

THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

February, 2009

Town of Randolph, Maine

121 Kinderhook Street

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Selectmen:

Bob Davis

Ed Gorham

Peter Hanley

Editor:

Peter M. Coughlan

Vote on Tuesday, March 3

The polls at the Town Office will be open from 10 AM to 8 PM. Only local elections will occur this day. There is one position for Selectman, one MSAD #11 School Board position, and 4 positions for Budget Committee. Absentee ballots are available now so come to the Town Office if this is more convenient. A sample ballot is on the website.

For the Budget Committee, 4 positions are currently held by Pete Coughlan, Pete Oakes, Monique Morin, and Ben Carr. Unfortunately, only **Pete Coughlan and Pete Oakes** took out nomination papers and their names are officially printed on this ballot. The two remaining positions must be filled with write-in votes. **Ben Carr** is willing to serve another four year term and would like to be considered as a write-in candidate.

For School Board, only one person took out nomination papers for this one position and that was the incumbent **Candace Avery**. She is willing to serve another three year term and would like to continue her work on the Board.

In order to vote for a write-in candidate, one must write that person's name in the blank box AND put a checkmark in the adjacent box. Otherwise, the vote will not count.

For Selectman, two new candidates returned their nomination papers for this one position --- **Jeremy MacArthur** from Barber Road, and **Alfred Seymour Jr.** from Kinderhook St.

The job of Selectman requires time and a knowledge of municipal government, including accounting, roads, budgeting, assisting the poor, handling all types of town business, sewer issues, municipal law, and many other issues.

Jeremy MacArthur is 18 years old and a junior at Gardiner Area High School (GAHS) and has been a resident of Randolph for 16 years. Jeremy enjoys hiking all over Maine and all sports. He works at the IGA as a stockboy. He has enrolled in the Army Nat'l Guard

and will be doing basic training in Missouri this summer. Once he completes his senior year at GAHS, he hopes to be in the ANG full time and still serve as selectman.

Al Seymour Jr. lives on Kinderhook St. and has lived in town for 74 years. Before retirement, he was an electrical salesman. He enjoys being a spectator at all sports. He lives with his wife Betty and they have 5 kids, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. He works part time as a custodian at TC Hamlin.

Phone calls were made to each candidate for Selectman and the responses to each of the subjects are as follows in their words:

Municipal Experience

Jeremy: zero

Al S: none

Why Are You Running?

Jeremy: I like to be proactive and be part of the community and help make decisions.

Al S: let me think..... I have time to give & I'm willing to help and get more involved

What have you done for the community lately....do you volunteer anywhere?

Jeremy: not for the town per se but I have helped at the Food Bank in Gardiner and my Boy Scout troop has done work around the Christ Church in Gardiner.

Al S: I really don't

In these economic times, how do we assure keeping local property taxes as low as possible?

Jeremy: I need to look into it because I'm not sure of the town programs but we might have to cut back in some areas.

Al S: hmm...good question. I'd work with the Budget Committee.

How many Town Meetings attended in last 5 years?

Jeremy: 2 or 3

Al S: maybe 2....they used to conflict with my schedule.

Experience/knowledge in:

Accounting:

Jeremy: pretty good with numbers especially fractions

Al S: none, but I ran my small business at one time

Roads:

Jeremy: not familiar but need to look into

Al S: none, but I used to work for a paving company

Town Budget:

Jeremy: not familiar but need to look

into; my uncle is on the Budget Committee

Al S: nothing right now

General Assistance to the Poor

Jeremy: not familiar but need to look into. If people need help, then the town should help.

Al S: none from the town standpoint but we assist people at our church.

Computers:

Jeremy: I use mine everyday and am fairly knowledgeable.

Al S: basic knowledge of our one at home but my wife mostly uses it.

Local Ordinances:

Jeremy: I'm aware they exist and I'll try to be knowledgeable

Al S: we have a parking one but I can't think of any

Town Comprehensive Plan

(passed in 1996)

Jeremy: not aware

Al S: don't know about it

Land Use Ordinance

(passed in 2000):

Jeremy: not aware

Al S: no

What should our relationship be with state senators and reps?:

Jeremy: encourage them to attend our Town Meetings and share info with them. Maybe email them bimonthly to keep them informed of town affairs.

Al S: it's good.

What should our relationship be with our School Board?

