

January 12, 2006

Letter to the Editors:

After my disappointment and frustration over the results of the past election, I put it all aside and focused on a few of the positive results that came out of it; 1) I don't have to listen to any more ranting of Bill Richards as a town board member and 2) the people of Gardiner overwhelmingly voted to continue to chose to elect their town assessor, versus having a Board appointed position. As the New Year came in, I vowed to look on the bright side and to try to give the new Gardiner elected officials the benefit of the doubt that they would keep their election promises to the people.

However, as I write this, we are only into the second week of January, and my hopes are already shot to heck. First off, promises of fiscal responsibility by the town supervisor have been compromised by the fact that already this year, a town payroll was not adequately funded and missed, multiple requests for year end town fund balances have been denied, and promises of fiscal updates on the town hall renovation have been forgotten. The town supervisor has blamed these problems on either the town bookkeeper (again) or the hourly CPA hired by the town, depending on who you talk to, and anywhere but squarely in his own lap where they belong.

Secondly, at the first meeting of the year, town board members laid out their goals for the upcoming year, and while hoedowns, cable broadcasts, inter-generational softball games, and sidewalks for the hamlet were among some of the things high on their list, not even one town board member mentioned completing the building of a town hall. Disappointing priorities, as far as I'm concerned.

Last but not least, at last nights town board meeting, a new proposed law was secreted onto the agenda and quietly (too quietly) introduced. This law is the Sole Appointed Assessor law, and if it sounds familiar, it's because it was voted in by the town board in late 2004, and forced to a referendum by a large petition of towns people. The proposition to have a sole appointed assessor was on the past November ballot, and it was soundly beaten by the voters of Gardiner, with the election results barely certified. The town board, or certain members of it, has decided to ignore the wishes of the voters, and once again try to get this law on the books. Shame on you all.

It's too bad that the board doesn't put this kind of energy and determination into getting a Town Hall office building built within the budget voted on by the people.

Sincerely,  
Pamela J. O'Dell