

No continuance for Kings Mill hearings

Once again, my position that higher density leads to higher taxes is confirmed. Easton Area School District Business Manager Jeff Bader stated the Kings Mill 3,000-plus home proposal for Forks Township would have an impact to the district of nominally \$45 million (staff, administrative and transportation costs) plus \$10 million to \$40 million for building expansion.

Simply put, taxpayers would have to finance \$55 to \$85 million through bonds and property taxes. School board member Al Capecci said this almost gave him a heart attack. Clearly this is not a healthy scenario.

Schools are not the only adverse impact. Police, fire, emergency services, roads and township staff would cost more. The irreversible conversion of farmland and our rural historical heritage are notable. Taxpayers would have to shoulder these burdens. At the same time, the developers would be enjoying a stroll.

Forks zoning is fair and constitutional. KMRD's "by right" plan is also fair and constitutional and should be resubmitted; current challenges should be withdrawn. The zoning board should not allow KMRD's ploy of an "indefinite continuance" which would mean the zoning board would suspend hearings of current challenges for the near term.

This interruption would come during the township's presentation of witnesses refuting KMRD contentions, who are testifying to the validity and constitutionality of the zoning laws. They should be heard now and not suspended indefinitely. Of what interest is it to the Forks community and the school district to allow this litigation to rear its ugly head again in the future?

James Wideman

Forks Township