



Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog

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September 14, 2023

Greg Jackson
Solicitor, Henderson Township
Huntingdon County

Allegations against Henderson Township Supervisors

Dear Atty. Jackson:

Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog is a non-profit entity registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State. Our organization works to foster public participation, enhance transparency and deter corruption in local government. We take complaints from the public and, where appropriate, provide guidance and assistance to citizens dealing with government misconduct. In rare instances we file complaints to law enforcement and/or arrange for legal representation for aggrieved complainants.

The Watchdog has received a detailed set of allegations concerning Henderson Township government from residents, some of which are accompanied by sufficient evidence to warrant the intervention of law enforcement:

- **Payment irregularities.** The complainants provided evidence from township financial records, released under the Right-to-Know law, detailing payments categorized as “paychecks” issued to township supervisors totaling thousands of dollars every year. Monthly compensation of township supervisors in Henderson is set at \$137.15 per month, or \$1645.80 per year. No entries exist in the records to indicate these payments were re-imbursments of any kind, nor is it indicated that the supervisors are authorized employees of the township. In addition, there are numerous payment entries categorized as “bill payments” reimbursing individual township supervisors for “office supplies”, also totaling thousands of dollars. We’ve alerted the Pennsylvania State Police.
- **Abuse of public resources.** The complainants allege and substantiate that a township employee, “Roadmaster” Richard Anderson, has been afforded unrestricted personal use of certain valuable township property, including a new pickup truck. The Township is paying for the personal cell phones of various township personnel. In addition, the complainants allege that two township roads were improperly and unlawfully deeded over to private ownership without requisite process and without any public hearings.

- **Systemic violations of the Sunshine Act.** The complainants allege and substantiate routine abuse of executive sessions, unnoticed and unrecorded meetings of the supervisors, and various official actions taken to deter public participation and scrutiny.
- **Failure to maintain public roads.** The complainants allege and substantiate inadequate maintenance of the township road network, much of which is in deplorable condition, despite robust funding from state sources, and despite significant recorded expenditures.

The Watchdog does not serve as legal counsel for the complainants. Nonetheless, we will assist them in pressing their complaints with law enforcement, including the Pennsylvania State Police. We will also help the complainants to publicize their allegations.

The complainants understand that you have only recently started as township solicitor. They have not alleged any misconduct on your part. They also understand that your first interest in your capacity as legal counsel is that of the township, not its elected representatives.

I would suggest that you allow the Watchdog to facilitate a meeting between you and the complainants, so you can assess their allegations and the substantiating evidence for yourself.

Sincerely,



Richard Latker
Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog