



## **WEST GOSHEN REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON WOODWARD DEATH**

October 27, 2023

We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of J. David Woodward, a friend and valuable employee of West Goshen Township. He is survived by his wife and their daughter. Please keep the Woodward family in your thoughts and prayers.

The alleged events leading to Mr. Woodward's suicide in July 2023, as reported on October 26, 2023 in the Daily Local News, are shocking and raise serious questions about how the West Goshen Township is being managed. The Township, the Township Manager, and all five Township Supervisors were sued in Chester County Court of Common Pleas on October 19, 2023 for intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

As presented in the Daily Local News, actions by the Township Manager and Supervisors leading to Mr. Woodward's suicide involved interrogation by a hired labor law expert, vehement and angry accusations, suspension without pay, and threats of imprisonment against several department heads within the Township. All of this was done because township employees acted in compliance with a long-standing policy for overtime pay. That policy had been in place for over ten years.

According to the Daily Local News, none of the three remaining department heads were fired. If that's the case, then why were such strong-armed tactics used by the administration against our township employees?

The six named defendants are those responsible for making financial, personnel, and policy decisions within the Township. Now they will be deciding whether to spend West Goshen taxpayer's money for their own defense.

This tragic turn of events clearly demonstrates poor leadership, poor management practices, and a callous disregard for consequences.

While the community can voice its displeasure regarding the events that have transpired by electing two new board members in November, the others involved will remain, continuing to make more disastrous decisions.

As a result, the West Goshen Republican Committee hereby calls for the resignation of all five West Goshen Township Supervisors and the Township Manager.

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