

Dear Portsmouth Township Voter:

I was born and raised in Portsmouth Township and I think it is a great place to live and raise a family. Our township board has worked hard to keep it this way. Unfortunately, I have learned that my opponent is circulating flyers, door-to-door, containing false or mis-leading information. While he has every legal right to do this, (dirty campaigning is not illegal), I do take offense to his making false allegations that attack my reputation and good name.

Please read the following facts that correct his attacks and false information. If you seek more information, you can contact me directly or get the facts from our township office.

Wage/“Benefits”/Expenses: The current wage for Supervisor is \$17,100, which is consistent with similar sized townships in Bay County. Last year, our board voted for an across the board wage freeze, in response to our shaky economy. This fact is not mentioned by my opponent. Regarding “expenses”, it is true that if I attend one of the Michigan Township Association’s annual education conferences, I do request a mileage reimbursement (they are held in Detroit, Lansing, or Grand Rapids). I do not request any other mileage reimbursement. While our budget allots for expenses for supplies, I have rarely—if ever—requested reimbursement for such. I do request that the township offset the cost of a cell phone. It is 2008, and the cell phone is an important communication tool that I use for township business nearly daily. This cell phone number is published in the township newsletter. **My opponent, in his travels, is reportedly even telling township residents that board members receive health benefits. This is simply not true and has never been.**

Availability: I work as a teacher for the Bay City Public Schools. I share office space at the township hall with our administrative assistant that I use occasionally, but I have no posted “business hours”. I don’t feel that residents need to ‘come to me’ if they have a problem. I prefer to meet them face-to-face, or resolve problems via the phone (if they prefer). I don’t feel the need to ‘hold court’ at the hall. This has worked well for many years. I am available and I live only about a half mile from the Township hall if a resident truly wanted to meet me in an office setting. **To say that I am “unavailable 9 months of the year during township business hours” is false and misleading.**

Credit Cards: In the event that elected officials attend educational conferences, there is a credit card assigned to each of them. These are kept locked in a safe, and are issued by and returned to the Township Clerk immediately after usage. There is a cumulative credit limit of \$10,000 for all cards. These are used rarely, and all transactions are a matter of record. My opponent requested this information and was even sent a letter clarifying credit card procedures, etc. So I am disturbed that **he is still giving misleading information** about this. **Why this is even an issue for my opponent puzzles me.**

Pensions: Township officials, **over thirty years ago**, were advised that there was a cost savings to contribute to a pension plan for employees, as an alternative to matching the SS/Medicare withholdings required by law, and so chose to do this. All employees enrolled in the pension have the option of making voluntary contributions and many have chosen to do this. Therefore, the information on my opponent’s flyer regarding pensions is **incomplete and very misleading.**

Planning Commission Meetings: The township is statutorily required to have Planning Commission to address planning and zoning issues. This commission operates independently from the Township Board of Trustees. It meets monthly to quarterly depending upon the number of items to be discussed. Typical items involve zoning disputes between neighbors, requests to

build garages or pole buildings larger than allowed, etc. Occasionally, situations of a more significant nature, that would require action by the Township Board occur and I most certainly try to attend these meetings to be informed. My attendance at these meetings is not required, so I am only a member of the audience. I have attended significantly more than “only 4 or 5 meetings since April of 2004” **(as wrongly stated by my opponent)**. I’m not sure where this number came from. I do know that my opponent does attend many of these meetings, sits in the front row, with a video camera focused forward, so it is entirely possible that he simply did not see me sitting behind him at many meetings.

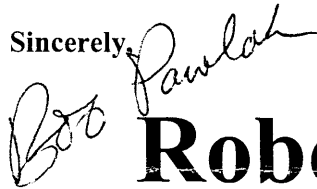
Cass and Trumbull: The corner of Cass and Trumbull has been a safety concern for many years. A few years back, the road commission was able to obtain funding through a ‘Safety Grant’ to correct the situation at the corner. These monies, along with monies from the Bay County Road Commission were used to correct safety issues at this intersection. **This was discussed in several meetings as a point of information and NO township general fund dollars were used for this project, contrary to what my opponent has stated.**

Lincoln Road: (Between 22nd and Fremont). There are “border roads” in several parts of Bay County, and their maintenance responsibility is assigned to particular municipalities, on a per road basis. This specific section is assigned to, and is supposed to be maintained by the City of Bay City. Despite many pleas over the years, and as the Bay City Times stated recently, they (**the city of Bay City—not Portsmouth Township**) do not have funds to repair this and **they** will not be ‘revisiting’ the issue until 2011. It is extremely unfortunate for the residents of Portsmouth Township that have to drive this treacherous section of road daily. **Again—this is another misleading comment by my opponent.**

I do not have to resort to made up ‘issues’ or mudslinging, as I stand on my record. Please make an educated vote on August 5th.

I apologize for the length of this letter, but I take both my position as your Supervisor and my personal reputation quite seriously. I can not sit idly by while my opponent makes false claims against me.

Sincerely,



Robert “Bob” Pawlak

for

Portsmouth Township Supervisor

Vote for Honesty and Integrity.

Paid for by Robert Pawlak,
Candidate for Portsmouth Township Supervisor
260 N. Pine Road
Bay City, Michigan 48708
989-893-5623