

Dear Town Board

It is a sad day in Grand Island history when members of the town board choose to represent a small interest group over the majority of residents.

From the beginning it was known three of the town board members were in favor of the proposed licensing of vacation housing.

After the July 5, 2016 meeting where the majority of people attending opposed the licensing proposal, it was reported that one of the three members was on the fence.

The Town Supervisor Nate McMurry published in the Island Dispatch he is considering not going forward with the proposed law.

Then on the July 11, 2016 the Town Supervisor had a workshop to move forward with the law.

I have heard from an Ellicottville resident that Ellicottville has stopped short time home rentals in the town for vacation homes but still allowing them in rural areas because of the problems.

Many communities in Florida have started only allowing only three month rentals in residential areas. In other cities they have thirteen percent tax.

Facts are that short term rentals in the long run cause more problems than benefits to the community.

There is no benefit to the residents of Grand Island except for the selected few.

Why are Bev Kinney, Supervisor Nate McMurry and Mike Madigan choosing to only represent the parties that want to have vacation homes?

On the July 5, 2016 Town Board meeting Supervisor Nate McMurry stated he wanted help the vacation home owners. His actions have shown that he is not interested in the rest of the Grand Island residents.

Bev Kinney on the article published on July 11, 2016 states her reason is to keep the negativity down. The facts are that if the procedure had been followed by a review of the zoning board like all other issues, there would not have been negativity.

In the same article Mike Madigan suggested banning fires and outside parties. When you pass a law all people have to abide by it. Just as if you license vacation home, everyone has the right to have a license. I am sure you do not want to restrict Grand Island residence from the use of their home like that. Since you are worried about a lawsuit as a reason to agree for the licensing, I hear there will be one either way.

The vacation home owners have created the problem by not following the existing laws.

The town has allowed the vacation homes to exist by not enforcing the zoning laws, building and fire code laws, DEC laws and health laws.

What is the next step that the Town Board will take? Are they going to change the zoning laws to eliminating the zone board responsibility to determine the use of existing zones?

The question is will the Town board in the future continue not represent the majority of the Grand Island Residence????

I want to thank Ray Billica and Chris Aronica for supporting Grand Island residents.

Sincerely

Martin Goss

Cc: Isledegrande