

Duffy Reflects Back as he Prepares to Move Forward

by Bob Dumas 12/22/11



LEWISBORO, N.Y. – Supervisor Charles Duffy is leaving office with head held high.

Though he garnered just 44 percent of the vote in his November defeat at the hands of Democratic challenger Peter Parsons, Duffy said he remains proud of what he accomplished during the two years he held the position.

“Every supervisor will have that two-year term issue and we need to understand that improvement does take more than one business cycle in any organization,” he said. “Unfortunately, supervisors typically have just one business cycle in their term to show improvements.”

Duffy said that when he took office in 2009, his administration set down six priorities on which it would focus: finances, cell phone service, roads, ADA compliance, land use/water quality and housing

Duffy said he set out to re-establish the town’s fund balance, which had been stripped bare, though he knew it would likely take more than a two-year term to finish the job.

“I think that over time we are going to see an improvement in the fund balance,” he said. “I don’t think it would be wise to tax our way to make it happen immediately. I think we made progress in the conversation of what we need to be achieved and how we should get there.”

Stabilizing the position of finance director is another accomplishment of which Duffy said he is proud. He said the goal of improving the town’s cell service was reached to a degree, but noted more work still needs to be done.

The paving of Chapel Road – an issue that’s been in front of town officials for more than a decade – is also something Duffy considers “a great accomplishment” both environmentally and fiscally.

He also takes pride in what the town accomplished over the past two years in making its facilities ADA compliant. He said the town’s new space in Cross River behind DeCicco’s Market is about to receive its certificate of occupancy and the town is ready to begin work on the Town House and Onatru offices to bring them in line with ADA guidelines as well.

Duffy said that as heads back into civilian life, he will remain active in the community and civic service. He said he is striving to become a member of the Lewisboro Library Board of Trustees and will also continue his work with the Lions Club, where he is currently the organization’s second vice president.

As for employment, Duffy plans to re-enter the financial industry as an accountant, a job he held before leaving it to become town supervisor.

“My wife was going through breast cancer surgery and chemo and so I left my job to take care of her and my family,” he explained. “It was during that process I was approached to run for supervisor. For my previous job I traveled a great deal and couldn’t continue to do it and still look after my family. The supervisor job allowed me to do that.”

As for re-entering the world of politics, Duffy said nothing is ever off the table. He said public service is in his DNA. His father was a village trustee in Mt. Kisco and his uncle was mayor. His parents were also volunteers at Northern Westchester Hospital and his father eventually became chair of its board of trustees.

“If the opportunity arose to serve the public again, I would absolutely consider it,” he said. “I am very active in the Conservative Party at both the local and county level and I will still be an active part of our political process.”