

## **GOP favors Duffy, Kelly**

Contributed by Ken Mastro  
Thursday, April 23, 2009 11:40

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The Republican Town Committee (RTC) has yet to make its endorsements for the Town Board positions, including town supervisor, but it appears that they have their front-runners in place.

The Ledger has learned that the RTC is considering Charles Duffy of South Salem, a registered Conservative, for town supervisor and Frank Kelly of South Salem for one of the two open Town Board seats. Town Board incumbent Republican Peter DeLucia is also seeking the RTC endorsement for re-election. The terms of Mr. DeLucia and fellow Republican Town Board member Al Perruzza are up at the end of the year. Mr. Perruzza is not seeking re-election. The RTC is expected to make its endorsements at its meeting on Wednesday, April 29.

While it appears that the RTC is only seriously considering Mr. Duffy for supervisor, Republican P.J. Rossi of South Salem is also seeking the Republican nod for a Town Board seat. Mr. Rossi, chairman of the Planning Board, angered RTC leadership with his recent acceptance of the Democratic Town Committee's endorsement for Town Board. The RTC interviewed him for a possible endorsement before he accepted the Democratic nomination.

In addition to Mr. Rossi, the Democratic Town Committee last week announced that it is backing Maureen Maguire for Town Board and incumbent Edward Brancati for re-election as town supervisor.

### **Duffy for supervisor**



Mr. Duffy told The Ledger that if endorsed and elected, he would be a full-time supervisor. He is originally from Mount Kisco but has lived in town for the past nine years. Mr. Duffy is a certified public accountant and received a master's degree in business administration from Clarkson University. He has worked as a budget director and controller for the past 18 years, and would draw on those experiences to get the town's finances in order, which would be his first major goal in office. Mr. Duffy lives with his wife, Elisa, and two young children, Ethan and Abigail. This would be his first foray into politics.

"It's an opportune time for me to give back and help the community," Mr. Duffy said. "I think that one of the things the town needs is good financial expertise."

Mr. Duffy said what differentiates the supervisor from the rest of the Town Board is the job's role as the town's chief financial officer.

"Let's get the finances in order," he said. "Let's get open and transparent budget processes." He said once this is accomplished, the town can more effectively work on major projects like a larger library and reaching compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Mr. DeLucia said Mr. Duffy "is extremely qualified" for town supervisor because of his expertise in finances.

"It really plays into his strong points," Mr. DeLucia said.

### **Kelly for Town Board**



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Mr. Kelly is a trial lawyer with more than 100 verdicts in various courts and venues throughout the United States. He is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, having served there for more than 10 years, including 12 months of active duty with 6,379 men under his command in the notorious "Triangle of Death" area of Iraq a couple of years ago. He is married and has five children.

"I believe that I possess unique experiences, education, tools, and resources to help the Town Board manage," he said. "I would like to bring those resources to bear on many of the issues that have been longstanding."

If elected, he would be the only attorney on the board. He said that having "a trained legal mind would aid the board's decision-making process."

Mr. Kelly stressed the importance of practicing fiscal discipline and protecting the town's assets, including town character, open space, recreational space, and bodies of water, while demonstrating a respect for homeowner rights. He said he could "add some dynamism to the approach to solutions" by using "a little more thinking out-of-the-box, divergent approach to problem solving."

Mr. DeLucia said Mr. Kelly's experiences make him an optimal candidate for the board.

"We're lucky to have a lieutenant colonel who has supervised divisions of people under the most extreme conditions," Mr. DeLucia said.{sharethis}