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“Voters do not need a state-sanctioned photo ID to vote in this election”

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Editorial: With all the spin, false claims, and counter-claims, elections are confusing enough. But the on-again, off-again Pennsylvania voter-ID law and the way the state has dealt with it are worse. So much confusion has been created that many voters may not show up at the polls.

This is the outrageous result of bad, partisan-stained legislation bullied through the legislature so fast the Corbett administration had little time to even think about how to implement it.

LCSWMA CEO acknowledges lack of incinerator feasibility study

At the time of publication of [“Does the proposed LCSWMA purchase of plagued Harrisburg incinerator make sense?”](#), *NewsLanc* invited Jim Warner, CEO of the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, to comment by means of a Letter to the Editor.

NewsLanc inquired: “Perhaps the County Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority has secured an independent feasibility study. If they have, it should be shared with the public and critically reviewed by the Lancaster Newspapers immediately.”

It added: “And if the LCSWMA has not obtained a feasibility study from a highly reputable source, then breaks should be put on the deal and heads should roll!”

Warner called publisher Robert Field shortly after 5:00 PM on the day of publication and was highly agitated concerning why *NewsLanc* would ask questions that Warner considered negative.

When queried, Warner acknowledged that LCSWMA had not yet sought outside advice in analyzing the Harrisburg Incinerator investment but he said an engineering report would be

conducted and submitted at the time they seek financing.

Field asked why the LCSWMA would want to arrange a purchase for the incinerator before performing an essential part of the ‘due diligence’ process. Warner responded that 25 years of successful experience is an indication that they are making a proper judgment.

Field, himself a veteran businessman, questioned whether a quarter of a century experience of disposing of refuse in Lancaster County prepared the LCSWMA for spending over \$150 million for a long troubled incinerator in Dauphin County.

Warner responded that *NewsLanc* was projecting “a half empty glass” in raising the questions. He said that Field should have come to his office to discuss matters.

In his Letter to the Editor the following morning, “LCSWMA’s CEO: ‘No situation where Lancaster funds will be utilized’”, Warner states: “Most importantly, LCSWMA predicts no situation where Lancaster funds will be utilized to pay for operations or debt associated with the HMERRF. In fact, the HMERRF will provide a positive, annual cash flow. This positive business model assures

stable tipping fees for Lancaster County and eliminates an increase in the foreseeable future.”

“We have performed a detailed financial analysis with independent, expert review; which will forge the contractual agreements that precede LCSWMA’s purchase of the HMERRF.” ...

Walter assured Field that the Incinerator was in good working condition and has been for the past two years. However, within two days, the Harrisburg Patriot-News published [“Harrisburg incinerator may need millions in repair before sale”](#).

It reported:

“ABC27 spoke with the head of the Harrisburg Authority Monday. He said there’s no way around spending more money on the incinerator before it’s sold....

“The Harrisburg Authority said the millions are necessary for capital improvement projects. They

LETTER: Alcohol kills 80,000 every year while marijuana kills none:

“We keep hearing about “legalizing marijuana for recreational use”, but what it really appears to be is an attempt to legalize marijuana as a far safer alternative to alcohol.

“According to the CDC [Center for Disease Control], alcohol kills 80,000 people every year in the U.S. while marijuana kills none, and marijuana’s addiction potential is only about that of coffee.

Lancaster Newspapers: The more things change...

The Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. has announced so many leadership changes that one would need a score card to keep track.

So it was both informative and with relief that we note from the mast head of *The Sunday News* that

need to make upgrades to the ash land fill, air heaters, and the eighth stage turbine blade which allows them to generate more electricity.”

In his Letter to the Editor, Walter states: *“Most importantly, LCSWMA predicts no situation where Lancaster funds will be utilized to pay for operations or debt associated with the HMERRF. In fact, the HMERRF will provide a positive, annual cash flow. This positive business model assures stable tipping fees for Lancaster County and eliminates an increase in the foreseeable future.” ...*

This is an example of what economists refer to as ‘Moral Hazard’. If Warner is correct, the LCSWMA will profit. If he is wrong, despite his promises, the Lancaster public will have to make up the losses through higher waste disposal fees. The public losses could equal or even exceed that from the Convention Center Project...

“Since marijuana is far safer and far less addictive than alcohol, we could GREATLY reduce the amount of harm and addiction in society by giving people the right to switch from the more harmful drug, alcohol, to the less harmful drug, marijuana. Paranoid old men keep marijuana illegal and make our children LESS safe!”

Marv Adams remains as editor and, from the note at the bottom of Gil Smart’s column, that Smart remains associate editor. Also, Beverly Steinman is Chair of the Board.

The Sunday News is a gem. Let’s not screw it up.

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