

Robert Mettler – Response to TUF Questions

Question 1 - I have always tried to be honest with the citizens of Franklin. Therefore, although I believe our real estate taxes are far too high, there is, unfortunately, no realistic way to actually lower them without the State finally doing the hard job of revamping our basic tax structure.

What I can, at the local level, try to do is to minimize our tax growth, holding spending as close to current levels as possible.

Question 2 - Two years ago, the Democrats promised to "stop overdevelopment in its tracks." Instead, we have had the Planning Board bypassed to rezone industrial land for residential development. This type of action has increased the rate of growth in the Township increasing expenditure.

Question 3 - Traffic is becoming more of a problem but, in all honesty, it is a difficult one to deal with. We are surrounded by 60% water, which involves bridges and, therefore, higher levels of government. Holding to our current zoning and not increasing development would be a help.

Question 4 - Eminent Domain has some legitimate uses for public purposes such as roads. However, if it is used to aid a private developer there is a real question of propriety and the possibility of going down the "slippery slope."

Question 5 - Right now our Council is divided eight Democrats to one Republican. The Town tends to work better if you have two strong parties watching each other, especially the spending.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my ideas with TUF.

Bob Mettler
Republican Candidate - 3rd Ward