

Political opportunity exploited with rhetoric of fear

It has become evident that the people will have little impact in selecting a candidate for the vacant seat on the Middletown Board of Supervisors. I believe that Democratic Supervisor Robert McMonagle will direct vacancy board chair Democrat Bill Cosen to vote for another partisan to join Democrat Chuck Thompson on the board.

This would amount to a rejection of the "voice of the people" rationale that some used to justify the appointment of Thompson, who was granted next-in-line status based on the general election vote count.

At the supervisor meeting on April 8, Republican Jasper Caro nominated Russ Kavana by virtue of his next-in-line position in the same election, his eight years experience as Middletown supervisor, and his service on various other boards. In response, McMonagle asked Caro whether he would support someone who had taken a "payoff." He apparently sought to imply that a donation from developer Bruce Toll was brown-bagged cash going directly into Kavana's pocket for his influence on the zoning board he serves on. However, as McMonagle is well aware, Toll's alleged "payoff " was not a contribution to Kavana but to the Middletown Republican Committee's general fund.

McMonagle was also well aware of Kavana's campaign pledge to vote against this project, yet continues to insist it was his "exposure" of Toll's contribution that led to Kavana's vote against Toll's shopping center. The reality is that Kavana's vote could not be bought. McMonagle has again, as he did during his recent election, attempted to exploit this political opportunity to fool the public with his typical rhetoric of fear, uncertainty and doubt.

This, when compared to various contributions by out-of-state unions and professional organizations made to the Democratic Party of Middletown Township, several of whom are now employed by the township, render McMonagle's claims not only hollow but also blatantly hypocritical. Pay-to-play politics has become standard operating procedure for Middletown Democrats.

Ronald Rudy, chairman Middletown Republican Committee