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Vance Creek Board Faces Competition

By David K. Williams

For the first time in recent memory incumbents on the Vance Creek Township board will face competitors in the April 2nd election.

Energized by the prospect of sand mine development in the township, and concerned that the current town board has not yet developed safeguarding ordinances and licenses to regulate such mines, a number of other township residents showed up at the township caucus January 15th to nominate candidates to challenge the incumbents.

Electors came out in force at the caucus, with close to 90 total people in attendance. Town resident Joe Plouff was nominated to convene the caucus. After an hour and a half of nominations, tallying and reporting, the following slate emerged for the April face-off:

For Town Board Chair:	Allen Libby and Matt Nordberg
For Supervisor 1:	Mike Stafne and Kendra Quist
For Supervisor 2:	Tim Prusak and Jessica Frederick
For Town Clerk:	Marge Marlett
For Town Treasurer:	Paul Streif

Libby, Stafne, Prusak, Marlett and Streif are incumbents.

Town Clerk Marge Marlett said this is not the first time incumbents will face a challenge. The entire town board was voted out of office in 1989 because of residents dissatisfaction with their performance up to that point. Current chair Allen Libby was one of those voted out, but he returned to the board as chair just two years later, and has served ever since.

Having a woman supervisor on the board would not be new--Sue Anderson served in that capacity some years ago, until being defeated by current board member Mike Stafne.

The award for longevity must go to Paul Streif, town treasurer, who is now in his 51st year of service to Vance Creek Township, and has no competition for another two year term. Marge Marlett herself has served the township as clerk since 1984.

Plouff concluded the caucus with thanks to the large audience for "showing true democracy in action."