

Journal

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Westinghouse done in by state bureaucrats

John Kinder could not do anything.
John Crecco could not do anything.
Jim Gasparini is not doing anything.

Can any township leader save the rapidly deteriorating Westinghouse tract, the most spacious, unused private property in Bloomfield?

Until Mayor Gasparini can perform a miracle before the next mayoral election in November, still another term of office will have gone by with the Westinghouse tract remaining idle.

Why?

The reason is simple: No Bloomfield politician or cadre of politicians has yet been able to defeat NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Energy efforts to make a lifelong job of alleged contamination of the vast land in Watsessing. NJDEPE bureaucracy seemingly enjoys making Bloomfield suffer this deadly loss in ratables (tax revenues).

The Westinghouse tract is not the only property in Bloomfield sitting on its butt doing nothing — not producing badly needed dollars for municipal and school purposes. The Gordos property on Glenwood Avenue is another; so are two spacious board of education properties, the former Brookside and South Junior High School sites.

The Westinghouse and Gordos tracts, among others, are undeveloped because of NJDEPE red tape and "no-growth" ideological preference.

Brookside and South Junior are undeveloped because of bad judgment by the board of ed in waiting too long to dispose of the properties.

Without leadership, without vision, the once great Westinghouse property will decay into an outright industrial slum, as in a Newark or South Bronx, rotting away in one of the oldest and once most progressive industrial-commercial-residential centers in New Jersey and in America, for that matter.

Westinghouse it seems has only haunted ghosts of its glories past. And Town Hall has done nothing to bring them back to life....