Jeremy: they're doing well now

Al S: a little controversial; keeping TC Hamlin open is good; they're working hard.

Important issues in Randolph now:

Jeremy: people need help with heating oil and maybe town could help them; our roads are OK.

Al S: keep taxes as low as possible; can't think of others; we're in good shape right now.

What do you think about the development of the corner of Water & Windsor Streets?

Jeremy: I heard about a store going in and that could be great.

Al S: if that's the convenience store, I'm concerned about traffic going in and out but it might help with taxes.

What is your SHORT Term Goal?

Jeremy: lower taxes in ALL areas; improve the quality of life for residents so people are happy about their town which should be looking out for their best interests.

Al S: I need to learn and get into town affairs and help other 2 Selectmen make decisions.

What is your LONG Term Goal?

Jeremy: haven't thought that far ahead but we need to keep TC Hamlin open.

Al S: that's a tough one.....hmmm.....keep taxes down, I guess.

PLEASE VOTE ON MARCH 3

A few departing words from outgoing Selectman Bob Davis

"It has been a great pleasure and privilege to serve as Selectman and be part of the team. I firmly believe that we could take our current Board, our office staff, our Department heads, and Code Enforcement Officer into any small town in Maine and get it running in 30 minutes.

Relative to our sewer system, we have worked hard for many years and are pleased to say that our current application to USDA for funding brings a good opportunity for a very large grant to fix our pump station and the system. The USDA share is up to 40% of the total project cost and the funds are already available if we are successful.

Relative to me, I'm going to be happily retired and will be spending a lot more time with my lovely wife, my kids, and my grandkids..... and enjoying life out to camp."

What if the River floods this year?

If you live in a flood prone area of Randolph, you need to be concerned about possible Spring flooding. The Fire Department will try to provide residents on the river with as much notice of flood warnings from the state. Any resident or business that would like to be notified by phone, please email a phone number to the Fire Chief, Ron Cunningham, at rfdchief500@roadrunner.com or call the Town Office with it. That number should be where he can contact you at any time of the day or night. If you can get on the Internet, you can also get real time video and a graph of river heights at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?01049320>

Convenience Store at Water & Windsor Streets

The corner lot has been quiet since last year but that will change as soon as Spring arrives soon. RH Foster plans to begin by demolishing the 3 story gray building (former theater) and the residence behind it. That will be followed by construction of the convenience store and the 4 pairs of gas pump stations. Modifications of the right turn lane from Windsor St to Water St. will also occur as it will become a STOP condition rather than its current YIELD condition.

Dog License Time

All dogs in town need to be licensed, however, the "free" deadline was January 31. At this time, there is a \$15 late fee. In mid March, any unlicensed dog will be placed on the warrant and there will be an additional \$25 charge, plus Animal Control Officer Howard Morang will probably pay a visit to your home. Best advice..... license the dog(s) now.

Randolph Veterans' Memorial

On Veterans' Day in November, 2008, the new Memorial at the Town Office was unveiled in a brief, but well attended, ceremony. The new memorial has the names of every veteran from Randolph from all wars. Details can be found on the town website and

memorial blocks or stones can still be obtained for anyone who you may want to "memorialize" whether war-related or not.

Please contact Peter Hanley at 103 Barber Road, or by phone at 582-4698 or by email at shirleymiles@msn.com



March 12 is Tax Day

If it slipped your mind, please remember that the second half of your tax bill is due on this date. After this date, an interest rate of 11% will be applied.

"What's goin' on?"

The town website has lots of good information about the town and its programs.

- ✓ You can sign up for town email..... you'll get 2 or 3 emails per month..... even election results before it's in the papers!
- ✓ You can read Selectmen minutes of their biweekly meetings
- ✓ You can look at tax maps
- ✓ You can get daily tide info and sunrise/sunset times
- ✓ You can see election results for last 3 years
- ✓ You can see town budget info and all financial data for the current year.

And it's updated every week with something new.

The ideas and statements presented in this newsletter are those of the Editor (Peter Coughlan) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Selectmen who have reviewed the material before it was printed.

The "Randolph Review" is a periodic newsletter for the people of Randolph. It is approved and funded annually by the citizens of Randolph at the Town Meeting. Any questions or comments should be directed to the Town Office at 582-5808, or e-mail at townofrandolph@roadrunner.com or Peter Coughlan at 582-2293 or wilbah99@aol.com. We would be interested in your feedback.

Thank you.