

Statement to the BOPA ,council, and mayor

I have listened to the proposals concerning wage increases for BOPA employees. I have listened to changes proposed for all village employees receiving insurance coverage. I have watched and listened to the elected officials and those in management positions presenting their cases. Now, I feel the need to respond to what I've experienced and express my views as well.

I have heard some employees who champion high wage increases during a time of recession in this country. I have also heard some employees complain because they will be expected to assume a small portion of their insurance costs. While other communities are cutting back, these individuals think they should receive more and more in every way. I have often heard the employees of this village "go the extra mile" for our residents. While I value any employee that works hard and a does a good job for the community, I have a response to that statement.

The people of this village have gone the extra mile for our employees as well. We have paid and continue to pay for education for them. Even office employees have and are receiving a free college education from our residents. We have paid for generous insurance for all employees at no cost to them for many years. Longevity pay has been given.(By the way, nobody ever had to pay me to go to work daily. I did that to earn my wages.) Personal days, sick days , clothing allowances for some--- all covered expenses. They even get raises because they complete the classes we pay for. Yes, the residents of this village have treated our employees very well.

What makes my opinion of value? I am one of the most important persons in this discussion. I am a village resident, a tax payer, a BOPA customer and one of the people who voted for town officials. Are you all speaking for me in your negotiations? I need to feel I'm being represented fairly in the outcome. I have no ill feelings towards any village employee nor town official. I just want the mentality of excessive spending to be addressed. The residents of this community can't get all the advantages our employees receive. We must make due without raises, pay for our own insurance coverage, the costs for our homes and food as well. We do this plus pay for all of you. Who has the biggest argument for change than the people of this village? When you make decisions to increase any type of spending, please remember the people who must bear the cost of your actions.

Thank you,
Barbara Johnson