

Response by Mayor Randy Gartner.

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“There was an article in the Reading Eagle sports section today about Robesonia turning down a \$30,000 grant from the United States tennis Association. That's true. But I will explain why.

Jack Keener is building a new development in the borough. Developers are required to give the borough \$500 for each building that goes toward recreation.

Since our tennis courts have been in disrepair for years, council president Harvey Marshall asked Mr Keener if he would redo the tennis courts in lieu of the money. He agreed.

The borough was approached by Ryan Knarr about using grants from the USTA to make the court according to USTA regulations so tournaments could be held there.

It sounded like a good idea and council was working toward that end. But as council members read through the 5 year agreement and then talked to Mr Keener, we realized that perhaps this wasn't the best route to go since the agreement said it couldn't be used for other uses like pickle ball or a bike rodeo. We also would have had to extend the court to the fence line and install 2 handicap ramps.

After talking to the borough engineer and the contractor, we were told this could result in an additional cost to the borough of around \$30,000.

That was why the borough decided to go with their original plan. We commend Mr Knarr for his dedication to the community for his commitment to the tennis program.

Bottom line is you will still have a tennis court that can be used for multiple uses and will be much better than what we had in the past. But please don't blame me. I wanted to turn it into a dog park.”