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New town supervisor is ready to work

Melinda Wormuth takes over Halfmoon post and is focusing on finishing public works projects

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HALFMOON -- The new supervisor of the town of Halfmoon's top priorities include overseeing the town's large public works projects and making sure government is run efficiently.

Melinda "Mindy" Wormuth, 39, was unanimously appointed by Halfmoon's Town Board last week to the top local government post following the departure of Ken DeCerce. DeCerce left Feb. 28 to take a job in the private sector.

Wormuth had been the town's deputy supervisor for the last two years. She will finish DeCerce's term, which ends Dec. 31. In November, she will run for a two-year term of her own.

"Definitely I want to make sure that government continues to be as efficient as possible while meeting the needs of our residents," said Wormuth, who has lived in Halfmoon for 15 years and is a native of Cohoes.

Her project goals include the on-schedule completion of a \$14 million upgrade to the town's water system. Crews are installing additional storage tanks at the town's water treatment plant as part of a second phase of a project that began in the late 1990s. The project is set to be complete this spring or summer.

Other projects include completion of the new Halfmoon Town Hall, which will be built next to the current Town Hall just off Route 236. The current building will become the home to Town Court.

The town is also building a 55-acre park on Route 236 near the Hayner Sports Barn.

Regina Parker, a Town Board member and also the town's Republican Committee chairwoman, said Wormuth has the skills to be a good leader. While on the Town Board, Parker said, Wormuth became a student of local issues by acting as the board's liaison to planning and water committees, among others.

"She's very involved. She has a good head for business and good organizational skills," Parker said.

Wormuth and her husband, Larry, are co-owners of Louis Henry Auto Sales on Route 9 in Halfmoon. Wormuth, first appointed to the Town Board in 2002 and then elected twice, said she got involved with local government to make sure business owners and people her age were properly represented.

Another priority, Wormuth said, will be to keep the town tax rate at zero. Right now, Halfmoon derives its income from sales tax and mortgage taxes and hasn't had to resort to a property tax.

"That's one of the reasons why this is a good place to be, a good place to raise a family," she said.

The Town Board next must appoint someone to take the seat on the board vacated when Wormuth was promoted to supervisor. The board is accepting resumes through Friday.

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