

Town incumbents to be tested in Tuesday vote

Written by KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM
Wednesday, 27 March 2013 18:04

Didier, Rychtik being challenged by Anewenter, Fieber in race for two supervisory seats on Port board

Town of Port Washington residents have a full slate of candidates from which to select town supervisors Tuesday.

Incumbents Mike Didier and Jim Rychtik, who are completing their first term in office, are being challenged for their seats by Terry Anewenter and John Fieber, both former Plan Commission members.

Terry Anewenter

Age: 58

Address: 3693 Hwy. KK

Family: Married, six children.

Occupation: Farm owner.

Education: Graduated from Washington High School in 1972. Attended Marquette University, Milwaukee.

Public offices held: Former member Town of Port Washington Plan Commission.



Michael Didier (Inc.)

Age: 39

Address: 4627 Hwy. KW

Family: Married, two children.

Education: Graduated from Port Washington High School in 1992. Earned Wisconsin real estate license in 2005.

Occupation: Realtor with Re/Max United, Port Washington; City of Port Washington firefighter for 19 years.

Elected offices: Town of Port Washington supervisor since 2011.



Running unopposed on Tuesday's ballot are Town Chairman Jim Melichar, Clerk Jenny Schlenvogt and Treasurer Mary Sampont.

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All of the candidates said they believe the town's decision to privatize much of its road work — including snowplowing, ditch cutting, some road construction and maintenance projects — rather than contract with Ozaukee County has proven to be a good one.

Anewenter said, "You can't argue with the results this year. If it's truly saving money, you can't argue with it."

"I was nervous initially," Didier said of the town's decision to privatize snowplowing. "But it's working well. We've had a lot of positive responses and only a few negatives.

"At a minimum, we're getting the same amount of services for less money."

"The private contractor seems to be a little more responsive," Fieber said. "In general, I think things have improved."

Rychtik added, "I think we've gotten what we expected. I'm proud it's worked so well. In general, people seem happy."

Rychtik, 42, of 4855 Hwy. B., said the board has made inroads during the past two years but there's still work to be done.

"I think we've been a productive board," he said. "I think most people who have come before us have probably left happy.

"We've worked to make government more transparent."

Rychtik, owner of Rychtik Construction, said the board is working to get more public input on projects it considers, pointing to the recent public hearing on Green Bay Road.

"Too often, what's lost in government is officials listening to the people," he said. "We want to listen to our residents."

Rychtik, who said officials need to be open to development, suggested the town form a steering committee of residents to take a look at plans for the Knellsville area.

"That way, when things start to happen we're going to be ready," he said.

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John Fieber

Age: 64

Address: 3200 Northwoods Rd.

Family: Married, three children.

Occupation: Retired from Kuttner North America, Port Washington, where he served as executive vice president.

Education: Graduated Random Lake High School in 1967. Earned associate's degree in mechanical design from Lakeshore Technical Institute; took continuing education classes at Milwaukee School of Engineering, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Public offices held: Served on the Town of Port Washington Plan Commission for 15 years, retiring in March.



James Rychtik (Inc.)

Age: 42

Address: 4855 Hwy. B

Family: Married, two children.

Education: Graduated Port Washington High School in 1989.

Occupation: Owner, Rychtik Construction LLC and Rychtik Farms.

Elected offices: Town of Port Washington supervisor since 2011.

