

ELECTION2014

Ranier City Council

Below are the questions The Journal sent to the four candidates for the two at-large positions on the Ranier City Council. Their answers follow below:

1. Briefly summarize your personal background and experiences.
2. Why are you the best candidate for this office?



RON WILCOX

1. I was born and raised in the Ranier area, left to join the Army and then worked in Alaska for 30 years. Upon retirement in 2006 I chose to move home and become active in my community. I have over 20 years experience in various and progressive levels of Governmental Fiscal Accounting. I worked 18 years at the Anchorage Police Department (Fiscal Management) and five years with Municipality of Anchorage's Office of Emergency Management (Junior Admin. Officer)

2. For the past nine months I have been on the Ranier City Council as a council member replacing Fred Woods who resigned December 2013. For the past three years I have also been a member of the Ranier Zoning and Ordinance Committee preparing the draft of our new zoning ordinances. During this time I have gained knowledge and understanding of this wonderful and dynamic community.

3. That all citizens to be accepted as a member and citizen of the Ranier community, completing the Zoning Ordinances and the completion of the Railroad crossing project.

Rail crossing issue:

For approximately nine months the Mayor and council members have met with numerous governmental agencies and representatives on this issue. We have come to an agreement with railroad officials on how the crossing is to be updated for safety with crossing arms, warning lights with limited whistle blowing and the moving of the engineer transfer from trains to different and quieter location for citizens of Ranier. The Mayor and Council Members are waiting for the Railroad to respond.

5. Complete all of the above. Continue to serve the citizens of Ranier to make it a welcoming place to visit and live in.



JOANN KELLNER

1. I was a member of the International Falls Chamber Ambassadors for four years. I also was chairperson for the Ambassadors for one year. I have an AA degree from Rainy River Community College. I have a Diploma from Hibbing Com-

munity College called CSPD (Community Supports for Persons with Disabilities). I have lived in the Ranier area for 20 years and have recently annexed in to the township of Ranier.

2. Becasue I lived in this area for 20 years and I am a very community orientated person. I am a good listener. I have the people first philosophy. I will take all concerns and form a conclusion that would benefit our community as a whole. Also I would represent our community with compassion, be open-minded to achieve a positive solution to all issues brought before the council.

3. I think it is pretty equal between the land use referendum and the railroad crossing.

4. I would work with the council and community on finding ways to improve the crossing by repairing the tracks and look into the possibility of having crossing lights and arms.

5. Bringing a more bias option to our council. Improving our city morale by merging the older ways with new ones. Having our community grow into a more positive community that becomes inviting for families and new families to move into. Making sure that all the decisions made are made with the community as whole in mind.



JEFF MCHARG

1. I was born and raised and now live again in Ranier. I am a home and small business owner. After graduating from Falls High School in 1978 I attended Rainy River Community College. I spent 25 plus years in the music industry. In 1991 I left the area to pursue a passion in music business. I worked for the Motown group "The Four Tops" as Road Manager and Sound Engineer 86'-97'. In 1997 I became the Concert Hall Production Manager of the House of Blues in Downtown Disney. Two years later, I changed course and joined the musical instrument retailer, Guitar Center as a General Manager. During this time, the retailer saw tremendous growth from 25 stores to over 200, and I experienced career growth moving from General Manager, District Manager, to Regional Vice President of Sales in charge of more than 70 locations and 5 District Managers.

2. I have the time, energy and commitment for the job. I can add value to the current Ranier city council and guarantee my

3. What do you see as the biggest issue facing Ranier?

4. How would you work to spur economic growth in Ranier?

5. What is the biggest thing you hope to accomplish during your term?

participation in town meetings and events. I have shown leadership under pressure and during adverse times. My work experience along with my what ever it takes attitude will guide me. Having lived in Minnesota, Indiana, Florida, Illinois, Washington and California brings with it a vast knowledge of people and places and what can be accomplished with common goals and vision.

3. Currently growth and change. With the annexation in 2010, Ranier faces numerous challenges as it takes on new responsibilities for its residents. Aligning the goals of "Old" and "New" Ranier for all. To encourage new business and give tourism a jump-start.

