

lehighvalleylive.com

The Express-Times

Turkeys

Saturday, December 13, 2008

To Easton treasurer David Fleck, for not only holding on to a do-nothing job at taxpayers' expense, but for refusing to discuss the situation with the Panto administration and the public. If nothing else, Fleck owes Easton taxpayers an explanation for why – even though his duties have been absorbed into the new job of appointed finance director under a charter change approved by voters – he is taking advantage of a flaw in the transition that keeps his job on the books until his term expires in 2012. Taxpayers are on the hook for Fleck's \$21,389 annual salary plus medical benefits even though he doesn't have to show up for work. To certain scrooges overseeing local government, including the Bethlehem Township, Pa., Board of Supervisors and Eric Chuss, a Forks Township supervisor. Bethlehem Township – one of the largest and wealthiest townships in Northampton County – had been one of the largest contributors to local homeless shelters until this year, when it stopped its contributions. Homelessness doesn't distinguish between socioeconomic groups or geographic borders, and it can affect any one of us. Our local governments should help support the shelters that serve as safety nets to those in dire straits, including residents of Bethlehem Township. In Forks Township, Chuss balked at a decision to cancel the municipal Christmas party and donate \$2,000 to Safe Harbor, the homeless shelter in Easton. He said the money should have been earmarked toward paying down the township's debt. Supervisors David Howell, Bonnie Nicholas, Robert Egolf and Donald Miller voted to support Safe Harbor, citing the need for the shelter's services, especially in these tough economic times.

©2008 The Express-Times

© 2008 lehighvalleylive.com All Rights Reserved.