

## Hall, Stacy

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**From:** Buck, Peter <pxb16@scasd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 8:35 AM  
**To:** Nanes, Ezra;scouncil;Fontaine, Tom  
**Subject:** State College Borough's role in the PPA

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Nanes, Chairman Meyers, Council, & Mr. Fontaine,

Thank you for taking time tonight to deliberate on the solar power purchase agreement.

Centre County's local governments are on the cusp of adopting an affordable, stable, long-term, and carbon-free electricity contract. It responds to the growing renewable energy market, supports Pennsylvania jobs, and meets the demands of voters and the younger generation. The Borough stands to receive a payback on the project in its first year while avoiding hundreds of tons of carbon dioxide being added to the atmosphere. Pam Adams, the region's Sustainability Planner, will be addressing these and other details tonight.

State College Borough has been a key partner in this endeavor. Former Council member Jesse Barlow and staff members Jasmine Field and Roger Dalton have attended working group meetings. Mr. Fontaine, Mayor Nanes, as well as current Chair Evan Meyers have approached the project with professionalism and clear communication. I believe I speak for the working group and project management team when I say, "Thank you."

As the PPA's Working Group Chair, I must address Josh Portney's public statements on the Tor Michaels talk show. Let the record show that Mr. Portney and I were in a previous professional relationship. He was the manager of my unsuccessful campaign for House District 171 in 2020.

The group of finance, planning, and executive professionals from the State College Area School District, Centre Region Council of Governments, Centre County, and Patton Township who serve on the working group's project management team are skilled, vigilant, and mission-driven public servants. When Mr. Portney calls the PPA process a "financial scandal," it is both wrong and defamatory. At no point has the working group, its project management team, or any staff or elected official fraudulently authorized an expenditure, performed an unauthorized expenditure, or incurred a fee outside of standard practice. Your budget is in your hands, not the working group's nor any other organization's. Certainly, I appreciate frustrations with the project's complexity, having had many of my own. The scandal here is that Mr. Portney has made a defamatory statement about our staff. He owes staff an apology and should pledge to get his facts straight.

Let the record show that I have also reached out to Mr. Portney by phone twice. I called him on the mornings of both 8.28 and 8.29, leaving him messages both times in an effort to get him information he might be missing and to discuss the project. He did not return my calls.

Once again, thank you. The solar power purchase agreement has been a meaningful project that shows residents across the County that we take their concerns about our budgets, renewable energy, and public opinion seriously.

Peter Buck  
Chair, Centre County Solar Power Purchase Agreement Working Group  
State College Area School District Board of Directors

*"Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways."*

*~Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama*

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## Right to Know Request from Robert Ziegler

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From Nanes, Ezra <enanes@statecollegepa.us>

Date Mon 10/21/2024 12:15 PM

To Walter, Dianna <dwalter@statecollegepa.us>

Cc Fountaine, Tom <TFountaine@statecollegepa.us>

Dianna,

Here are the timestamps of my calls and/or missed calls with, from, or to Peter Buck during the time period requested: August 27th until September 13th of 2024.

8/29/24, 5:03pm - Missed Call from Peter Buck

8/30/24, 8:33am - Call to Peter Buck

8/30/24, 10:44am - Call to Peter Buck

9/4/24, 4:12pm - Call from Peter Buck

9/7/24, 12:35pm - Missed Call from Peter Buck

9/7/24, 3:15pm - Call to Peter Buck

9/8/24, 12:12pm - Missed Call from Peter Buck

9/8/24, 1:10pm - Call to Peter Buck

9/10/24, 4:48pm - Call from Peter Buck

Ezra Nanes, Mayor  
Borough of State College  
243 S. Allen Street  
State College, PA 16801

Pronouns: he/him



12:16

5G



Peter

Mon, Sep 2 at 2:23 PM



Tor Michaels-Show II

46m ·



**LISTENER POLL: State College Councilmember Josh Portney said elements of the Solar Power Purchase Agreement for Centre County are turning into a financial scandal. Do you agree?**



2 comments



Like



Comment



Send



Share

What the heck? This is Tor

behind this. He's using Josh and destroying him at the same time.

It's Scott & Tor.

Jason is Scott's campaign Treasurer.

📎 📎 📎 📎 📎  
+ iMessage



12:16 

 5G 



Peter >

It's Scott & Tor.

