

Well, it has taken me a few days to recover from the skewering I received at the Feb. 18th Board of Aldermen meeting. What was intended to be a Board of Aldermen meeting turned out to be much more like a town hall meeting. I offer my most sincere apologies to the citizens of Hideaway for my poor communication. I confess that it was my idea to adopt a property tax and I did a very poor job of communicating this idea to the community. This failure on my part became vividly clear to me at the recent Board of Aldermen meeting. I know that the word "tax" is very repugnant to many people, and I deeply regret that I did such a poor job in communicating. I was disappointed that there were very few questions from the audience, but rather folks just "vented" their frustration at your city government. One positive thing that the idea did was generate a lot of interest in folks serving on the Board of Aldermen. At most of our city elections, we don't have enough people file for a place on the ballot for us to actually have an election. We now have 7 people that have filed for office.

I would like to assure everyone that this lack of communication was not intentional. I am committed to do better as long as I am your mayor. I had previously committed to the citizens of Hideaway that we would have a town hall meeting to discuss the issue. After the Feb. 18th meeting, I now feel that a town hall meeting is unnecessary, until after the upcoming election in May. Any future considerations of this issue by your city will be after the election and the new council is sworn into office.