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Barkeyville plans raise a few questions

Editor:

Having lived in southern Venango County for 31 of my 51 years on this planet, I would like to weigh in on the proposed asphalt plant at Barkeyville and ask a few questions to those in power and any of those who may share my concerns.

What kind of deal is procured on New Year's evening and at what office? Are we to believe that someone was so hard at work on this deal that they forgot what day it was, or does anyone else see a fly in the ointment?

Why is there mention made of introducing 60 to 80 new jobs to the area when (in the words of the company representative) the reality is that these jobs will simply be transferred from the company's other facilities with the possibility of only a few new jobs added as time goes on to specifically qualified asphalt people?

Why was a permit given when it clearly smacks against an ordinance already in place in the borough? Shouldn't those ramrodding this through have looked at any existing laws or ordinances? Why is a company who may employ a few new people down the road given the lion's share of the industrial park? I believe in the Golden Rule, "doing unto others as you would have them do unto you," not the proposed version of, "the guy who has the gold makes the rules."

In this modern day of greed and preferential treatment, deals and back-slapping and a government "of the rich, by the rich and for the rich," there seems to be a modern day David and Goliath struggle in southern Venango County. Here's hoping that David can still find a stone among all the asphalt.

— Jerry Hanna
Franklin