4. I will work steadfastly to find a workable solution for the delays, bridge down times and noise caused by the CN rail crossing. There is much to consider about what could become of current rail crossing on Spruce St. The adoption of a "Quiet Zone" is a step in the right direction. I would seek to make this a priority for the city and the railroad as well. After the crossing arms are in place we will still have to deal with long delays that effect business and safety. Noise will continue to be an issue. I will work with the City, State and Federal Governments, along with the Mayor and City Council to work out these issues and find workable solutions to achieve common goals.

5. Encourage community spirit, volunteerism, civic duty and teamwork. I will work to encourage new business to Ranier. New business, tourism, retail and hospitality should be promoted on both sides of the tracks to showcase the river and lake. Promotion of Ranier's unique location and attractions.



NAOMI WOODS

I graduated from high school in Vista, California. I studied musical theater at the USIU School of Performing and Visual Arts, San Diego. I have a BFA in Acting from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

I've worked in the family resort business since I was fourteen. I ran a food concession business. I've worked for the San Diego Repertory Theater, Von's Supermarket, Rainy River Community College and Falls School District. I've been a freelance journalist. I currently work at Thunderbird Lodge.

Improving blight property is my passion. At age twenty-five

Big Falls City Council

The following questions were posed by The Journal to the two candidates seeking the position of Big Falls mayor, Marta Lindemanis and Teckla Brown, and the five candidates seeking positions on the Big Falls City Council, Leslie Lepisto, Shawn Pritchard, Jeffrey Oehlerking, Heidi Boes-Watson and Beth Pihlaja. The Journal received responses from one mayor candidate and one council candidate which are printed below.

1. Briefly summarize your personal background and ex-

MAYOR MARTA LINDEMANIS

I, Marta Lindemanis, am a candidate for the position of Mayor of Big Falls. I have been a resident and homeowner in Big Falls for thirty three years. I am presently Mayor of Big Falls. I have been a councilwoman for eight years. I am a member of the Kootasca Board. I graduated from the University of Denver, BA in Sociology. I have been married to Pete for thirty seven years. We have two sons, Sam and Kent. Throughout the years I have served on many boards some of which are Community Education and Recreation Committee (CERC), Arrowhead Library and Tri-

County Health Board.

My experience and years of service to the community make me the best possible candidate. I care about my community and would like to see the projects we have in place move forward. I would also continue supporting the existing businesses in any way possible. I want to keep the city infrastructure running smoothly.

The biggest issues I see facing Big Falls are loss of population and economic growth. I would continue working with the Big Falls city council and Koochiching County Commissioners to try and get the gasification plant located in Big Falls. After recently meeting with Berger to discuss peat harvesting there is hope that it will be operational. I would like

to find a business or businesses to locate in the vacated room in the Big Falls community building and to continue to develop tourism in the area. All of the above would spur economic growth and job creation in Big Falls.

I want to see our new water tower and filtration plant up and running. This project has been in the works for many years. The completion of the water project and getting the Big Falls economy going would indeed be a big accomplishment.

COUNCIL JEFFREY OEHLERKING

I, Jeffrey Oehlerking, have lived in Big Falls my

I left California and bought a shack on a treeless lot next to the Ranier Muni. Back then the Ranier Muni was blighted, losing money and close to being sold. I was thrilled to own a condemnable building, next to a bar, in a town I ached to return to since I was a child. This was my opportunity to pursue the American Dream, which I couldn't do in California. I was underfunded because of my young age. Motivated by pride and a sense of obligation to Ranier, my pay-as-you-earn investment, unencumbered by highly restrictive zoning rules, allowed me to stay in this community and help revitalize Ranier's poorest neighborhood.

The railroad is a bully. The squeaky train wheel gets the grease. Placing large, temporary signs at the tracks with a complaint number for the sheriff and rail authority will help. The more documentation the better.

Expanding Ranier boundaries to Sha-Sha is a possibility. I will support an expansion to Sha-Sha should fiber optics, water/sewer funding become a reality. Gated community zoning is an issue for Old Ranier. Old Ranier should have the same zoning laws that French and Jameson enjoy. French and Jameson joined up with Ranier because they feared International Falls. Old Ranier will now be punished by worse rules than French and Jameson imagined. The plan discourages young people from investing here. It breeds cookie-cutter thinking, boredom, and bully behavior. It is expensive and layered in bureaucracy. Ranier may as well dissolve as a city under these conditions.