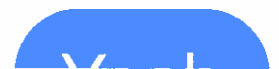
Jason is Scott's campaign  
Treasurer.

Colleen is Scott's Chair.

Tor is his Chief of Staff.

Josh was in his office. And  
Robert is always with them.

They are trying REALLY hard  
to take it down.



Tue, Sep 3 at 2:24 PM

1:59

LTE 63



Fwd: RTK for Information and Communications Inbox

Robert Zeigler Aug 30  
to List\_Service\_openrecords, all-b...

Randy:

If you expect me to believe with this whole ordeal that there is only one text exchange





Peter >



Tue, Sep 3 at 2:24 PM

1:59

LTE

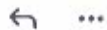


Fwd: RTK for Information and Communications Inbox



Robert Zeigler Aug 30

to List\_Service\_openrecords, all-b...



Randy:

If you expect me to believe with this whole ordeal that there is only one text exchange relating to this ordeal, you are sadly mistaken.

Considering that Peter Buck has publicly changed his statements to contradict themselves is interesting.



Considering that you decided to spend public dollars without a public vote is rather interesting, as it was stated in a public meeting.

At any rate, I would appreciate you providing me with the texts I asked for and stop these delay tactics.

Thanks,

Robert L. Zeigler

On Fri, Aug 30, 2024 at 2:16 PM

List\_Service\_openrecords

<[openrecords@scasd.org](mailto:openrecords@scasd.org)> wrote:



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FYI: Robert totally overplayed his hand with this email to the SCASD Board.



Wow

+ iMessage





1:59

LTE 65



# Fwd: RTK for Information and Communications

Inbox



Robert Zeigler Aug 30



to List\_Service\_openrecords, all-b... ▾

Randy:

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Thanks,

Robert L. Zeigler

On Fri, Aug 30, 2024 at 2:16 PM

List\_Service\_openrecords

<[openrecords@scasd.org](mailto:openrecords@scasd.org)> wrote:



12:18

5G



Peter >

Wow

The whole board is against him. Amy had some choice words about Josh

Why is he communicating with such lack of respect and so many insinuations?



Hubris

Wed, Sep 4 at 10:14 PM

2:22

5G



Tor Michaels-Show

2d · 🌐



[Laura Catherine Shadle](#) I agree. If whatever the project is ...works and delivers value and savings to us taxpayers and the environment is cleaner for it... I'm all in. I've read what I could of the agreements. There's layers of monied interests in this deal that can't possible allow the overall project to compete with already existing solutions and green initiatives offered by First Energy. My sense is promises were made and those "chickens" haven't delivered the "eggs" and certain people are starting to get anxious. I can't support an initiative ONLY because of it's idealogy. Those motives never work successfully for... [See more](#)



18h Like Reply



Laura Catherine Shadle

[Chip Aikens](#) Yeah, I think we're in agreement here when it comes to this project. I cannot stress enough that the concerns are bipartisan and that



iMessage





Peter

Wed, Sep 4 at 10:14 PM

2:22



Tor Michaels-Show

2d



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18h Like Reply



Laura Catherine Shadle

Chip Aikens Yeah, I think we're in agreement here when it comes to this project. I cannot stress enough that the concerns are bipartisan and that Democrats are worried too. I don't think this was easy for Josh Portney to come out against the deal publicly and he did a great service to all of us in doing so.

17h Like Reply



Chip Aikens

Laura Catherine Shadle yes, he did

17h Like Reply

1



Comment as Amber Con...



---

This is comical.

HA  
HA

Wow that is crazy. Is that on Facebook? Disappointed to see Chip in there. I need to call him. just when I thought Laura had come back from

+

iMessage



2:22 ↗



**Tor Michaels-Show**

2d · 🌐



Comments

**Laura Catherine Shadle** I agree. If whatever the project is ...works and delivers value and savings to us taxpayers and the environment is cleaner for it... I'm all in.

I've read what I could of the agreements.

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I can't support an initiative ONLY because of it's idealogy. Those motives never work successfully for... See more

18h Like Reply



**Laura Catherine Shadle**

**Chin Aikens** Yeah I think we're in

[Chip Aikens](#) Team, I think we're in agreement here when it comes to this project. I cannot stress enough that the concerns are bipartisan and that Democrats are worried too. I don't think this was easy for Josh Portney to come out against the deal publicly and he did a great service to all of us in doing so.

