

Answers from Bernie McCann

1. With roads in outlying areas in states of disrepair, other than physical posturing, why hasn't more attention been paid to those areas?

Not currently a member of the Board I cannot answer for what was done or not done in the past.

2. Road repair: Why are the only roads being paved in the "Chestertown" hamlet? Is there a fairer approach as to how, where and why the roads are paved/chip sealed? Is this a part of the Supervisor/Town Boards job?

Road repair is the purview of the Highway Superintendent. I would assume that roads and highways are repaired on a rotating basis within a long range plan, with exceptions made for more heavily trafficked roads. As to the in Hamlet roads I know they have not been paved during the past ten years I have lived here. I assume it was their turn as it was Landon Hill last year.

3. Blight: Even with the apparent zoning laws in force, there has been an influx of rural blight in the Town of Chester. What action or actions should be taken to address this problem?

Blight is a very serious problem for the Town. On my block alone there are three vacant properties that just continue to decay. I see run down houses throughout the town. I believe that enforcement of the new Zoning Code should make a difference since the Town will have more tools in its tool kit. If it does not seem to alleviate the problem, then stricter codes and/or enhanced enforcement may be necessary. While City Attorney in Glens Falls we brought the more egregious offenders into court and produced fines until the situation was rectified. This issue would be a priority for me.

4. Taxes for land: In the past 3-4 years the Town has been given or accepted for a very minimal fee (2) pieces of property. Does this reduce the tax rolls? Do you think is a good move for the Town?

Not being familiar with the parcels mentioned I cannot tell if the acceptance of the property was a good decision or not. Any time the government takes property off the tax rolls it decreases the overall assessment. That said, I have to ask if the property taxes were being paid on the subject parcels. The other question that must be answered is were the parcels beneficial to the operation of the Town? If they were needed then the reduction in assessments may have been worth the acceptance. I know from reading the last two years of Town Board meeting minutes that recently a parcel was offered to the Town but was not accepted as there was not a beneficial use for the Town.

5. Landfill fee: Do you feel the residents should have to pay the "5.00" for \$50.00 land fill card fee rather than having the FREE card?? They are also paying their taxes as landfill expenses are an item in the budget.

Everyone would like a FREE card. Yes the Transfer Station is a budgeted item. I guess we would have to ask if without the \$5 fee, would the budget line be increased. We pay for each bag deposited at the Transfer Station. I do not think that a \$5 fee for \$50 worth of items is excessive.

6. For Mr. Leggett: Could you outline what you have done in office to merit reelection?

N/A

7. For Mr. Maday: Could you explain why you are qualified to be Town Supervisor?

N/A

8. Board Agenda: Would you make sure the agenda is posted one week before the board meeting with no late changes?

The Supervisor is responsible for the monthly agenda as I was for the School Board meetings when I was Superintendent. We always made a good faith effort to have the agenda prepared sufficiently in advanced. However, when a governing body meets only once a month there are going to be those occasions when an issue arises and it cannot wait another month. Instead of calling for a special meeting to deal with that problem, it would be more sensible to add it to the current month agenda.