

Delosh Questions Hammond Wind Law Proposal

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BY MATT MCALLISTER

HAMMOND - Douglas E. Delosh, one of four candidates for two opening positions on the Hammond Town Board, believes the town of Hammond is dangling in the wind.

"Nobody knows where we are with the wind law," the Republican candidate said Monday. "The entire thing has been shrouded in secrecy. There was a committee of Hammond residents who I'm told met for 18 months, and yet, there is not one note or record as far as what was covered. There is still more than one story coming from members of that committee."

"I'm hearing nobody on the town board has sat down with Iberdrola. But I see a law constructed and patterned after a

model that was developed by and for the wind companies.

"I don't see much protection for the citizens of Hammond," he said. Mr. Delosh, who will also appear on the Independent line, under the "Party for Change," says that health problems resulting from proximity to wind turbines is "a given."

"Look around the country," he said. "Entire communities of people are giving up their homes, their properties - everything they've worked their entire lifetimes for - and walking away because of problems they're experiencing."

Mr. Delosh says he is also skeptical concerning any Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement that may be con-

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Tague Backs Wind Law Depending On How Its Written

BY MATT MCALLISTER

HAMMOND - Hammond Republican Town Council candidate Dr. James R. Tague says he's not choosing a side, pro-wind or anti-wind. He says his stance on wind depends on how the law is written to regulate it's development.

"It's an important issue and huge for the town," he says of the wind law. "Before any agreements are made, we need to study all aspects and utilize all resources - before we decide upon something

that will dramatically affect the entire town, permanently."

Dr. Tague joins fellow Republican Douglas E. Delosh, Submarine Veterans candidate Peter Visscher and incumbent Democratic Councilor Ronald E. Tulley II (D) in vying for two openings on the town board. Incumbent Councilman Russell Stewart, despite earning a nomination at the Democratic caucus, declined the nomination, citing "personal reasons" behind his decision.

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sidered in regards to a wind-farm.

"I'm not really sold on this PILOT agreement," he said. "If someone builds a million dollar home out on the bay, they pay taxes on a million dollar home. Why should a wind company pay a fraction, when paying in full would mean so much to the community?"

The answer, concerning economic development, according to Mr. Delosh, doesn't have to reside in windmills.

"Hammond is indeed becoming a retirement community and a tourist destination. Farming is going downhill, but thousands of tourists continue to come to this area. We need to utilize the river and the lake.

"Another idea is offering small business loans to encourage people to come here to start up," he said.

Tague

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Mr. Visscher has not returned several phone calls made by the newspaper.

Dr. Tague says right now he is not happy with the wind law, and can't support it as it's presently written.

"The law, as is," he said, "Is not protecting the non-participants and the public's general safety. But the law hasn't yet been passed, and, without a law, I can't say I'm either for it or against it, because my views depend on how the law is written."

"I don't have any problem with the concept of windmills in the town of Hammond, depending on where they're placed. I'm pro-wind if it's done properly, and anti-wind, if not. And right now, I don't believe the law has been written properly."

He says the issue of tax payments is another when it comes to wind.

"It's also the taxes. These wind companies will lobby to pay little or no taxes. I'm against that and will represent the interests of the taxpayers in Hammond when it comes time."

Mr. Tague says he, Mr. Delosh and Town Supervisor candidate Ron W. Bertram are running because they believe the time for change is now.

"We're sticking to the party line message," he says, "People for change. We're getting that message out."

"Let the residents of Hammond vote on who they want to represent them and in what manner. I've spent the past 13 years on the school board and feel my time there is coming to an end. I've put my time there in, and it's time to turn it over to people with new ideas," he said. "I feel the same could be said of the current town board."