improve the township, then perhaps it is time for everyone involved to start acting like it. Because from where I sit, the constant bickering, personal attacks, and public theatrics are accomplishing very little beyond making these meetings difficult to watch.

And if the goal is simply to create drama, then congratulations—you are certainly succeeding at that.

Now, wouldn't it be refreshing to see a meeting where township business actually takes center stage for a change?

Sincerely,

A Concerned Resident

The Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



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