

I am providing this information so as to help you make a decision on whom to vote for on Aug 2. Please review and if you would like forward the information on to other residents.

Dale Westrick

Working to bring accountability and transparency to local government:

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Campaign Information Watertown Township Taxpayers!!!!

Message to Watertown Township Taxpayers

To the Residents of Watertown Township:

I am running for Supervisor in 2016 so I will be able to serve the citizens of Watertown Township. In order for me to be effective in bringing about positive change it will require dedicated Trustees who will be willing to work to serve the residents. I am endorsing the following trustees running in the August 2nd primary.

Jean Husby

Chad Cooley

After checking with the Clinton county prosecutor Charles Sherman 7-27-16 and verifying that Brian was being charged with a criminal offence. I am pulling my endorsement of Brian Wethy for trustee due to information I received 7-26-16 by an unknown persons email.

I don't want Brian to be denied the privilege of a fair trial. This right is available to all Americans.

I am willing to speak with any citizens as a group or on an individual basis to answer any questions on the following information I have provided.

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Things that I have done when serving as a Trustee 2008-2012 and attending all BOT meetings except one from 2012 to present:

- October 2008 I spoke at public comment and I declined accepting health benefits for my wife and I in the proposed 2009 budget. [View details.](#)
- November 2008 my first meeting in office I opposed the motion to provide health care benefits to the full Board and their families.
- Opposed the payment of health care reimbursement up to \$4,500 to Trustees. For details concerning this matter go to my website home page and read my consent agenda no vote!!
- Opposed the new pension plan implemented in January 2015. Listen to my public comment question for a trustee June 2015 audio concerning the changes in the Township pension plan. [Public Comment on Pension Plan](#)
[Pension Plan Comparison](#)
- Attended all but one meeting while serving as a Trustee.
- Attended the yearly Michigan Township Association seminars all 4 years while in office. To my knowledge the present Supervisor has not attended these seminars.
- Attended some classes provided by MTA on different subjects.
- Done considerable research and reported to the Board my findings. These included excessive energy costs for Township Hall, unnecessary lighting at Heritage Park (mercury light on 24/7 for about 3 years).

- Researched the excessive cost for phone and internet service at the Township Hall and reported my findings to the Township Board. To view my findings go to my website and search the March 2016 meeting information that I sent to the Board. Please listen to the audio from Autumn left on my answering machine!!! [WOW phone message from Autumn](#)
- Researched the energy costs for our Township Hall and our parish school. Gave this information to the Board at a public hearing on the budget.
- Attended the benchmarking conference for three years.
- Attended many of the Michigan defining moment's conferences since its conception.
- Attended several monthly meetings with our State Representative to keep up on any new legislation.
- Using the State Treasury f65 reports. I surveyed 110 Townships with populations between 4000-6000 residents. Our Township government costs were \$178.00 per resident at a cost of \$1,123,000. This was \$37.00 more than the second place Township. Only 9 Townships were over \$100.00. I reported my findings to the Township clerk and asked that she place it in correspondence in the Board packet. She did not do it, so I read it off at public comment. [Dale Westrick Wage Rate Study](#) f65.mitreasury.msu.edu
- I surveyed about 90 Townships to determine what benefits their Trustees received. My survey is included in my home page information on my website. [View details.](#)

Campaign questions from the Lansing State Journal:

What makes you more qualified than other candidates for this office?

One of the most important things if I am elected Supervisor will be to perform all the duties legally delegated to the Supervisor (except assessing). Township Act,

MCLA 42.10; MSA 5.46.(10) The present Supervisor has delegated these duties to the Township Manager.

Do you support raising taxes as a way to pay for road improvements?

Yes I do support a time honored millage for road improvements that is voted on by the electorate. Example below:

Example:

Several years ago the Board had a millage vote of 3 mills for 3 years and then after 3 years the millage was removed. The person in charge at that time had the County keep track of all the costs and after 3 years sent a letter to the residents showing where the money was spent.

