

AGENDA # H.2
Scio Township Board of Trustees
Appointment to fill the trustee vacancy

FOR MEETING DATE OF: September 13, 2022

PREPARED ON: 9/9/22

PREPARED BY: Will Hathaway

SUBMITTED BY: Supervisor

ITEM TYPE: Possible Action

SUGGESTED ACTION: Appointment of Mark Brazeau to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: The Board of Trustees approved a process for receiving applications from residents interested in serving out the remainder of the term vacated by Trustee Jaqueline Courteau's resignation. Five applicants submitted a cover letter and resume by the deadline. All five were deemed qualified based on the criteria set forth by law and the additional conditions established by the Board.

Mark Brazeau was not able to attend the August 23 Board meeting and decided to withdraw his application. The remaining four applicants attended the Board meeting on 8/23/22. One withdrew her candidacy at the meeting. The other three withdrew their applications in a joint letter dated 9/1/22.

When Mark Brazeau was informed that the Township had no remaining applicants for the vacant trustee position, he agreed to reactivate his application and again put himself forward as a candidate. This option was offered to the other four original, qualified applicants. None of them chose to join Mr. Brazeau in reactivating their applications. Members of the Board were urged to contact Mr. Brazeau and engage him in dialogue prior to the 9/13/22 regular meeting of the Board so that they would come to that meeting prepared to vote.

It is worthwhile considering the alternative to a Board decision on the appointment. Some have suggested that it would be preferable for the Board not to appoint a replacement trustee. The argument is that it would be better to let the voters decide. However, if the Board lets the 45-day deadline pass without appointing a trustee, the process is **not** one where the voters would choose. Instead, the political parties would choose.

If the Board fails to approve a trustee, then the County Clerk would oversee a special election process in which the two major political parties, Democrats and Republicans, would each nominate a candidate. There would be no open primary. The selection process would be up to the unelected members of the political parties who may or may not reside in Scio Township. Given that Scio has elected only Democrats since 2004, the real decision would be made by the County Democratic Party.

Once the political parties chose their respective nominees, then those two individuals would be on the ballot for a special election on May 9, 2023. If there is nothing else on the ballot, then the Township would incur the expense of the special election just to go through the motion of having a vote to approve the Democratic party's nominee.

If this special election process is followed, then the soonest that the new trustee could be sworn in would be 238 days from September 13. This would leave the Board with only six members during that time, fewer people to do the work of Scio Township's government and a situation with a higher likelihood of a deadlocked Board.

RECOMMENDATION: Supervisor recommends approval.

MODEL MOTION: To appoint Mark Brazeau as Scio Township trustee to serve the remainder of the unexpired term to which Jacqueline Courteau was elected in 2020 and from which she resigned effective August 9, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Mark Brazeau Cover and Resume.pdf](#)

QUESTION: Shall this Motion be APPROVED?