

New Scio board may get help from old one

Ann Arbor News, The (MI) (Published as Ann Arbor News (MI)) - November 27, 2004

- Author/Byline: CHONG W. PYEN; News Staff Repo
- Page: A3
- Readability: >12 grade level (Lexile: 1360)

News Staff Reporter

Transition assistance sought from defeated township officials

The newly elected Scio Township Board of Trustees may hire several outgoing political opponents to help out during the transition period between the new and old boards.

The new board, which took office on Nov. 20, will hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Scio Township Hall, 827 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, to consider contracting with former Supervisor E. Spaulding Clark as a consultant for up to 90 days to fill the township manager spot and posting the position of interim township manager, according to Trustee James Dries.

For the last four years, Clark has served as both township manager and township supervisor.

Dries said he is not certain whether the board also will consider hiring former Clerk Gay Konschuh to assist newly elected Clerk Kathleen Knol on an interim basis.

Clark and Konschuh said they had been approached for their temporary services. Both said they would be glad to provide assistance.

Clark lost his re-election bid Nov. 2 along with five other Republican candidates when a slate of six Democrats swept the board. Treasurer Donna Palmer, who was unopposed for re-election, is the lone Republican remaining on the previously GOP-dominated board. Chuck Ream, once a Republican, switched parties and was re-elected as a Democrat.

Supervisor Charles Nielsen, Knol and other newly elected board members could not be reached for comment on the special meeting.

Clark, who served as full-time township manager before becoming supervisor in 2000, said he does not intend to return to township government for an extended period.

When the election was over, it was over," said Clark, an attorney. "It's time to move on. It helps me get along with my life."

While wearing two hats, one as part-time supervisor leading the township meetings and the other as township manager, Clark was paid \$85,000. The part-time supervisor's post pays about \$20,000.

Konschuh, who served for 29 years as clerk and as deputy clerk for one year, did not seek re-election.

She said she talked to her successor, Knol, about helping during the transition as a part-time deputy clerk.

"I said I would be happy to help out. It's a big responsibility. I don't think it will be long term," she said.

Palmer said the new board members have a lot of information to absorb.

"Certainly there's a lot of learning and lot of information that has to be read and looked into," she said, adding that she doesn't think it odd for election victors to hire back those they defeated at the polls.

Chong W. Pyen can be reached at cpyen@annarbornews.com or (734) 994-6828.

- Record: 0415175374
- Copyright: Copyright, 2004, The Ann Arbor News. All Rights Reserved.