

Mary Pratt Endorses Fellow Selectman Muriel Kramer

Dear Editor,

There are few towns that vote locally as Party oriented. It has its advantages and disadvantages. But the utter mean and pettiness toward Hopkinton residents of all parties who run for elections or serve on Boards is deplorable. No one is perfect and cannot please all. We endeavor to see the issues as they Are and not as we wish they could be. I've been around a long time and have a tougher hide than most so I take it from whence it comes. But there are many great persons who refuse to get involved because they cannot tolerate the ridicule and nastiness. Case in point:

The July 4th parade which used to be fun and hilarious but is now vindictive and mean. For all of the above let me say that I have served on the BOS for eight years and the election of Muriel Kramer and finally Mike was to me a breath of Fresh air. Thankfully with Matt and Brian it has continued.

Do we all ? Agree H--- no. We argue, etc., but at the end of the day we get along famously. I meet people and get calls about how refreshing the BOS has become. Muriel and the BOS have taken steps that many do not like and sadly we have not wanted to take them either, but like parents who hate to say "NO" but must, we too have had to take that stand.

What is truly tragic is that we now are not only losing the original people of Hopkinton, but now have residents who cannot pay their taxes and some with sewer payment problems. ONE MILLION DOLLARS , \$1,000,000 in taxes was not collected this year and we are trying to find a means to collect them. Any override, means more uncollected taxes next year.

I disagree with the comments about new business. TIF's do not increase our Tax line, and do not allow the collection of Personal Property taxes. Legacy Farms will be a long time before we see a high positive return . We are trying to get development there that will be at least Revenue Neutral.

We cannot allow the town's services, roads and sidewalks to decay; and need to ull up our boot straps, sacrifice the illusions of "a rich Town" and face the facts . There is NO money and we have spent far beyond our means. Please think of that as you cast your very important vote on May 19th.

Stick with the Board that has *finally* worked together for a better Hopkinton.

Jim Harvey told Mr. Clark at a BOS Meeting that the first thing he would build here would be a garage, no \$400K there. A Sewer Treatment plant could have been built in a less sensitive area for less dollars and have been operating by now. ASK the question, why IT wasn't .

Please vote for Muriel Kramer a woman of courage, education and endurance.

Respectfully,
Mary C. Pratt
102 Fruit Street
April 26, 2008

