

## HALFMOON

# Republican committee backs newly appointed supervisor

Highway chief not among those tapped by panel

BY PAM ALLEN  
Gazette Reporter

The town's Republican committee has announced its slate of candidates for the November election, a list that includes newly appointed supervisor Melinda "Mindy" Wormuth and two newcomers for open seats on the Town Board.

The panel did not endorse current Highway Superintendent Lee Buck, instead supporting John Pingelski, a working supervisor for the department.

Paul Hotaling will be recommended to the Town Board to fill the vacancy caused after Wormuth was appointed supervisor. If approved by the board, Hotaling will step into the position until Dec. 31, after which he will be required to run for the three years remaining

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**JOHN HICKOK**  
Committee vice chairman

on the term.

Craig Hayner was endorsed as a candidate for a second Town Board seat presently held by James Bold. The longtime councilman said he will not run for another term.

Incumbent Councilwoman Regina Parker, incumbent Town Justice Kevin Tollisen and incumbent Town Clerk Mary Pearson also received the committee's endorsement.

Buck, who has served as highway superintendent since 2001, said he was not surprised by the committee's decision to endorse someone else.

He cited "problems" with the

Town Board but declined to elaborate.

The endorsements were made last Saturday, committee Vice Chairman John Hickok said.

"Our Halfmoon Republican committee is very excited about this terrific slate of candidates. They are dedicated men and women in which I have complete confidence of their knowledge, skills, abilities and commitment to make Halfmoon a better place to live," Hickok said.

Democrats plan to run a candidate for the first time in at least two elections. The committee has endorsed James Fuschino Jr., an engineer with General Electric Co. in Waterford, to run for Town Board.

The town has received applications from 11 people interested in interviewing for Wormuth's open seat. Wormuth said her office is in the process of scheduling interviews with each of the applicants.

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