

## **CHARADE IN GARDINER? (March 9, 2006)**

The repeated assertions by members of the Gardiner town government that there were no legal, viable candidates for the position of assessor are disingenuous at best. I called the assessors office before the February 7th meeting and expressed interest in the position stating that I was a resident of Gardiner and over the age of 18, and that to the best of my knowledge this fulfilled the minimum legal requirements for the position. I said I was calling to find out what the protocol for applying was.

The response was that the process was explained on the town website (I went to the website, and absolutely nothing about the assessor position or application process for it was there). It was further stated that I should hold off applying until after the next town board meeting as "they are making some changes to it (the position) that will be voted on at the meeting."

Since I can't speak for anyone else, I don't know how many other potential candidates were given the same run-around/blow-off, but it is clear that the assessor "crisis" was manufactured, aided and abetted by our town government. One has to wonder why. Could it be that this is a charade to usurp the will of the voters of Gardiner as expressed in a referendum vote this past election? Or is there another less nefarious explanation? Perhaps the town board should let the voters know.

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Gardiner*