

From the outside looking in, the Lake Township Board appears less like a functioning local government and more like a case study in how not to lead. What should be a straightforward job—representing residents, managing township business, and exercising basic judgment—has instead devolved into dysfunction marked by wasted tax dollars, an overreliance on attorneys, and a supervisor who too often seems unfamiliar with the very role he was elected to perform.

The township supervisor is expected to understand township operations, follow established law and procedure, and guide the board with competence. What residents are seeing instead is a pattern of uncertainty and reactionary decision-making. Rather than demonstrating working knowledge of township governance, the supervisor frequently defers to legal counsel for matters that should be routine.

Lawyers are meant to advise—not to run the township. When nearly every disagreement, question, or criticism results in a call to the attorney, it sends a clear message: leadership is lacking. A supervisor who does not understand the scope of his own authority, or the limits of it, creates confusion, delay, and unnecessary expense for taxpayers.

The growing attorney fees are not an accident; they are the predictable result of poor leadership. Instead of resolving issues through preparation, transparency, and respectful discussion, the board repeatedly turns to legal counsel as a shield. Each invoice represents money taken away from community priorities—and spent instead to compensate for avoidable missteps.

Residents are justified in asking why Lake Township needs constant legal intervention. Other townships manage to conduct business without hemorrhaging money to attorneys. The difference is competence. When officials understand their responsibilities and follow the law from the start, legal bills stay low. When they do not, taxpayers pay the price.

Equally troubling is the board's apparent disregard for public input. Residents attend meetings, complete surveys, and speak during public comment, only to watch decisions proceed unchanged. Listening without considering is not engagement—it is performance.

From the outside, it appears that public participation has become an inconvenience rather than a guiding force. Decisions feel predetermined, votes predictable, and dissent unwelcome. This is not how representative government is supposed to function, especially at the local level where accountability should be strongest.

The consequences of this dysfunction extend beyond dollars and cents. Trust is eroded when residents feel ignored. Tension escalates when questions are met with defensiveness or legal threats rather than answers. Confidence disappears when leadership seems unsure of its own job description.

Lake Township deserves leadership that understands township law without outsourcing basic governance to attorneys, that values resident input instead of sidelining it, and that remembers public office is a responsibility—not a power play.

From the outside looking in, the problem is not complicated. The board needs less posturing, less lawyering, and far more competence. Until that changes, dysfunction will continue to define Lake Township government—and taxpayers will continue footing the bill.

Resident Lake Township