

Port primary needed to pare crowded field in mayor's race

Written by KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM
Wednesday, 04 January 2012 19:06

With four candidates vying for post, Feb. 21 election will be held to determine final two

Four people are seeking to succeed Port Washington Mayor Scott Huebner in April, forcing a Feb. 21 primary election to whittle the field down to two.

Filing nomination papers by Tuesday's deadline were Ald. Jim Vollmar, former city public works director John Sigwart, Plan Commission member Tom Mlada and Ricky Ranz.

Sigwart, who was the last to announce his intention to seek the office, said Tuesday he was motivated to run as others asked him to and by a desire to ensure that many of the programs and initiatives started by Huebner continue.

"I just don't feel comfortable with any of them (the other candidates) continuing Scott's programs," he said.

Sigwart, who is retired, noted he has been involved in the city for years. In addition to a six-year stint as public works director, he has served on the Board of Appeals for 30 years and is active in Port Washington Main Street.

He ran for alderman last spring but lost in a close race against Ald. Dan Becker.

Sigwart, who said he's always wanted to serve on the Plan Commission, said he has a vision for the city, one that includes working with Saukville to create a long-term strategic plan as the communities grow together.

Perry Duman, who also took out nomination papers for the mayor's position, did not return them by the 5 p.m. Tuesday deadline.

There will be competition for two of the three aldermanic seats up for election, although neither will require a primary election.

In the 2nd District, aldermen Paul Neumyer and Burt Babcock will face off – a situation created by redistricting. Neumyer is the current 2nd District alderman.

In the 4th District, which Babcock currently represents, Doug Biggs is the lone candidate, ensuring him a spot on the Common Council.

In the 6th District, incumbent Dave Larson will face newcomer Tim Schwister.

The general election will be held April 3.

While the mayor serves a three-year term and is paid \$7,500 annually, aldermen serve two-year

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terms and are paid \$3,750 a year.