At the present time the Board policy is residents on a road have to pay for the improvements and this does not allow for several roads to be paved. Case in point: 2 gravel roads on the west side of the Township (Herbison and Clark between Bauer and Wacousta Road) that are not paved. The farmer that owns a considerable amount of the property on these roads would incur most of the cost for paving these 2 miles of road. Paving these roads would not only increase home values but provide much better road conditions for buses and other traffic. The Township needs to work with the County to determine what the cost would be in order to determine how much millage would be needed. This could also help support the paving of Eaton Hwy on the south border of the Township. This is a subject that needs to be discussed in a public meeting to determine what the electorate would like done.

Are you comfortable with the structure and scope of local government?
Yes or no, please explain.

No I am not comfortable with our local government!!!

- One of the main things I would change. I would perform all the duties delegated to the Supervisor by law thus eliminating the Manager's position.
- Encourage residents to **serve** on the Board for the right reasons.
- Encourage the taxpayers to become involved in the budget process before the public hearing on the budget. In our Township we are spending a lot of tax dollars that does not have any payback.
- I would work with the board to implement a program called IQM2. This program allows anyone to view the Board meeting in real time or after the meeting from anywhere internet access is available. Check the web to see how IQM2 works. IQM2 Overview - www.igq2.com
- Real estate development bonding should be left to the developers. I would work to make it a Board policy not to bond for developments in our Township. Have a reasonable zoning ordinance policy that would encourage development.
- I would make myself available to the electorate at reasonable times to discuss their concerns.
- All Township contracted work would be reviewed on a regular basis.
- Use technology to reduce the cost of our local government.
- One of the main goals would be to make our Township a place that citizens want to live and work!!!

What are the three most important issues facing the city/township and how would address them?

- #1 Fund balance: Our Township's investment in banks for May 2016 is \$7,588,000 in relationship to our yearly budget of less than \$2,000,000. Work with the board and citizens of the Township to either refund the excess or use it to improve infrastructure

- #2: Foreclosed Real estate owned by the Township. Work with the Board to determine what to do with this property. My personal feeling is to work with a reliable real estate firm to sell the property and recoup the money we have invested and pay off all the bonds and return it to the general fund.
- #3: Infrastructure improvements and services: There are many improvements that would make our Township a place where people want to work and live. I would present my ideas to the citizens but also ask for their suggestions. I feel very strongly that it is their tax dollars we are spending and want to get them involved in the process.

As property tax revenue and state aid decline, is it appropriate for the county to assume a larger role in providing services to City/township residents? Yes or no, please explain.

No!

At the present time our Township contracts out police, fire, and road maintenance and we pay a certain amount for these services from Delta Township for fire and ambulance service, the county sheriff for police protection and the county road commission for road maintenance. If a resident would like to know what these services are costing them, click on this link to go to citizen's guide for Watertown Township.

<http://f65.mitreasury.msu.edu/Reports/CitizensReport.aspx> This report will provide the cost per resident for these services.

What city services do you consider most vital?

- The most vital services are police, fire and road maintenance. I feel that at present time these services are adequate but the funding for the roads need to be updated. The Delta Fire Department updates the Board each

month at the Board meeting of the services they provided each month. The Sheriff Department used to provide a monthly report, and it would be helpful if they would continue the reports. If elected as Supervisor, I would work with the different departments to see if any improvements might be made.

- Parks and recreation is another area that needs to be greatly improved. At the present time the Township spends \$1.00 per resident for this service. We need to evaluate the possibility of joining Dewitt area recreation association or DARA. <http://www.dewitttownship.org/>
- The Township yearly budget requires a though review to eliminate unnecessary costs. This would be the first priority item!!!

What city/township services are least vital and can be trimmed to lower expenses.

- Even though operation of our Township government is necessary our costs are too high. It should not cost \$178.00 per resident or \$1,123,000 to provide this service!!! Of the 110 townships I surveyed we had the most per resident cost. Link to treasury to validate this figure and many others. <http://f65.mitreasury.msu.edu/Reports/CitizensReport.aspx>

Are you current in all tax, alimony and child support obligations? Yes or no. If no, please explain.

Yes: I am up to date on my taxes and do not have any of the other obligations.