

To Jim Flickinger, Township Trustee

July 17, 2012

Dear Jim,

I read your July 16 "Open Letter to Milton Republicans" and am sorry to see that your frustration has gotten to this level.

While I have only been a Trustee for the June and July meetings it is easy to feel the tension in the room. This means we have all failed to work together for the good of the taxpayers.

I would like to ask that you take the time to find out who agrees with you in principle before you launch any further attacks.

Your primary complaint about Ralph Hinkle centers on doing political work on Township time. Since Ralph Hinkle is on a flexible schedule its impossible to determine the validity of this charge. I understand that he is now keeping an accurate and precise log of his time.

You said that you had requested work records and time sheets, which makes sense to me. I was surprised to learn that only some of our Township employees are required to clock in and out or keep any time sheets at all. I think this is *the root of the problem* and would be happy to second a proposal to require verifiable time keeping for all employees. This makes it crystal clear when someone is "on the Township clock" and political activities are not allowed. Perhaps you would want to bring this up at the August meeting and ask the Highway Commissioner, Clerk, Supervisor and Assessor to submit their plans for implementing such a policy as quickly as possible. I will gladly support such an effort.

If we focus on one case and fail to correct the root cause we set ourselves up to face the same problem again in the future. Let's fix the problem and move forward.

Marty Keller
Township Trustee