

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Plan of Direction for Review of Levy Application

Purpose

This memorandum establishes the official direction for evaluating the Levy Company application under Public Act 113. Our process must be disciplined, transparent, fiscally responsible, and grounded in what best protects the health, safety, and welfare for Springfield Township and its residents.

1. Leadership and Responsibility

As Township Supervisor, I carry the responsibility of guiding this process with integrity, discipline, and transparency. Public Act 113 prohibits municipalities from acting on speculation alone. Courts have made it clear: well-supported, factual decisions hold up; speculative, emotional ones do not. Missteps could risk loss of local control—something we cannot afford.

2. Fairness and Integrity

Our job is not to chase a predetermined outcome. It is to seek truth, verify facts, and honor both property rights and public interest. This community deserves decisions built on fairness, honesty, and good governance.

3. Unity of Message

Springfield must speak with one voice. Internal division, emotional outbursts, and knee-jerk reactions have no place in this process. Calls to “just say no” without substance, due process or legal standing only weaken our case and risk further damage.

4. Resident Input, Trust, and Public Health

Resident participation is welcomed but it must be constructive, honest, and rooted in respect. It is vital that we protect not only our environment and finances, but also the mental and emotional well-being of our residents.

The fear-mongering, misinformation, and meeting disruptions promoted by a small group have taken a serious toll on our township. They have:

- Created anxiety and mistrust among neighbors
- Sown confusion through incomplete or incorrect information
- Disrupted the peace and professionalism of public meetings

- Caused division within our community at a time when unity is essential

This behavior harms our residents' emotional health, burdens staff, and misuses taxpayer dollars. We must draw a clear line: this cannot continue. I urge our community to stand together against these tactics and support calm, fact-driven engagement.

5. Environmental and Health Concerns

My highest priority remains the protection of Springfield's rare prairie fens, water systems, and sensitive habitats. We are also taking seriously the health implications that may arise from this proposal. As part of our responsibility:

- Environmental agencies will assess potential impacts to air quality and water safety
- Experts will evaluate dust mitigation practices to ensure they comply with health regulations
- We will weigh the potential for any adverse long-term health outcomes based on expert input and current best practices

6. Dispelling Misinformation and Preventing Harm

The spread of false or misleading information has already caused real harm. Misstatements such as:

- Mislabeled this project as a "rock quarry" and that there would be dynamite blasting instead of a gravel mine that dynamite is not used or necessary due to the loose nature of sand and gravel.
- Alarmist narratives about silica dust without context or acknowledgment of accepted and proven state regulatory controls that are used in conjunction with air quality monitoring.
- Speculative claims that assume outcomes without supportive data or credible sources.

These actions have cost this township tens of thousands of dollars and have unnecessarily stressed our community's residents, workers, and volunteers.

We've had to:

- Retain additional legal counsel
- Assign sheriff deputies and fire personnel for meeting safety
- Absorb a significant increase in staff workload
- Allocate taxpayer dollars to handle FOIA overloads and misinformation correction

These distractions are not harmless; they are destructive and have diverted precious resources from the real work at hand.

7. Fiscal Responsibility and Escrow Agreements

Thanks to tough negotiation, the Township has secured an escrow agreement to fund large-scale reviews by expert firms. We've also obtained a \$150,000 contribution from the Levy Company to offset testing and review expenses.

Still, certain costs such as independent testing and legal review must be covered by the Township. That means every dollar wasted on dealing with misinformation or meeting disruptions is a dollar taken from essential public services. As Supervisor, I am committed to preserving fiscal responsibility, and I call on residents to support that commitment.

8. Committee and Consultant Objectivity

Our consultants and committee members are here to fact-find—not to advance a political narrative. The Planning Commission depends on a foundation of objective data and legal clarity to make recommendations that will stand up under scrutiny.

9. Strategic Use of the Negotiated Pause

I negotiated a pause in this process to provide time for a thorough, professional review. Without this pause, we may have faced a rushed and uninformed decision. It is deeply disappointing that some continue to criticize this opportunity, offering nothing of substance in return. I stand by the decision and the wisdom of taking time to do this right.

Closing Statement

The division, emotional strain, and unnecessary costs caused by a small but vocal group are deeply troubling. These disruptions have undermined trust, confused the public, and wasted significant taxpayer money. As Supervisor, I have an obligation to speak clearly: This behavior must stop.

Now more than ever, Springfield needs all hands-on deck. Our community deserves calm, informed, fact-based discussion. We must rise above tactics meant to divide, confuse, or intimidate.

I believe in this community. I believe we can come together to:

- Protect our environment
- Defend our public health
- Preserve our budget and staff resources
- Make decisions grounded in law, fact, and fairness

Thank you to those who continue to engage respectfully. Many of you have shared your disappointment in the behavior of those who seek only to inflame and divide. Let's be clear: the loudest voices do not speak for the majority. I know this community is capable of better.

Together, we can ensure Springfield emerges from this process stronger, wiser, and more united.

If I have missed anything, I encourage your input. I will continue to lead with transparency, honesty, and resolve.

Respectfully submitted,
Ric Davis
Springfield Township Supervisor