

# Tague Says He's Not For Or Against Wind Power

BY MATT MCALLISTER

HAMMOND - Republican Town Council hopeful James Tague isn't particularly for or against bringing industrial wind turbines to Hammond, but he doesn't like the way the new local law is written.

Tague says it doesn't sufficiently protect the citizens of Hammond, citing setbacks, noise and property values as his three most specific concerns. "I'm not going to come right out and say I'm all for it and that we're bringing it to town, and I'm not going to say that I'm totally against it either."

"What it boils down to for

me," Tague continued, "is that it's done properly and that it protects non-participants. I'm all for it if the law is written thus."

Tague says it's a touchy time to be seeking public office in Hammond, and that his motives are genuine and sincere for throwing his name into a tight-fitting hat. "I'm not in this for me. I think Hammond taxpayers need someone to step up to the plate and listen to the residents of Hammond."

"Though not my main issue, it's certainly become an issue for the board," Tague said. Adding, "I plan to represent

the Hammond public and to deliver their message."

"I have certain areas I feel I'm strong at, one of them being mediation," Tague told The Journal during a recent interview. "During my 12 years on the Hammond-Central School Board of Education, we've seen some difficult times."

Wind energy and the development of the laws that will regulate it, according to Tague, are just one of many issues currently being expounded in Hammond.

"We've heard from the pro side and the con side," he continued, "Only time will tell what happens."

Tague says his personal feelings about wind don't really matter.

"Again, I'm going to be there for the people. There are so many questions about wind energy and the possibilities of it having an effect on the Hammond community, that I haven't made up my mind about it anyway."

Tague, who has had an Alexandria Bay dental practice for the past 25 years, was born in Alex Bay, and graduated from Alexandria High School, Hartwick College and Tufts University. He and his wife have resided in Hammond for 22 years, and the couple has two Hammond Central School graduates currently in college. He says his intentions for running for the open board position are not adversarial in nature.

"There are no self-serving motives behind my candidacy, no axe to grind, no personal vendetta," Tague said. "I have a lot of respect for all of the current board members. Serving on the town board is a lot of work. It's not an easy job."

"My interest in the position is sincere. It's a give back to the community that has given so much to me sort of venture. It's not a position to make friends in."

Though he has respect for the current board, according to Tague, it never hurts for a board to turn over.

"Sometimes it's good," he said of adding new blood to the town board. "But our current board members are all good people."

"We'll let the taxpayers and land owners decide if the time is right."

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