

Minutes
Public Meeting #4
Tuesday, October 4, 2005
6:30 pm
VFW of Mahaffey

Top Issues Facing your Family or Business:

- (4) Economic opportunity
- Family sustaining income
- (1) Affordable healthcare
- (1) More competition in healthcare
- High insurance costs for physicians (driving them out of the field)
- Better prescription drug plans
- (2) Frivolous litigation
- (1) Better roads / bridges
- Lack of community participation
- (2) Flooding due to debris (Kratzer run creek in Grampian boro) red tape makes it difficult to fix

Types of development you would want or NOT want in your communities:

Want

- (1) More sewer capacity for development
- Jobs
- (1) Changes in attitudes
- (2) Senior citizen center / community building
- Activities for seniors and youth
- Better parking (especially downtown Clearfield)
- Infrastructure

Not Want

- (1) Adult businesses
- Gambling
- NIMBY – ISM (not in my back yard)

What would you change or NOT change about Clearfield County:

Would change

- Relocate location of county seat

- (1) “KGB of Clearfield “ (need to get others involved who won’t stop growth)
- Reclaim old strip mines more quickly
- (1) Don’t want to be a dumping ground for other states trash
- Too many people on welfare

Would NOT change

- (1) Natural resources (need to be sustainably used) e.g. Timber

Views on how to improve our Housing infrastructure:

- Update and reuse older structures before they get to bad (more cost effective than building new)
- Better public education about statewide building code
- One size fits all doesn’t work everywhere (i.e. building code) too much red tape
- No incentives exist to fix up homes
- Too many absentee landlords
- High attorney costs > hard for municipalities to adopt new ordinances
- No enforcement of municipal ordinances

Views on how to improve our Social Service Programs:

- (1) Senior centers needed
- Programs / activities for youth
- Tighter controls on drug rehabilitation programs
- Better information to public on social services (what’s available where located, etc...)
- Methadone clinics merely replace one drug additions with another
- Accidents due to methadone clinic clients
- (1) No help available for some folks because they earn too much, but not enough to provide for themselves
- Generation after generation on welfare
- Programs we have were created by political pressure

Views on how to improve our Healthcare System:

- High cost of insurance (especially for self employed)
- High prescription drug costs
- (1) Frivolous lawsuits > need to put pressure on legislators to address this problem

- HIPPA laws unnecessarily complicated
- Will facilities / doctors remain adequate?
- (1) Lack of volunteers for fire companies, EMS, etc.

Views on how to improve our Economic Development efforts:

- Continental One (US 219); consider alternate routes for it (e.g. Slightly east might be better)
- Need major North – South route for county
- Need innovators, need to think outside the box
- Balance between development and quality of life
- Improve existing roads and bridges
- (2) Promote local tourism assets
- Public water, sewer needed
- Increase tourism (need countywide plan)
- Think of people's purchasing power (it's limited here) and regulation where attracting new businesses
- Need to do something about over regulation

Views on how to improve our Transportation network:

- (1) Better roads and bridges
- Improve public transit (let people decide if it's needed, especially with rising fuel costs)
- Continental One could reduce accidents on 219

Views on how to improve our Education system:

- Improve math and science education
- Better writing skills
- Provide better classes for gifted and talented students with special needs
- Need to provide students with real world skills
- (1) Educate parents to break cycle of poverty
- Better testing for kids with special needs (don't want to pigeon hole them)

Views on how to best utilize sustain or remediate / prevent deterioration of our Natural Resources:

- Sustainable timber industry; select cuts (opportunities with hardwoods)
- Safer, cleaner extraction of coal

- (2) Protect the land for its aesthetic value as well as for resource extraction
- Encourage farming
- Need to keep natural gas here instead of shipping it out (need adequate infrastructure to provide service in our area)... But drilling of natural gas wells is causing environmental harm
- Take advantage of available ability of natural gas to attract powdered metal industry

Views on how to best preserve and enhance our Historical / Cultural Resources:

- (1) Better education about local history
- (2) Develop and promote historical tours (walking trails driving tours, etc.)
- Extended rails to trails