

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

White Twp. failed to heed public

The role of municipal government is to speak for the community, not in spite of it.

The unanimous approval of the White's Woods timbering plan sent a clear message to our community that members of the White Township Board of Supervisors are not performing the job for which they were elected.

This issue was strongly opposed in 1995; therefore, before being reopened this year, several professional recommendations should have been considered and public input requested. Instead, members of the board hired a single forester of their choice.

My husband and I took our sons to both the Monday and Wednesday night meetings, hoping they would witness the

importance of community involvement.

They did gain the benefit of hearing well-spoken, intelligent and thoughtful information expressed to the board.

Unfortunately, they also witnessed some, not all, board members being disrespectful: looking away, whispering, passing notes and "snickering" while citizens spoke.

They also saw that the involvement of many can be ignored by a few in power; this was not the lesson in democracy we envisioned.

Those who made phone calls to the supervisors' office on Tuesday were told their ideas would only be accepted in written form; many of those ideas didn't have a chance to reach the

office before the vote.

At Wednesday's meeting, some citizens were told they could not speak, yet this was in violation of Pennsylvania law which states that "The boards of supervisors are required to provide an opportunity for public comments at each advertised regular and special meeting."

The board members have not acted as true stewards of White's Woods nor as true representatives.

Every member of this community, no matter where he or she stands on the issue of White's Woods, should be concerned about the autonomous way with which the board has acted.

Anne Cope
Indiana

3rd-class city or 1st-class township?

Go back to your June 12 edition of The Indiana Gazette and read Bill Shane's well-written letter to the editor.

If one is able to look beyond Bill's Indiana Borough bias and look at the general theme of this letter, we see the future staring us in the face. All we need to do is delete the municipalities of Indiana Borough and White Township from our thought patterns and introduce the new township of the first class or city of the third class named Bedford Falls.

Oh, we would have a wonderful life in Bedford Falls. The names "Indiana" and "White" are not politically correct in today's fragile dichotomy of meaning; thus Bedford Falls, Pennsylvania, the home of Bed-

ford Falls University, would be a reality.

The Bedford Falls Gazette would be an even greater success story, as every visitor to Bedford Falls would want a collector's edition. The tourist trade would thrive with the entire downtown becoming a tourist mecca. The growth of tourism, art, theater and culture would totally alter the present downtown.

Our Bedford Falls would witness revitalization as positive change takes place to meet this new social-economic need. Bedford Falls University would be the center of the new government structure with cooperation and collaboration at all levels.

The personalities that domi-

nate the Borough of Indiana and the Township of White would be ancient history and the Bedford Falls municipal government would be efficiently operated by a council elected at large with major decisions made in the town meeting concept of government.

Sometimes we need to think outside the box, and this is one of those times as this truly is a win-win situation. It seems only natural that Jimmy Stewart Avenue should lead to Bedford Falls, Pennsylvania, the home of the Crimson Hawks.

George Lenz
Bedford Falls

■ EDITOR'S NOTE: George Lenz is a member of the White Township Board of Supervisors.

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7-1-07

"WE DON'T want to be landowners. We want to make sure it is held by a group whose interest is in nature preserves and recreational use."

Susan Dahlheimer, acting chairwoman of Friends of White's Woods, which is hoping to broker a deal between White Township and a land trust or conservancy for the acquisition of White's Woods