

Dear Board President Pietrucha,

Thank you for your email and your comments. In an effort to best represent your concerns about the document in question I shall publish your email on TUF. I am I am grateful for the opportunity to help TUF readers understand the correct meaning of the document.

I shall also include your initial email to me about the TUF page. In that email you did not appear concerned about the publication of the document.

You indicated that document was given to me under special circumstances. In my defense, when I was given the document there was no mention of courtesy or confidentiality. I have built my political career, in part, on my ability to keep confidential information confidential. Had I accepted the information as confidential I assure you it would have stayed that way.

That being said I shall repeat what I said at last night's BOE meeting during the public session. It eludes me how a document presented at a public session including every number on the document being read aloud could not be considered a public document.

You wrote, "The court ruled that these are work papers and although there is public discussion of their contents, the documents are not public documents." Please kindly supply me with court citation. I'd like to consult with experts in the area of the OPRA and that reference will be helpful. I'll also point out that even if you are not required to make the document public there is nothing that prevents you from doing so.

To that point I don't understand why you would not want such a document published. I would think you would want it on your own website. You, the members of the BOE, like members of the Council, have a daunting task before you in trying to balance a budget in this economy with an enormous cut in state funding. Publishing this list allows the public to see the unprecedented circumstances that are forced upon you. It would also make them realize the consequences of voting against the budget.

An added benefit is it would allow the public to make suggestions. The most important point is that this is their community, their money and their schools. I see nothing to be gained by keeping the information from them.

I was also concerned that the Feb 24<sup>th</sup> meeting was not televised. I suspect it was an oversight or a logistical problem. I honestly don't think it was intentional but I hope that future meetings will be televised and I encourage you to provide similar documents at those meetings to the public.

You also indicated, "The public is not making a distinction between your role as a leader of TUF and your role as a councilman. Some are assuming that because the councilman has posted this information that it reflects decisions that have been made." The readers of TUF have known me for years and I would argue that they are very well informed and know that I'm not on the BOE. Anyone that learned of the article from somebody in TUF would have found an unsigned document and would not likely connect me or my position to it.

With all that being said it is only fair to point out that this is the first time the BOE has ever held these budget meetings in public with the full board present. This level of openness is highly commendable and even courageous. Clearly the only reason I was aware that the document in question existed was because the Board took this admirable step.

I also commend you on allowing not one but two general public sessions at your meetings. On that Council could take a lesson from you.

I look forward to working with you and I encourage you to make the documents public. While doing so can sometimes be uncomfortable I believe openness is always the best course. And please continue to let me know when you think I've acted in error. It's the best way for me to learn how to do a better job.

Thank you  
Phil Kramer

These comments are my own and do not reflect the opinions of the Township Council.