My political party is to party. Parties are at the top of my list for creating commerce. We must create laughter and have fun!

It is time for a railroad festival in Ranier. This festival will feature railroad history, music, photography, art and literature.

It is time for matrimony. Ranier, French and Jameson are three communities pretending to be one. We are shacking up. My mother wouldn't approve of this sinful behavior. We must have a gunshot wedding celebration to make this threesome official. We must expand the dog parade.

Lastly, it is time for quirky music concerts at the railroad intersection. As we challenge the railroad and badger each other over hyper zoning laws, we will need music to muffle the screeching. We must obtain a state arts grant so we can hire a brass quartet to entertain motorists who are stuck watching the train go by.

entire life. Over the decades I have seen the changes come and go in our little town.

As council member I would like to do my part to insure that our town not only survives, but thrives so that families can raise their children here with pride.

With time and teamwork, hopefully we can get some of the proposed economic opportunities to finally come through.

The gasification plant would be an excellent place to start.

I thank you for your votes and support, and will do my best to help our community to prosper in any way I can.

Pheasant Hunting: Are you up for the challenge?

Book your hunt today! (218) 787-2375

ESTATE AUCTION
SAT. OCT. 11, 2014-10:00 AM
TECKLA BROWN; OWNER

8387 Cty Rd. 30; Big Falls, MN 56627.

SMALL HOME/HUNTING CABIN IN BIG FALLS, MN

(To be auctioned at the personal property auction site, not property location, at 11:30)

SMALL HOME ON 4 CITY LOTS WITH CREEK ON BACK SIDE OF PROPERTY,
on City Sewer and Water in Big Falls, MN. Located approx. 1 block East of Cty Rd. 30. Approx. 24x30-Ft. single story home on cement slab.

CARS

2006 Chevrolet Impala; 2002 Lincoln Navigator, Leather Interior, Full-Time 4x4, Sun Roof, Tow Pkg., 6-CD changer, Clean; 2001 Buick LeSabre, Grey; 1999 Buick LeSabre

EQUIPMENT

GALION 503 SERIES A, DIESEL ROAD GRADER, Very Unique, Small Vintage Unit, Runs well and appears very low hours; John Deere 450 Diesel Crawler/Loader

VINTAGE BUS AND SPORTING

1950s Vintage GM Greyhound Bus, Made into Motorhome; Evinrude 10 hp Outboard; Kiefer Built Stock Trailer; Pony Saddle; Elk Antler Lamp w/Birch Bark Shade; Duck and Goose Decoys; Muskie Lures; Dog Kennel Panels; Ralph MacDonald Duck Framed Print, "Hurry Dad!"

YARD AND SHOP

Allis-Chalmers 910 Hydro Garden Tractor, w/Tiller, with Mower Deck; John Deere 140 Garden Tractor; Brinly One-Btn. PLOW; Homelite Snow Blower; T1 7000 LXR Diesel Generator; Honda GX2000 Air Compressor; Tahoe Sludge Pump, 6 1/2 hp, 3-In. In/Out, New; **COATES 5030 TIRE CHANGER,** Air/Hydraulic; Coates 850, and CEMB K10 Tire Balancers; Ramco Industrial Press; Ramco Cherry Picker; Welders; Many Large Power Shop Tools; Lumber; Etc.

COLLECTIBLES AND HOUSEHOLD

Land Shark Premium Lager Beer Sign, Wooden; Approx. 14 Pcs. Of Miniature Redwing Crockery, Collector's Club; Vintage German Crockery Punch Set; and Ruby Red Punch Bowl Set; Budweiser Steins; Cookie Jars; Hamilton Collection, Golden Eagle Ring, and Other Custom Jewelry; Radios; Furnishings; Asst. Household

Robert Rybak Estate items to be sold at approx. 3:00 (following the Brown Estate auction)

Located in Big Falls, MN at 902 Cty. Rd. 30, (just North of Jet. Hwy 6 & 71.) 902 County Rd. 30, Big Falls, MN 56627. Auction professionally prepared by Lor and Ken's Pro Set-Up Service.

