

GOP's Delosh: Time For Change In Hammond

BY MATT MCALLISTER
HAMMOND - Douglas Delosh believes that after decades of apathy, Hammond's voters are ready to change a town board that has failed its constituency.

"I have been approached by a group that is sick and tired of the town board's attitude," Delosh told The Journal Tuesday, in an interview to formally announce his candidacy for the Hammond Town Board.

"Their arrogance and their refusal to listen to the people has caused some real emo-

tional turmoil with the folks in Hammond. They (Hammond citizens) would like to see someone on the board with a little more open-mindedness. People are sick of how things are going and want someone they can trust."

Delosh says he has been in contact with some of those people, as he has circulated and personally collected 42 signatures on the petition he submitted to the St. Lawrence County Board of Elections.

"I spoke to dozens of people and there are a lot of concerns about the secrecy and the lack

of transparency being shown by the town board. Any concern that is raised concerning wind energy is being called fear-mongering by the board. The give and take between a town board and it's constituency should be as non-controversial as possible, and we're just not seeing that," Delosh said.

"There are some really strong feelings," he reiterated. The "semi-retired" current Dean of Students at Hammond Central School, who spent 32 years teaching social studies to elementary-aged

students at Hammond and later served as the district's assistant principal, says his views on wind energy are guarded.

"My personal feeling is that wind energy, in Hammond, may possibly have a place if they (wind turbines) are sited intelligently and would not interfere with people's lives - their health and safety," he said. "Then I would support it."

"However, when it comes to putting towers up to 600-foot high, 1,500 feet away from somebody's property - with the possible health and safety con-

cerns that have been shown - I can't support that. Common sense tells you, if you have a 600-foot tall tower, you don't put it 500 feet from the road," he said.

Delosh says that over the years, voters, in Hammond have failed to get involved in politics, and as a result, the town board is suffering from the town's own apathy.

"Janie Hollister has been the supervisor for something like 19 years," Delosh says, "And I think she has seen one opponent. That's what people are saying," Delosh said. "This

is what we get for 19 years of apathy."

"I think we're seeing a shift now with this wind energy issue. People are coming to realize that it's time to do some things differently. With a full slate of Republican candidates," Delosh predicts, "I'm hearing from the people that I've talked to, that now is the time. The upcoming election will be a way for people to voice their concerns, to provide their opinions."

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and Potsdam State College graduate, Delosh and his wife, Joan, have resided in Hammond for about 40 years.

"I've been very active at the school and with local rescue squads over the years, but now I have the time," he says of his candidacy. "I have the interest. If elected, I'm not there to just take up space."

Delosh joins fellow Republican Town Council candidate James Teague and GOP Town Supervisor candidate Ron Bertram on the ballot for the November election.

Democrats Town Supervisor Janie G. Hollister and Town Councilors Ron Tully II and Russell Stewart are all up for reelection. Democratic party officials have not yet said when the Democratic Party will hold a caucus to select candidates for the fall race.

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