



FRAUD & TRUST

Hoffman said "Trust is the one thing that once broken, can't be easily fixed again." Click to learn more about the alleged fraud, and Hoffman's blind trust in our former AND current manager. Then decide for yourself if you have confidence in Hoffman's supervision for another 6 years.

I have bolded some text for emphasis

Claim

I CLAIMED "In December 2019, the county DA's office revealed a multi-year fraud so massive it took seven months to reconstruct. Our former Township Manager Lisa Moore was charged with **115 felonies and 26 misdemeanors** allegedly netting Moore an incredible **\$3.2M!**..."

Counter

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman does not dispute these facts.

Claim

Counter

Embezzlement of this scale is unprecedented in Pennsylvania.”¹

I CLAIMED “To date, almost no money has been recovered from Moore.”¹ In fact, less than \$100,000 of the \$3.2 million has been recovered from Moore.

I CLAIMED “... the \$1M Township insurance policy proved the Township was woefully under-insured”¹ In fact, **it is unclear if the insurance has been increased since then.**

I CLAIMED “Lisa Moore, former Township Manager, was charged with embezzling \$3.2M, most of it on Hoffman’s watch”¹ **Most of the funds allegedly stolen were stolen AFTER Hoffman was elected.**

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “We uncovered an ongoing fraud...”³

I CLAIMED “(Hoffman said) “To be perfectly honest, we were complacent and trusted the former manager. Everyone in town, and frankly the whole area, did.” Is this really Hoffman’s excuse for not doing providing the supervision that the township manager requires?”¹

HOFFMAN COUNTERED “I was able to utilize my experience in recovery law to uncover and potentially recover some of the missing assets...”
This is misleading – more than 90% of the money “recovered” came through the township’s insurance.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has not disputed these facts.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED “We uncovered an ongoing fraud that dated back to at least 2013 - long before my term in office, which began in January of 2016.”²

I COUNTERED Hoffman did not uncover the fraud. The fraud was actually discovered by the bank, which then notified the supervisors.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED “My trust was betrayed by our previous manager, and in turn, Peter would have you believe that means you can’t trust me, either.”²

Claim

I CLAIM A wide range of deficiencies were uncovered in the recent audit³, including

- Invoices that had not been approved by the supervisors
- Lost invoices
- Staff salary increases that were not approved by the supervisors
- No effective system of purchases
- Township checks signed with the rubber stamp signature of the then board chairman

These are described “**as an across-the-board dereliction of duties**”.⁵

I CLAIM As evidence of the lack of cost controls, news reports indicated that salaries for employees had not been in line with county standards. This includes an employee with duties commensurate with a receptionist paid more than \$90,000/year. “Some employees were receiving between six to eight weeks of vacation time a year that included carry-over allowances and pay-outs”.⁹

I CLAIMED “As a public sector executive for nearly two decades, I know that blind trust in subordinates is an invitation to cheat the system.”¹ Running a public school with several hundred employees, or a hospital program with several dozen employees, I learned that you usually catch

Counter

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has not commented on these deficiencies, although current township staff report that all of the problematic accounting practices have now been addressed.

HOFFMAN COUNTERS Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim. She has not offered evidence that she brought that type of experience into the job of supervisor. Her only relevant experience is therefore her current term of supervisor... during

Claim

the big mistakes (or lies) by diligently digging into every small one. You gather the evidence, and make a decision. That is THE job of a supervisor! I can describe many examples of how I rooted out people who were dishonest or simply not competent using these steps.

I CLAIM “An additional **\$350,000** in costs to recover the funds had been spent by December 2019⁷, an amount that has increased to over **\$700,000** since.

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “We have already recovered $\frac{1}{3}$ of the embezzled funds without the benefit of a conviction. This is highly unusual.”²

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “We rebuilt the Township operations from the ground up, incorporating robust financial reporting and separation of duties.”²

Counter

which much of the embezzlement allegedly occurred.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim.

I COUNTER **This is misleading. Most of the funds recovered to date - \$1 million- are from an insurance policy taken out by the township.** Given the 141 charges levied against Moore, what would be highly unusual is if the insurer refused to pay out! It also begs the question of why Kennett was only insured for \$1 million when the manager is responsible for so much more. This also does not take into account more than \$700,000 in charges associated with the recovery efforts.

I COUNTER This response simply reflects the extent to which Hoffman was unaware of **just how poorly managed the township was.**

Claim

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “We conducted an extensive search for a highly qualified, professionally trained Township Manager...We have found that person in Eden Ratliff.”²

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “We conducted an extensive search for a... Township Manager **who would hold not only our vendors and partners accountable, but hold us - the Supervisors accountable too.**”²

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “While I have explained my process to seek data-driven answers, many of you know how deeply I care that we become a better community - a community of neighbors.... That is why when the pandemic hit, I made hundreds of masks before masks were widely available...”²

Counter

I COUNTER “When Hoffman approved the hiring of Ratliff in 2019 he was **only 28**, had just graduated from Public Management school, and had **never managed a Township like Kennett**. He had been **let go after two years** on his first municipal job”.⁸

I COUNTER Hoffman wants Ratcliff to hold the Supervisors accountable, when it should be the other way around – the Supervisors must hold their manager to account

