

## Questions on village, town priorities

Every two years we get to vote. The man with the most votes, the majority wins. It all stops there. Two trustees and the mayor told me to my face, that once elected, they can do anything they want. As long as they can get the majority of votes on the village board. They don't have to go to the folks that trusted them enough to vote for them. They can run us into debt, change the landscape of the village and do just about anything they want.

The village board thought it would be better if we spent \$1.5 million on a new water tower than spend \$400,000 to paint the old one. The town got the grants and new tower, and the village gets to pay \$50,000 a year for 30 years. Supervisor Thomas Rienbeck said on Channel 7 News, "If it wasn't for the generosity of the village, this project wouldn't have been affordable." It was the generosity of the four trustees and the mayor, not the people. Will Mr. Rienbeck return the generosity?

We are in dire need of a sewer treatment plant. We are not far from being fined by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The village board's priorities are a visitor's center and a deep-water port. If you agree or not, it involves a lot of money for the village taxpayers. More questions?

Is the town supervisor really making double the salary of the past supervisor? Is the town supervisor really getting the town to vote him a raise every year? Are the taxpayers really paying health insurance for a part-time position?

We have to get involved and get these questions answered and make these elected officials accountable. We've got to stop all these personal agendas and personal gains. If we don't we may as well move to Venezuela and vote for Hugo Chavez.

The four men on the village board and the mayor, along with the town board and the supervisor, are elected and paid to represent the folks. They are not doing this. They go behind closed doors and vote on these projects, then shove it down the taxpayers' and voters' throats.

In closing, when one questions or disagrees, the standard answer is, if you don't like it, move. Isn't this kind of arrogant from our elected officials? Well, if we had the opportunity to vote on these six items, they would see what the majority really wants. Then we could tell the village and the town boards along with the mayor and town supervisor to move.

**HARRY E. LANDERS**  
CAPE VINCENT