

To the Editor:

While we disagree with the reasoning in Marcel Polak's letter to *The Bethel Citizen* (22 January 2015), we respect Marcel's right to express his views. But we do not plan to respond to his or other such letters. We were appointed under state statutes by the Town of Newry to negotiate a withdrawal agreement. Our duty is to the citizens of Newry to carry out this assignment. We have made what we consider a reasonable and attractive proposal and are now waiting for the SAD 44 withdrawal committee to respond. We intend to negotiate in good faith with that committee and expect it to do the same. When and as appropriate we will report on the progress of these negotiations, and we warmly welcome suggestions and comments from the citizens to whom we are legally accountable. We prefer to do our job in this way rather than engage in a public war of words with others with whom we hope to work productively to reach our assigned goal.

Jim Sysko

Chairman, Newry Withdrawal Committee

P.S. Agendas and minutes for our meetings and other documents related to withdrawal are available on the "Withdrawal Committee" link on Newry's website: newrymaine.org.