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Letters to the Editor

Stop & Shop Expansion Opponent Is Being Paid By ShopRite

Editor's Note: In examining the files, we found the following letter sent last week to Robert Cockren, who is serving as Westfield Planning Board attorney during the application by Stop & Shop of Westfield to expand their Westfield store, from R.S. Gasiorowski, attorney for James Hughes, who has opposed the application.

Dear Mr. Cockren:
 During several of the past planning board meetings, a question has been raised by certain board members with regard to the funding of this matter if, in fact, it is someone other than Mr. Hughes himself. If you recall, at the meeting of October 30, 2013, I responded to one of the questions posed by a board member saying that I thought it was a legitimate question and the board is entitled to know that in making a determination as to whether or not it affects the credibility of the witness. In other words, if the witness is being compensated by someone who is a competitor to the applicant, does this impact the credibility of his testimony?

I believe that I said that I thought it was a legitimate question and that if the board attorney would send me a letter with a request, I would respond to it. Following up on my representation to the board, I would disclose that this matter is being funded by Village Supermarkets which, of course, owns ShopRite stores throughout the State of New Jersey.

When I first became involved in this case, I did meet with Mr. Attenasio, and we discussed. He thought there was an earlier disclosure concerning this. I also read the transcript when Mr. Attenasio was briefly questioned with regard to this and it is not clear to me.

R.S. Gasiorowski
 Red Bank

ABCD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Diction Deception

Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions - only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly - good guess. If you get two - well-read individual. If you get three - word expert. If you get all four - You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

Answers to last week's arcane words.

1. Singultus - A hiccup
2. Lazaretto - A public hospital for lepers
3. Trophic - Having to do with nutrition
4. Taube - A type of German mono-plane having pigeon-shaped wings

ZEEKOE

1. The hippopotamus
2. A German helmet with a sharp metal spike
3. A wedge
4. A heavy javelin used by the Roman infantry

KRANG

1. Second-class; something of lesser value
2. The shattering effect of a sudden burst of energy, as in an explosion
3. Spittle
4. The body of a whale stripped of its blubber

PHILAUTY

1. Pleasing, charming or delightful
2. A selfish regard for oneself
3. Self confidence; ability
4. Understanding; perceptiveness

STOIT

1. Slow-moving; sluggish
2. To run abandon; decamp
3. To stagger or stumble
4. Sturdy; solid

See more letters on page 6

Why Is ShopRite Paying Resident To Challenge Stop & Shop Plans?

Everyone who has been in the Elm Street Stop & Shop in the last five years knows that the store needs a facelift. Stop & Shop has purchased the two adjoining lots on Elm Street and has proposed an expansion of both its store and parking lot. Objecting to this is Massachusetts Street resident James Hughes, represented by attorney Ronald Gasiorowski, and a team of experts; at least that is the "official" objector.

Mr. Hughes, who has never appeared at any of these hearings and is not in fact a property owner in Westfield, is the puppet of a much larger entity. This week it was discovered that Mr. Gasiorowski and his team of experts are being paid by Village Supermarkets, the owners of many ShopRite supermarkets, including Garwood. See the letter on this page.

But this isn't the only falsehood that was uncovered in Mr. Gasiorowski's letter. Under oath, when questioned by the board, the objector's planner, Peter Steck, said that he will submit his bill directly to Mr. Gasiorowski; other experts have said the same, or claimed not to know who was paying them. While the courts allow for Mr. Hughes to act as the objector on ShopRite's dime; given this smoke and mirrors act the board should give little to no weight to the objector. The testimony of those who lied should be thrown out entirely.

Village Supermarkets has been doing this up and down the state. Whether it's WalMart or Stop & Shop, seemingly any time a new supermarket wants to open, or a current one wants to expand, Village rallies their team of lawyers and experts to object. What are they so afraid of? Do they fear that competition will hurt their profits? Maybe if they spent less money on lawyers and traffic engineers they could charge 50 cents less for a \$6 box of cereal.