I COUNTER I have never questioned whether Hoffman cares about Kennett – I am absolutely sure that she does! I am grateful that she made masks, and re-post CoVid reports into Township emails and notifications. I hope that Hoffman continues this commitment to the community when she is no longer in office. **But I am asking questions about the job we elected her to do.** I am not sure how many people would vote for Hoffman as Supervisor, believing that her stated goals included making masks, re-posting reports or even committing to improving our overall digital infrastructure. I do not expect that these are among the highest priorities for the Township. But I am sure that, when people vote someone in as supervisor, they expect them to take full

Claim

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “I can say that from experience as well. My trust was betrayed by our previous manager, and in turn, Peter would have you believe that means you can’t trust me, either. In fact, he’s betting on that.”²

HOFFMAN CLAIMED “But I believe that I have shown you **in everything that I have done** and will do - that **you can trust me to act with integrity**, in your best interests in my capacity as Supervisor and as your neighbor.”²

I CLAIMED “Leff said. “Unfortunately, we quickly found case after case where work we had asked Lisa to do, which she had told us was done, was never done. We found a pattern of lies and deceptions that shocked us each day. The more we investigated internally, the more problems we uncovered...”⁷ This confirms that the **supervisors rarely if ever double-checked Lisa Moore’s work**. This should heighten ANY concerns raised about the quality of the current manager’s work.

I CLAIMED “... It became clear that Lisa Moore had created and maintained an intentionally

Counter

responsibility to supervising essential township personnel and operations.

I COUNTER I raise questions about whether we can trust Hoffman because it is clear from the above that **she STILL presents facts about the fraud in misleading ways and has simply transferred her blind trust from Moore to Ratcliff**.

I COUNTER I do not understand how Hoffman can claim that she has acted with integrity in everything she has done when the extraordinary extent of the embezzlement under Hoffman’s watch is beyond dispute?

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim.

Claim

confusing and complicated financial process which enabled her, allegedly, to commit fraud and embezzle funds over many years.”⁷ In conversations with the supervisors, I have described several policies and reports produced by the current manager as very – if not intentionally – confusing.

I CLAIMED “After Lisa Moore allegedly stole **\$3.2M on Whitney Hoffman’s watch**, Hoffman explained her mistake was to ‘trust’ Moore. **But Hoffman then just shifted her blind trust in Moore to the new Township Manager, Eden Ratliff.**”⁸

I CLAIMED “(Ratliff) left his next job amid **complaints about a tax scheme he championed that hurt local businesses and which the courts eventually reversed**”.⁸ I am referring to a multimillion dollar stormwater initiative promoted by Ratliff in his previous position in Greencastle. A Greencastle Council member claimed that “Eden... saw a cash cow in this storm water management to provide relief for our deficit budget.” The initiative was subsequently reversed after the federal government granted a waiver, leaving the borough struggling to reimburse fees to residents.¹¹

Counter

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED It is not clear that Hoffman is aware of this controversy, even after Ratliff moved quickly to recommend a stormwater management program in Kennett.

Claim

Counter

I CLAIMED “Hoffman not only approved Ratliff’s hire, but has **since backed his every decision**, insisting that Ratliff “makes sure everything is running to the highest standards” ”⁸.

We do not know of a single major recommendation by Ratcliff that Hoffman has not backed, even when significant objections have been raised by members of the community or even by a fellow supervisor.

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim.

I CLAIMED “This includes Ratliff’s early decision to **summarily replace the entire Kennett Greenway team**, causing a **year delay** that nearly **lost \$2.2M in state funding**.”⁸

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim.

I CLAIMED “Hoffman unequivocally backed Ratliff’s **dubious scheme to rapidly dismantle our proven Emergency Services system in favor of a monopoly** controlled by Longwood Fire. This was done despite serious concerns about **Longwood’s ever-increasing costs and financial sustainability**, as well as the **lack of any formal plan** to ensure the scheme will actually work.”⁸

HOFFMAN COUNTERED Hoffman has yet to dispute this claim.

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1. Doehring, [How Can Democrats Restore Trust in Kennett Township Government?](#) Postcard of 4/25
 2. Hoffman “Responding to My Opposition” [Blog](#) 4/27
 3. [2019 Kennett Township Audit](#).

Claim

Counter

4. Gaw, Richard (4/28/2021). [Kennett Township opens books in 2019 audit report](#). Chester County Press.
5. Gaw, Richard (4/28/2021). [Editorial: The strange, curious, continuing and seemingly never-ending case of Lisa Moore](#). Chester County Press.
6. Gaw, Richard (4/28/2021). [Editorial: The strange, curious, continuing and seemingly never-ending case of Lisa Moore](#). Chester County Press.
7. Gaw, Richard (12/19/2020). [Overflow audience demands answers in Kennett Township investigation](#). Chester County Press.
8. Doehring. [Whitney Hoffman's 'Blind Trust' Continues](#). Postcard of 5/12/2021.
9. ["Four employees terminated as part of township's realignment"](#) Chester County Press (2/4/2020)
10. [Borough of Greencastle Special Council Meeting Minutes](#) (6/23/2020)
11. ["Council favors stormwater fee refunds in Greencastle"](#) Herald Mail Media (6/28/2020).