

Fact or Fiction Week: Debunking Township Myths & Maybe Val should examine her own Status Quo.

“Completely dishonest to the public and disrespectful to that board (Land Preservation?).” “It is dishonest and immoral what you are doing to the community.” Valerie Shultz at the Aug 9, 2023 meeting speaking about the transfer of \$800,000 from Land Preservation to Rec & Park in 2020 & 2021. Quick fact, wasn’t a sitting BOS member one of her supporters?

My opponent has stated numerous inconsistencies 1) There was never any public discussion, 2) Land Preservation was unaware of transfers, 3) “Two years of public pressure” for money to be returned,” 4) “It is not legally allowed.

Myth – My opponent “advocated” the return of \$800,000 to Land Preservation and stated it was never discussed publicly. The Land Preservation Committee in November of 2021 expressed their concern of continued \$400,000 payments (two already made) and these payments were stopped after Supervisor Laura Burdy was sworn in, in 2022. These original two transfers were held in Rec & Parks until completion of the skatepark & reimbursement of grant money

Question, why was that money ever moved, and my opponent has said it was never discussed publicly. Steve Landes, prior Township manager, budgeted the transfer of \$400,000 in the 2020 budget for improvements at Umble Park. This transfer was approved by John McHugh, Tracy Olsen and Travis Stacy at the December 11, 2019 BOS Meeting.

Township Resolution 9-2020/DCNR Grant Application was signed on March 11, 2020 by John McHugh.

May 13, 2020, Check #10335 from HBT Land Preservation Fund to HBT Rec & Park Fund in the amount of \$400,000 is signed by John McHugh & Travis Stacy.

The second transfer of funds was discussed during a Rec & Park Meeting held on March 18, 2021 with Team Val supporter and committeeperson Kevin Wyant. This meeting referenced transfers from 2020 – 2022 of \$400,000 each from Land Preservation to Rec & Park for Umble Park improvements. Check # 10349 was signed by Travis Stacy & Tracy Olsen for \$400,000 from HBT Land Preservation Fund to HBT Rec & Park Fund. Both 2020 & 2021 transfers are also detailed in the yearly budgets. Budgets, payments and meeting minutes were approved by BOS members John McHugh, Tracy Olsen & Travis Stacy.

On November 3, 2021, at the BOS Workshop for the 2022 budget, Shane Hadden and Susan Lacy (LP Committeepersons) spoke to “voice their concern about the ongoing use of these funds to complete park improvements.” The sitting BOS, John McHugh, Tracy Olsen and Travis Stacy “decided to leave the proposed transfer in the 2022 budget.” Only after current Supervisor Laura Burdy was sworn in, in 2022, did the transfer of any additional money stop and the additional 2022 transfer was NOT authorized.

Fastforward to August 2023 BOS Workshop meeting. My opponent did question this expenditure and was informed by BOS Member McHugh that he believed that there was only 1 payment/1 transfer of \$400,000, although he 1) Approved the minutes of the March 18, 2021 Rec & Park meeting that detailed multiple \$400,000 payments and 2) His approval of ALL the budgets (2020, 2021 & 2022) that included the transfer and 3) Approval of the checks written at each meeting in 2021. When John McHugh was asked by my opponent why the residents may not be aware of this, he provided her with no answer and a blank stare. John did go on to state due to a change in the law, “open space” money could be used for parks, but it was not officially adopted.