

Jeff's All Candidates Meeting Speech – October 26th – King City

Good evening and thank you for coming. I'd like to thank the King Township Chamber of Commerce for hosting this evening.

I'm Jeff Laidlaw and I'm running for Council in Ward 2 Nobleton / Laskay.

In my door to door travels I have continually been asked a direct and poignant question "What am I getting for my tax dollar?"

I have heard about ditches and culverts that need to be cleaned out or cleared, a request for more regular street – sweeping, questions about the chlorine smell in the local water supply in Nobleton, questions regarding the costs related to sewer hook-ups, questions about proper drainage on our local streets, why the blades of the snowplows can't be lifted as they cross in front of the driveways, about mosquito controls in our waterways, questions about lights, questions about traffic control on Ellis, questions about garbage pickup, questions about by-passes and more.

The questions themselves don't bother me. What does bother me is the fact that every person has told me that they have tried to get answers with no success. This concerns me greatly.

In fact, if there were no other reason to run for Council, this in itself would be enough. I want to be able to bring the answers to the people. I want them to know what's going on. For the property taxes that we pay, we deserve no less.

On the campaign trail I have also repeatedly heard the phrase, Nobleton gets nothing. While I'm not sure that's entirely fair, I do want the Council to consider a ward specific improvement budget for every ward in this township, and this would be directed by diverse and unique interests within the ward.

I'm greatly concerned about the truth. As they say on X-Files ... the truth is out there... or rather we hope that the staff at the township have looked ahead and considered all aspects that we may be able to come up with and ask questions about. For example, in Nobleton the Council has approved the building of the first 400 homes in the Slokker subdivision with no new water supply and no improvements to the water supply system despite water usage

bans and warnings through many summers. Should a Nobleton resident be concerned about water supply. In my view, absolutely. In Township's view, apparently this doesn't present a problem. Logic and facts suggest that we need more than simple assurances that all's well.

Speaking personally, it concerns me if staff or Council members are unable to supply answers within a reasonable time frame. To me this means that either they don't know the answers or they don't want to tell us the answers.

This situation needs to be changed. We must, in a timely manner, think things through; consider all plausible angles, and anticipate every conceivable circumstance. King Township cannot continue to operate effectively on what I feel is incomplete, inaccurate or ill-considered information. If elected to Council I make a commitment to work with other Council members to bring about changes that will get you the answers you deserve in a timely fashion.

Finally, in this limited time I'm given, honest, open, transparent timely communication is a commitment I make.

You have paid for ... and have the right to anticipate no less.

On November 13th, I hope that you'll give me the opportunity to work with you, the residents of Ward 2 to bring about better government.

Thank you.