

Delosh Questioning Hammond Valuations ^{10/13/09} *Touant*

BY MATT MCALLISTER

HAMMOND - Republican Hammond Town Council candidate Douglas E. Delosh says he's been hearing a lot of concern about rising taxes, re-assessments and valuations as he has made the rounds with voters in Hammond.

"Specifically, I talked to one person who owns a riverfront camp, whose assessment rose \$70,000 over the past two years. There are people whose assessments have risen more," he said.

"And for these same riverfront residents, who pay 74 percent of taxes - that's a major concern. This is what I'm hearing from the taxpayers," he said. "Even if the taxes stay stable here in Hammond, we still get killed with county taxes every year. They're not increasing assessments in every other town, but we are here in Hammond, and, we're

looking at re-assessments for the next six years."

"Where will that leave Hammond?" he asked. "Especially those along the river?"

Mr. Delosh says that seasonal residents in Hammond are more than concerned.

"They feel their voices are not being heard," he says. "As far as what they're putting forth - they feel they're being ignored. Without their share of the taxes being paid, where would Hammond be?"

For some of these seasonal residents, according to Mr. Delosh, roots in Hammond run deep.

"Many of these camps have been handed down from generation to generation, but the present owners now can't afford them. And what do these residents get? The only fire protection is the fire boat. Medical service takes a half hour or more. Most of them

don't get their roads plowed, because they're not here in the winter."

As for his perception of the current Hammond Town Board, Mr. Delosh says it's something that he's approached the voters about.

"We've been discussing openness, transparency and establishing better lines of communication," he said. "It's obvious that there's a lack of it. There are letters being written and questions being asked of the board. They don't seem to know anything about what is going on.

"I will do my best to do better," Mr. Delosh said. "People think it's time for a change."

Mr. Delosh and fellow Republican Dr. James R. Tague are challenging Independent Submarine Veterans Party candidate Pieter Visscher and incumbent Democrat

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Ronald E. Tulley II for two open spots on the Hammond town council. Russell Stewart, whose term is expiring and who received a Democratic nomination, declined, citing "personal reasons."

Mr. Visscher has not returned several phone calls made to his residence over the past week.