In addition to these costs being passed onto you in the grocery store, it's costing you in your property taxes. While applicants and objectors are required to pay additional fees to hold special planning board meetings, there are hidden costs that get passed on to the taxpayers. Due to a conflict for the regular planning board attorney, former town attorney Robert Cockren is serving as the board's attorney for this matter. Mr. Cockren is fully qualified, and a terrific choice given the complexity of this matter, but he has to get paid. He's being paid to review all of the exhibits, attend the meetings, review and respond to the gobs of letters that have gone back and forth amongst the parties.

If the application is approved, we suspect that Village Supermarkets, under the cover of Mr. Hughes, will file suit against the board in state Superior Court. Mr. Gasiorowski has already made mention at the hearings that he did not feel the project was properly "noticed" in the newspaper due to a language discrepancy - which would open the door for a lawsuit. This will cost the town taxpayers untold amounts of money to defend itself.

Stop & Shop currently pays over \$215,000 a year in property taxes on the four parcels it owns on Elm Street; an expansion of the store will undoubtedly increase that dollar figure. A thriving business district can only help to enhance the town and offset residential property taxes.

On Monday, December 2, the 11th hearing will take place for this application. Members of the public have rarely attended these four-hour long meetings, but we urge you to come out on December 2 to voice your opinion on this matter to the board. Westfielders need and deserve an updated convenient supermarket. Don't not let ShopRite's mendacity be the last word the board hears.

It Was Never A Good Idea for Feds To Take Over Health Insur. Industry

Ha! Ha! Who said Obamacare was going to be bad for our country? I did. Turns out I was wrong. I never thought it was a good idea for the federal government to take over control our health insurance industry. I never thought it was a good idea for the government to completely destroy the concept of insurance by turning it into a guarantee due to mandatory pre-existing condition coverage. With this came the need for mandatory insurance for all people and mandated minimum policy coverage so sufficient taxes, uh, premiums, can be raised to pay for all this. Besides the bad policy of the law, the bad vision that the federal government was going to be able to conceive something as complicated as this correctly, the bad idea of a such an important law being approved along 100 percent political lines without anyone having read it and the bad idea that the government was going to be good at managing it, we have the failed implementation execution. The perfect storm has hit.

I never thought it was good idea to destroy the health insurance that 270 million Americans enjoyed in order to provide insurance for the 30 million uninsured. Why not address the 30 million part and leave the 270 million part alone? Now after 45 days of implementation, we have 265 million Americans insured and 35 million uninsured. The bill is pushing health insurance coverage the wrong way! The good news is that a whopping 107,000 signed up for Obamacare insurance in October, according to the Obama administration release on November 13, 2013. Good job Democrats. Thank God not one Republican voted for this monstrosity.

The only bright spot in this whole mess I take comfort in is that surely some of the five million Americans who have lost their health insurance as a result of Obamacare (as noted in all the cancellation notices) voted for this disaster of a President in last year's election. Now they get to learn the lesson that elections have consequences. For that I am happy. I feel terrible for those Americans who did

Letters to the Editor

Mayor Skibitsky Thanks Voters

I am honored to have been re-elected to serve as the mayor of this great town for another four years, and would like to thank the residents for all of their support. I was fortunate to have a great slate of candidates to run with, and am excited to be serving with our newest council member, David Oliveira, and to continue working with re-elected council members Vicki Kimmins, Sam Della Ferra, and Keith Loughlin.

I promise to continue to keep an open door policy, and look forward to getting to know more residents during the next four years. Again, thank you for allowing me to share in your passion for this great town. As always, please feel free to make an appointment to meet with me during Saturday morning office hours.

Mayor Andrew Skibitsky
 Westfield

Thank You Ward 3 Voters For Your Trust

I would like to thank the residents of the Third Ward for placing their trust in me and electing me to represent them as their councilman. I am honored to serve the residents of Westfield and I look forward to beginning my term in January.

As your new councilman, I will bring a positive attitude, an open mind and a balanced demeanor to the town council. I will thoughtfully consider issues and bring fresh ideas as I work with the mayor and other council members to keep Westfield a great town.

As I stated throughout my campaign, my focus will always be on keeping Westfield a safe, family-friendly town with an excellent school system and a thriving downtown. I want to build upon the attributes of the town that encouraged all of us to purchase our home and raise our families here in the first place. I will work to protect Westfield's strong property values and ensure that Westfield remains a desirable town, so that the tradition of children returning to Westfield to raise their own family continues.

