

A Board of Five – Ruled by Three

Lately, watching the Lake Township Board has felt less like local government and more like a rerun. No matter the issue, three of the five board members march in with their votes already decided. It's the same trio, the same script, every single meeting.

History has given us plenty of famous threes: the Three Musketeers, the Three Horsemen, the Three Stooges. Unfortunately, our board's version seems to borrow the worst qualities from each. They have the "all for one" loyalty of the Musketeers — but only to each other. The gloom-and-doom stubbornness of the Horsemen — but now applied to community input. And just enough slapstick decision-making to make the Stooges proud.

The result? An automatic majority that pretends to "hear" residents, then votes exactly how they planned before the meeting even started. Public comment becomes a box to check, not something to consider. Minority board members are reduced to spectators. And the people footing the tax bill are left wondering why they bother showing up at all.

Lake Township didn't elect a three-person super-bloc. We elected five individuals who were supposed to think for themselves. If this board wants respect, maybe it's time for the trio to stop acting like a packaged deal and start acting like public servants.

Patricia Riss
Lake Township Resident