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The township's zoning ordinance, he added, should also consider the impact of a gravel mine operation and the associated truck traffic to property values and along the proposed hauling route of Dryden Road. "There may be people going off the haul route to escape the path of the trucks, and the added traffic and safety issues it could put on the back roads," Fisher said.

Other considerations Fisher said the township's zoning ordinance should include are pedestrian and traffic safety in the vicinity of the gravel mine or from the village's perspective, at intersections in town. Health, safety and welfare interest on the local unit of governments are important as well, said Fisher, including concern of diesel fumes, noise and dust from gravel haulers.

Fisher suggested the township's zoning ordinance should also include provisions to ensure overall public interest in the extraction of sand and gravel from the proposed site.

"There must be a balance between the public interest in the proposed sand and gravel against adverse impact ... If there's other locations where the gravel can be mined, but this location might negatively impact the community of Metamora has to be considered."

Lennon is eager to be able to demonstrate to Metamora Township officials that his client's proposal will not result in serious consequences to the community and has documents that Levy has obtained from top experts and specialists from their fields who independently verify otherwise.

"Despite the submission of thorough and credible information, as the Opposition Grows article demonstrates, the passage of the resolution (four-month moratorium) already has been interpreted as an effort by the township to gain 'additional time to mount an opposition' to Levy's application," wrote Lennon in his petition letter.

He continued, "Levy sincerely hopes this is not the case, and that the township intends to and



Photo by Jeff Hogan

**Pete Janak, a Metamora Township resident, was one of nearly 60 area residents that attended a joint meeting Monday evening of the Metamora Township Board and its planning commission.**

will conduct a full and fair evaluation of Levy's application in light of the extensive data presented and the applicable law." The township will conduct public hearings at future meetings from area residents and business people will be accepted. Watch for announcements in *The County Press* in coming issues when those meetings will be held.