17h Like Reply



**Chip Aikens**

[Laura Catherine Shadle](#) yes, he did

17h Like Reply

1



Comment as Amber Con...





12:19

5G



Peter >

HA  
HA

Wow that is crazy. Is that on Facebook? Disappointed to see Chip in there. I need to call him. just when I thought Laura had come back from the dark side. Bipartisan? Josh courage? For calling a radio show run by his employer and throwing 11 organizations and hundreds of dedicated civic servants under the bus?

I know you'll avoid commenting right? It's hard

but the high road wins this one. I'm with you brother. You deserve better than this.

I don't comment on this. No way.

It's a comical circle jerk.z

12:21

5G



Peter >



Lori Bedell

Th · 🧑



I sure hope that people in Centre County take a step back and connect the dots between slanderous accusations and utterly lazy and uninformed claims, the people who are making them, and the platform they are using to spout them.

And the person who seems to be taking the lead on the BS-athon is someone I blocked a while ago for his bait and switch tactic to get me to meet with him.

And if you don't know what I'm talking about, then seriously good for you for avoiding the BS machine motivated by petty, selfish grievances and the desire to get ahead.

Their willingness to sacrifice good progress and to harm reputations of good public servants for personal gain is exactly what needs to stay out of the Democratic Party in Centre County.



Jessica Jane and 2 others

3 comments



God bless Lori Bedell

For real

I told Hilary yesterday, "I wish

Lori was here. She's the person to say it." Tada!

OMG that's brilliant

She's amazing.

Josh called in again & apparently said more silly things, including that he

+ iMessage



12:22 📵

📶 5G 🔋



Peter >

She's amazing.

Josh called in again & apparently said more silly things, including that he doesn't know who's on the working group.

So he's doing great. 🤔 🙄 😂

Haha I listened. Literally acted as if the identities of the members were being kept secret from him.

He knows so much about this project but hasn't yet figured out

project but hasn't yet figured out  
who serves on the working group

This will require some deep  
investigatory action

It's a mystery wrapped in an  
enigma- a secret society, no doubt

Mm. So mysterious.

Who could it be?

HA  
HA

"Only the finest people."



Meetings have been held by  
moonlight on nights of a full moon



iMessage



2:32

Facebook

LTE 19



Amber >

Unless he's lying. But he's said the same to Aaron:

He knows so much about this project but hasn't yet figured out who serves on the working group

This will require some deep investigatory action

It's a mystery wrapped in an enigma- a secret society, no doubt

Mm. So mysterious.

Who could it be?

HA  
HA

"Only the finest people."

Meetings have been held by

moonlight on nights of a full moon

Minutes are kept in invisible ink

HA  
HA

You have to drink fellow members' blood from a steaming cauldron to join.

After you pass through the circle of stones



iMessage





12:22 

 5G 



Peter >

For sure you can't find the names on the cog website or in the minutes of all the meetings that are documented there.

It's all so...clandestine.

It's a thriller!!

Is the next working group meeting Monday? What time?

HA  
HA

There might be zombies.

Tuesday the 10th

Ok!

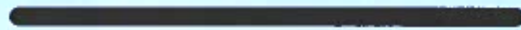
I hope they come.

It would inspire me.

I don't think they will. Given

+

iMessage



12:22 

 5G 



Peter >

He knows so much about this project but hasn't yet figured out who serves on the working group

This will require some deep investigatory action

It's a mystery wrapped in an enigma- a secret society, no doubt

Mm. So mysterious.

Who could it be?

HA  
HA

"Only the finest people."



Meetings have been held by moonlight on nights of a full moon

Minutes are kept in invisible ink

HA  
HA

You have to drink fellow members' blood from a steaming cauldron to join.

Amber & me

... ..

You are cracking me up!

For sure you can't find the names on the cog website or in the minutes of all the meetings that are documented there.

... ..



iMessage



12:23 

 5G 



Peter >

Mon, Sep 9 at 10:48 PM

We voted AYE unanimously on the legal fees. Josh lost.

The right thing to do. I addressed his comments in the meeting.

Thanks, buddy. I heard good things. Let's debrief soon.

Really appreciate you.

Tue, Sep 10 at 7:46 AM

Yes. Right back at you.

res: Right back at you.

Tue, Sep 10 at 4:15 PM

Of Josh doesn't apologize,  
what about stripping him of  
COG committee spots?

