

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Why we need an ethics officer; Kellermann 100 day action plan; additional voter resources

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Conversation: Why we need an ethics officer; Kellermann 100 day action plan; additional voter resources

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, DEER PARK, SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009

IN THE NEWS

Full story: <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1510220,ba-deerpark-040309-s1.article>

President Gifford is says that he was just trying to be informative when he put the following statement into the village newsletter:

Although his name will appear on the ballot, Mr. Lahr resigned his candidacy for Village Trustee for personal and private reasons as of March 17th. Please vote for three of the five remaining candidates.

Well, he's half right. John Lahr's name WILL appear on the ballots, in both Cook and Lake Counties. But to "inform" you, the residents of Deer Park, that there are "five remaining candidates"...THAT'S ELECTIONEERING. That is clearly trying to persuade you what to do with your three votes. Who does that benefit? He and his THREE slates mates

You have alternatives. In fact, we've analyzed all the possible outcomes.

http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/2009_endorsements.html

Gifford is absolutely within his rights to inform potential voters of what he thinks, feels, believes; he is, after all, seeking re-election.

BUT NOT WITH MUNICIPAL FUNDS. If the Gifford campaign chest doesn't stretch to another campaign mailing, he has a web site. He can write letters to the editor (including this news organization). He can even make phone calls. BUT NOT FROM THE VILLAGE TELEPHONE.

Deer Park Neighbors bends over backwards to be balanced (well, there's an oxymoron). And when there's a problem, we ask for a referee by calling public officials: Township, County, State. They all say the same thing: "Contact your town's Ethics Officer."

BUT WE DON'T HAVE ONE. Why? Because although the municipal code provides for one, President Gifford has NEVER named an Ethics Officer. In fact, he said at the League Forum that his Village Attorney "recommended against it."

What? Against having an ethics officer? Who could conceivably be against a local resource to mediate questions of ethics, especially in Illinois?

What right does DPN have to complain? We've done the heavy lifting. DPN has been attending meetings for four years, and since Feb. 2006, we have been recording the village meetings, almost every single one, and archiving them on DVD at the Barrington Area Library. If you do not go to the meetings, if you do not read the published minutes (available at the village web site), then you can borrow those DVDs—believe us, they are the best free entertainment you'll ever see!

But pay attention, because your rights are trampled on when you are spoon-fed misinformation.

So before we wrote to you, we called the Lake County Clerk. YES, you may vote for John Lahr, and YES, the votes will be counted, and YES, the newly elected president will appoint someone to serve Lahr's term if Lahr is elected.

Those are FACTS, ladies and gentlemen. And whatever happens on Tuesday, DPN will continue to fight for your right to information and your right to take action in Deer Park on YOUR OWN BEHALF. We renew our call that an Ethics Officer be appointed immediately. We do not agree with Ms. Beattie that ethics are too subjective.

Knowing what's right is easy. We all know right from wrong, and we know a wrong thing when we see it. What's hard is DOING what's right.

We believe the right thing right now is to wipe the slate clean with a clean sweep of the ballot: Kellermann, Olson, Sands and Lahr. **Reinvent your community with your votes.** Every single one of them.

We have just received a 1st one hundred days comprehensive plan from Kellermann's slate. In all our years of community action, we have never seen such a document. Read it at our web site or at the door with Kellermann, Olson and Sands, when they ring your doorbell. We quote it below, or link to it from our home page. And share it with your neighbors.

Remember, together we are stronger!

First 100 Days of Kellermann, Olson and Sands Term
On Village of Deer Park Board
April 3, 2009

We are looking forward to the opportunity to serve you on the Deer Park Village Board. There is much work to do. We are anxious to get started with the improvement efforts to restore our Village to respectful service and responsible finances.

That being said, we do not see the need for a tax increase in the first year, and in general, we are against a tax increase overall.

To the question of what we will do the first 100 days, we have prepared the following list of action items:

1. All contracts over \$5,000 will be competitively bid;
2. An Emergency Management Coordinator will be appointed with provisions for 24 hour communication;
3. Develop and implement Office Policy and Procedures to immediately address Financial Audit Deficiencies;
4. Investigate the cost and logistics to video tape the Village Board meetings to provide you access to these meetings remotely;
5. Expand the Official Village Web to post materials submitted for agenda appearances before the board and all financial information such as invoices, budget, financial statements, competitive bid results and other relevant information;
6. Conduct one Public Forum within the first 100 days to collect input /provide answers and set the agenda for the coming year for roads, drainage, parks and recreation facilities;
7. Appoint an Ethics Officer and empower him/her to train employees and certify competencies;

8. Email correspondence and communication will be used as a tool to expand information flow between the Village Board and the Citizens;
9. The Village office will be relocated to the Barn. We will install, in concert with item 3, “green office procedures” for recycling and reuse programs;
10. We will identify and eliminate waste and misguided expenditures to better align the budget with Village priorities;
11. Establish a Citizen / Trustee Panel to begin the preparation of the Village of Deer Park 2020 Master Plan;
12. Coordinate a community waste day in line with our green theme to provide opportunity to bring waste forward for proper disposal;
13. “New Business” will be added to the Village Agenda – we are creating the future to move Deer Park forward;
14. Establish an independent team of professionals to review, reconcile and document the Vehe Farm expenditures, and develop a plan for the future (i.e., Community Center);
15. Develop a Feasibility Study to evaluate the potential for Green Energy in Deer Park
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SEE HOW YOUR VILLAGE OFFICIALS VOTE:

So, to see the UNOFFICIAL record of votes, please visit:

<http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/election.html>

See most of the campaign materials, both sides, and links to endorsements, and much more:

<http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/election.html>

And send us YOUR comments, your opinions—that’s what really counts!

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847-867-1867 <http://deerparkneighbors.com>

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DPNeBlast mailing list

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