1973 VOLKSWAGEN CAMPER VAN, Two Volkswagen Beetles, 1969 & 1974-No titles; **FIREARMS AND SPORTING:** Outboard Motors, 14-Ft. Alum. Boat and Trailer; Trolling Motors; Metal-Sided Fish House; Spear House; 5x14-Ft. Ship-Built Enclosed Trailer; 2-Wheeled Trailer; 1980 HONDA 49cc MOTOR BIKE; 1977 Honda 750 Super Sport Motorcycle; Portable Generators; ATV Ramps; Asst. Traps; Fish Spears; Fishing Rods; Tackle and Boxes; Large Mounted Fish; 9-Pt. Whittail Mount; Deer Stands; **YARD AND SHOP:** White Garden Tractor; Simplicity Garden Tractor; Push Mower; Two 5 hp B&S Engines; 5 hp Garden Tiller; Stihl 028 Chain Saw; Welder and Elec. Larger Shop Tools; **COLLECTIBLES:** 2 Diamond Willow Beds, (King/Queen); Sev. Handmade Coffee and Other Tables, Nice; Many Pcs. Of Asst. Sized Diamond Willow, Peeled and Sanded; Neptune Approx. 1 1/2 hp Vintage Outboard; Primitives; Etc.

For complete listing, see www.reinhardtauctions.com or call 218-845-2260. Free iPhone/Android app on our website for all upcoming auctions!

Reinhardt
PROFESSIONAL AUCTION SERVICE
3499 - 480th Street
PAULDALE, MN 56469-2254

AGENDA

City of International Falls - City Council Regular Meeting

4:30 P.M., Monday, October 6, 2014

Council Chamber, 600 Fourth Street

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Monday, September 15, 2014 regular City Council meeting (Council action-motion)
2. Minutes of the Monday, September 22, 2014 special City Council meeting (Council action-motion)
3. Minutes of the Tuesday, September 30, 2014 special City Council meeting (Council action-motion)

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

1. **CLAIMS**
 - a. Transfer Claims
to: City of Intl Falls Fund #101 from: City of Intl Falls Fund #812 \$285.76 Lodging tax (Council action-motion)
 - b. Regular Claims (Council action-motion)

AUDIENCE - OPEN FORUM (The Open Forum is an opportunity for the audience to address the City Council on any matter not listed on the agenda. Please limit your comments to five minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OPENING BIDS (AND/OR QUOTES)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Recommendation of Legislation and Land Use Committee to conduct the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Section 2.2, Council Procedure at Regular Meetings (Council action-motion).

CONSENT AGENDA The Consent Agenda allows the City Council to take action on routine matters by one motion that shall not be debated and shall be adopted by unanimous vote of those present. Any individual council member may remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion on the regular agenda. (Council action - motion)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve appointment of Paramedic to vacant position, Adam Mannausau, Fire Chief (Council action-motion).
2. First Reading of Contract Ordinance to Amend the Franchise Agreement with Midcontinent Communications to Revise the Location of Live Feed Site(s) (Council action-motion).
3. Approval of Orders declaring the following properties hazardous and subject to removal, if not corrected, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 463.15 to 463.261, Steve Shermoen, City Attorney (Council action-motion):

Owner	Property Address
Linda Wakelin	1621 4th Ave.
Jessica J. Grover	620 4th Ave.
Alice N. Benedix	319 14th St. West
Virginia Ann Chezick	818 5th Ave.
Borderland Rentals, LLC	716 7th Ave.

4. Any other business.

REPORTS OF ALL BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. **Reports of the Administrator, Attorney, and Department Heads**
 - a. Police Monthly Report, September 2014
 - b. Fire/Rescue/EMS Monthly Report, September 2014
2. **Reports of the Mayor, Council Committees, Boards and Commissions**

AAUDIENCE - OPEN FORUM

CORRESPONDENCE

1. August 2014 - Convention and Visitors Bureau meeting minutes
2. August 2014 - International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission meeting minutes
3. September 2014 - TravelerFun Lead Campaign results

REMINDERS

1. Next regular City Council meeting is Monday, October 20, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Note: Matters inappropriate for consideration at the meeting or not in the order specified shall not be considered except 1) with the unanimous consent of the members of the City Council, or 2) scheduled public hearings or bid lettings, but not before the time stated in the notice.

The City of International Falls complies with the Americans with Disability Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring special aids should contact the City Administrator, 600 Fourth Street, International Falls, MN, 56649, 218-283-9484, at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.