

Trustee race getting interesting

Written by MARK JAEGER

Wednesday, 27 March 2013 17:12

Village Board seat nobody registered for spurs political challenge

A vacant Village of Fredonia trustee position was too much to resist for Joe Short.

Short, a former trustee and village president, said this week he is running as a write-in candidate for the board in the April 2 spring election.

He has not filed paperwork with the village as a declared write-in candidate.

There has been speculation in the community that Short would run a write-in campaign against Village President Chuck Lapicola, who unseated him two years ago.

Those thoughts were fanned when Short's son Nathan showed up at two recent village meetings, challenging the village's handling of handicapped parking.

Lapicola is unopposed on the ballot in his bid for a second term.

Short said he hadn't considered returning to village politics until Scott Ehaney chose not to seek re-election to the Village Board, and no one filed papers for the post.

Two other incumbents, Fritz Buchholtz and Mark Edbauer Sr., are seeking two of the three trustee positions appearing on the ballot.

"When I saw nobody had filed for Scott's position, I thought I would run as a write-in. That is the only position I am running for," Short said.

He served four years as village president, and seven years as a trustee.

"I am still interested in community service," Short said.

Asked about whether he could adjust to being just one of six trustees after serving as village president, he said working with the board would have its advantages.

"You can lead as well from the side as from the front. When something goes wrong, it always seems to fall on the village president," Short said.

Lapicola said he is approaching the election as if Short was making a write-in bid for village president.

"I think he is running for both offices. I am definitely treating it as if he is running for president. I would love to be unanimously elected, but I will accept the will of the people," he said.

Lapicola said he was hopeful people will write-in Ehaney's name for the unclaimed trustee position, hoping he could be persuaded to accept another term if the voters choose him.

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The village trustee election got a little more complicated this week when Jeff Rodgers, 313 Martin Dr., filed paperwork at Village Hall as a declared write-in candidate.

In the town, incumbent Supr. Mark Schubert is running as a declared write-in candidate after failing to file nomination papers for the Town Board.

Town Chairman Richard Mueller and Supr. Chris Janik are unopposed in their re-election bids.

Incumbent Town Clerk Janis Stemper is not seeking re-election, but Treasurer Dave Gorton is seeking the clerk's position.

Waubeka resident Jean M. Willis is the only candidate for the treasurer's post.

In the Northern Ozaukee School District, only incumbents are vying for three expiring positions.

The unopposed candidates are Kendall Thistle for the Town of Fredonia seat, Francis Kleckner for the Town of Belgium post and Rick Hamm representing the Town of Saukville.