

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

## What else does Readington committee have to hide?

EDITOR:

In accordance with the law, I recently filed an Open Public Records Request, "OPRA," to obtain information from Readington Township to find out how much money our Township Committee has been spending on the Solberg Airport matter, and to verify what they have been telling us. As a result of my request Mayor (Gerard) Shamey at the last Township Committee meeting accused me of wasting taxpayers' money and preventing our town from focusing its energies on farmland preservation and open space acquisition. So as not to be a further burden on the town's administration, he stated they hired special legal counsel at a cost of \$175 an hour to handle my OPRA request. Mayor Shamey further said the Township Committee has given the

public "every shred of information" concerning Solberg Airport.

If this was not such a serious matter his statements would be comical. The last time I made an OPRA request to Readington I found out the town had secretly hired a public relations firm without the public's knowledge, which they were paying for clandestinely through their condemnation attorney. Only after I exposed this did they come clean and admit the truth. Again I can't help but wonder what else they may be hiding. It is obvious our Township Committee is worried and has hired special counsel to try and find a way to avoid providing me with the detailed information I requested. If every shred of information has already been shared, why the need to hire yet another attorney? Why not just hire an extra adminis-

tration person to gather and copy the material? Since I have authorized the township to charge me for the requested information, the cost to the taxpayers should be zero if there is nothing to hide.

Although our residents at times may be apathetic, they are not stupid.

Eventually, people will realize what is going on. What Mayor Shamey does not realize is the more rhetoric he uses against me the more I am convinced they are trying to hide something and the harder I will work to find the truth.

If I were them I would be worried too if I had knowingly made misrepresentations and was at risk of being exposed.

**ED DUDZINSKI**  
*Readington Township*