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The Express-Times

Mayor should support cut in tax collector's pay

Friday, February 13, 2009

On Feb. 10, Stockertown Borough Council held a special meeting to consider a resolution that would adjust the compensation rate for the borough tax collector, effective in 2010. Because the position will be on the ballot this year, the law requires any change in the compensation rate to be enacted by Feb. 15.

Stockertown's tax collector sends 365 bills and is paid 4 percent of the total collected. In 2008, her compensation was \$12,974, or \$35.65 per bill.

Other local communities pay far less for real estate tax collection. Forks Township's collector sends 7,000-plus bills and is paid a flat fee of \$15,000, or \$2.15 per bill.

Faced with an increase of at least twice the current rate for trash collection starting in 2010, some council members sought ways to save money and found that reducing the tax collector's pay rate to 0.5 percent would save \$11,000 a year. By a 4-2 vote, council passed the resolution. Shame on council members Hower and Wentzelberger for voting against it!

However, Mayor Sherman Metzgar, bowing to pressure from friends and family members of tax collector Connie Marakovits, who were in the audience, stated he wouldn't sign the resolution, instead returning it to council within 10 days with his objections.

I urge the mayor to sign the resolution by Feb. 15. If he doesn't, then shame on him!

Joe Gold

Stockertown

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