



May 13, 2020

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Woodlands Township Board of Directors:

This letter is submitted on behalf of TownshipFuture and is in regard to the actions proposed to be taken by the Woodlands Township Board of Directors (“the Board”) at the special meeting to be held on May 14, 2020.

The posted agenda states that the purpose of the meeting is to address issues associated with the resignation of Director Brian Boniface and the Board’s subsequent appointment of Mr. Jason Nelson to replace Director Boniface. Specifically, the agenda notes that Director Boniface had not in fact tendered a resignation letter to the Board prior to the Board’s action in selecting his replacement. The agenda states that the Board is “therefore being asked to now accept the letter and ratify its previous actions for its April 16, 2020, April 22, 2020, April 27, 2020, and April 30, 2020 meetings.”

While TownshipFuture appreciates the fact that the Board has recognized the serious shortcomings in the manner in which the resignation of Director Boniface and the selection of Mr. Nelson as his replacement was handled we urge the Board to not merely “ratify” its prior actions, but instead to take this opportunity to adopt a more transparent and open process for the selection of Director Boniface’s replacement and to permit meaningful public comment and participation in that process. Given that Directors of the Board are elected officials it is vital that the public have a meaningful opportunity to have input into the replacement of a Director who has been duly elected. It is telling that in this case, of the three candidates nominated to replace Director Boniface, **all** were nominated by sitting Directors and none by the general public. Nor did any qualified person interested in serving have the opportunity to present his interest and qualifications. This strongly indicates that the notice and opportunity provided to the public by the Board was lacking, and the Board should take this opportunity to address that situation.

We urge the Board to re-initiate the process of selecting Director Boniface’s replacement by soliciting public or self-nomination of candidates, and by adopting a robust and transparent process to vet such candidates before voting on a replacement. Such a process would be supported by principles of good governance and would go far to ensure that the Board has the opportunity to consider candidates whose background and experience give them the tools that will be needed for the Board to govern effectively in the challenging times we find ourselves.

We understand that there is presently work underway by the Township staff, at the request of two Directors, to craft a policy for handling the future replacement of a Director. We applaud that effort and request that the public have meaningful input into and an opportunity to review and comment upon any such process that is proposed.

Sincerely,
Amy Lecocq, President

TownshipFuture Steering Committee

Steering Committee

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