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Dear Mansfield Committee Members:

This letter is to express my disappointment with the Committee's attitude toward the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and the Open Public Records Act (OPRA).

On September 9, 2020 during the public comment portion, I raised concerns regarding an Open Public Records Request I made on August 27, 2020. My request was due on September 8, 2020. It took fourteen (14) back-and-forth emails before I could get any useful records from Mansfield Township. Twelve (12) of these emails were exchanged on the date the records were due, September 8, 2020. During the public portion and while speaking, Committee members interrupted me, justifying how the matter was handled.

Additionally, while the public comment period is intended for the public to make comments and ask questions to the Committee, the tables were turned and I was questioned regarding my opinions on the recent closure of public offices and funeral for Jada, a K-9 Police Dog. A week prior to the Committee Meeting, I expressed my opinions on one of the town's Facebook pages (Mansfield Politics). This page is an open social media forum where citizens can feel free to voice their opinions. My post raised questions a typical taxpayer might have regarding the amount of public funds that should be expended for a Police Dog Funeral. It was clear the committee members read my opinions about the public building closures, the publicized ceremony, and pageantry surrounding the event.

If the committee were truly interested in having an honest and open discussion of the issue, I would have welcomed the opportunity to have this dialog with them. However, I should not have been challenged during the meeting.

Very truly yours,

Bill Sosis

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