That's an option. Need to  
discuss with Evan. He dialed

+

iMessage



12:24 

 5G 



Peter >

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Tue, Sep 10 at 4:15 PM

Of Josh doesn't apologize,  
what about stripping him of  
COG committee spots?

That's an option. Need to  
discuss with Evan. He dialed  
in again today. I didn't hear it  
but I heard he doubled  
down.

12:23 📵

📶 5G 🔋



Peter >



Tuesday the 10th

Ok!

I hope they come.

It would inspire me.


I don't think they will. Given their actions I'd say they'd be ashamed or afraid to face the working group. Monday night will be the moment to address this.

Amy & I are tag teaming at



SCASD.



 Voicemail

August 28, 2024 at 8:38 AM

0:00

-0:49

**Transcription**

"Hey Josh, it's Peter Buck. I hope you're doing well. Well, we're having the solar power purchase agreement working group meeting this morning as I know you know from general forum And I would really encourage you to come I think that you probably have some misunderstandings about the project and giving your appearance on tour Michael's I think I think that yeah it would It would be in everybody's best interest If you reached out to the working group and got

your fax straight, so I look forward to hearing from you, happy to have a conversation whenever you're ready..."

Was this transcription **useful** or **not useful**?



Favorites



Recents



Contacts



Keypad



Voicemail

📶 T-Mobile 5G

📞 1:45 PM

● 43% 🔋

⬅️ Voicemail

**Peter Buck**

phone


August 29, 2024 at 10:54 AM



●  
0:00

-1:08



 Voicemail**Transcription**

"Hey Josh, it's Peter so just really quick two things for you. We do not have the rooftop space to cover wood. The electricity load going into the people Yeah, could you down? Not an option that was an option explored very early. We also looked at available land use, and buy one of the entities to provide land for a solar project that could meet the demand and that was also not an option. These have already been covered so I just don't appreciate you propagating this message. The second is that you owe. The working group and the project management team and apology for Saying that this is A financial scandal You owe an apology for that buddy Cause

you're talking without understanding what's going on and you better give us that apology..."

Was this transcription **useful** or **not useful**?



Favorites



Recents



Contacts



Keypad



Voicemail



1:59

LTE 71



Edit



Peter Buck

message call video mail pay

September 8, 2024

6:26 PM **Outgoing Call**  
44 minutes



Contact Photo & Poster

phone RECENT

+1 (814) 206-4959

FaceTime

1:55

60

PB

Pam

Give me a call about the solar power purchase agreement today if you can.

Thu, Sep 10, 11:56 AM

Sure. Does 2:30ish work? Look forward to catching up.

Awesome

Thu, Sep 10, 12:02 PM

Call anytime

My afternoon got turned around by chores so squeezed in a bike ride. If you are free any time today, just call.

Thu, Sep 10, 12:04 PM

Congrats on crossing some hurdles last night. Pam is an outstanding presenter. I'm glad these things were cleared up.

Good you reached out to me to clarify the things that were to be sent out. Thank you.



1:56

5G 72%



Peter



Tue, Sep 10 at 8:48 AM

Congrats on crossing some hurdles last night. Pam is an outstanding presenter. I'm glad these things were cleared up.

Glad you reached out to me to clarify the things that were floating around. Thanks.

**Awesome. Thank you!**

This was illuminating in many ways. I would like to talk with you at some point to figure out how to avoid this stuff in the future. I hope you and others in the SPPA can view Josh with compassion. I've spoken to him too

Tue, Sep 10 at 10:45 AM

**Sure thing, Gopal. I'm glad it's been illuminating. I'm happy to share with you what I think the communication pitfalls were & how to avoid them.**

**As for Josh: he has to reckon with the consequences of his hubris &**

+ iMessage



1:56

5G



Peter



ways. I would like to talk with you at some point to figure out how to avoid this stuff in the future. I hope you and others in the SPPA can view Josh with compassion. I've spoken to him too

See Gopal's text below

Sure thing, Gopal. I'm glad it's been illuminating. I'm happy to share with you what I think the communication pitfalls were & how to avoid them.

As for Josh, he has to reckon with the consequences of his hubris & immature & destructive behavior. He's at best tarnished & likely demolished his reputation. I wish him well & hope he takes a path away to understanding & reflection

Today's thought:

Sit in your being  
To walk of out of the maze  
There, sun touches eyes