Throughout my campaign I walked the Third Ward in an effort to meet as many residents as possible and learn about the issues important to them. As your councilman, I will continue to make myself available to residents and I encourage you to contact me at (908) 228-2609 or via e-mail at vote@votedavid2013.com with your concerns.

Thank you again for putting your faith in me. I look forward to the privilege and opportunity to represent the residents of the Third Ward as your councilman.

David Oliveira, Westfield
 3rd Ward Councilman-Elect

It's Too Late For Us... But You Can Still Save Yourself

Only five million people have lost their health care so far because of ObamaCare. Unfortunately, our workers are included in this. This staggering number is actually very low compared to what is coming. The vast number of citizens will not be affected until next year. With political manipulation and to divide and conquer, Obama and his henchmen have postponed having it applied to corporations, unions, government, teachers, police, firefighters and others until after the national elections next year (2014).

It's evident to those who are bilked now that ObamaCare is fraught with lies, deception and malice. Most of you don't know how bad it is. You'll know next year when the "bell tolls for thee." You still have time to save yourself, though it's too late for us.

"... Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me (Martin Niemöller, Nazi Germany)." Well, I'm speaking out for you.

You must defeat these "LIZARDS" next year in the national elections. LIZARDS (Liberal Inane Zombies and Radicalized Democrats).

Those calling for Obama's resignation have not thought it through. Do they want Biden to become president? What's hungered for is the resignation of the matched set. Of course they won't resign. Their egos can't contemplate such an honorable deed.

Obama will be gone in 2016. Until then, you must minimize the damage.

There is no lobby to stand up for the middle-class American citizen. You must stand up for yourself starting now. I promise all the ink in my barrel and all the gigabytes in my bandwidth to fight this atrocity for you.

Yes, I'm fighting mad. It's not about the moronic website. For those who disagree with me, don't take it out on my employees - take it out on me.

My name is Horace Corbin, Publisher.

Is Our Healthcare Plan Substandard?

We've been asked to explain why we lost our healthcare.

The drift of things: Our employees determine the features of their health care plan knowing that the cost comes out of their end of the year profit sharing (which they work hard for and deserve). No one here is of child-bearing age, so they don't choose to buy maternity leave or pediatric care. There are other items.

ObamaCare requires them to buy extra things that they don't need or want. So our group plan is cancelled. They are left with ObamaQuotes for each individual. The cost is much higher and unaffordable. It appears they will also be taxed on it if the company helps. Where is that money going? And where is that money to come from?

The Future Is In Our Hands to Restore Constitutional Government

How did we get to the point where the law of the land is in the hands of one man resembling a dictatorship? The federal government is in command and control of our personal lives. We have elected a president and representatives who could not pass the honesty test to be hired by anyone.

This has been many years in the making. It began where all begins - in kindergarten, first grade, second grade and on through high school and college. The very day parents were financially compelled to forfeit their human and civil rights to raise and educate their children is the very day our constitutional liberties began to fall by the wayside.

Liberty, as life itself, is indivisible. When we old-timers went to school, we were taught the famous quote of Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty or give me death." This appears to have been replaced with, "Give me money, pleasure and power, or else..." Restoring Constitutional Government requires that we go back to where we left the track. We must restore liberty, by empowering every parent to send their children to the school of their choice, provided they are taught and trained to adhere to the laws of the land and the Constitution - unlike what is now being taught in many of our public schools.

This can only be done by you. You need to contact your representatives and insist they pass legislation that will empower every parent to send their children to the school of their choice without raising taxes at all. Public education, on average, is costing more than double than that of nonpublic education. Insist they pass legislation to allow parents an educational voucher valued at half of current public school costs, and if they refuse, you need replace them with those who will! If you are waiting for someone else to do this, you can be sure they are also waiting for you. If we are to restore Constitutional government, this needs to be done by every one of us. The future is now in your hands. If you fail to act, you have no one to blame but yourself. Much success in your worthy efforts.

Israel Teitelbaum
 Morristown

GIANTS ARE ONLY ONE GAME BEHIND

