



Thirty seconds over Jamestown

A new home is under construction at the Beaver Head Farm on Ft. Getty Road.

Photo by Don Bousquet

Town Council members in agreement on major issues

Jamestown's elected leaders look ahead after six months on the job

By Dotti Farrington

It may not even be news: Jamestown's Town Council members agree.

In interviews in recent days, the five council members said the first six months of their current term has been better than good. Agreement between them on votes has been high. They also agree mostly on goals for the coming year.

The councilors — two veteran

Democrats and three mixed-party newcomers — were elected in June for terms of unique length, more than two years. As part of the multi-year phase-in of town-calendar realignment under changes to the town's Home Rule Charter approved by voters three years ago, they will serve until November 2007.

In addition to their self-evaluations and projections, the council's newcomers expressed an eagerness to work on their first town budget in coming months.

David Long

Council President David Long, a Democrat, in his fourth council term, said, "It has been very posi-

tive. We work very well together. It is the most cohesive council of all the ones I've been on. I'm pleased with our progress." He also said no member has a personal goal or represent any interest group.

"We sit and we listen. We get right to the point and we decide," he said. "That's the reason our meetings have been so short. It's a good mix of people. I get feedback to that effect from many people," Long added.

The council president also reviewed the sudden resignation in June of former Town Administrator Mark Haddad to take a job in the private sector and the search for a new town manager.

Bruce Keiser, a longtime government executive in Rhode Island, was named town administrator late last month and will start working here on Jan. 17.

Long said, "We started (our terms) with a rough surprise, a bump in the road. But with everyone working together . . . and a great job by the search committee, we all are enthusiastic about the future with Mr. Keiser as our administrator."

Barbara Szepatowski

Barbara Szepatowski tied Long as top voter-getter in her premier run in last June's election.

Officially, she is the lone Republican on the council. She

talked about her role in local government and the council. "It works and it works pretty darn well," she said.

Szepatowski sees herself as non-political and practical in having to learn how government and town bodies operate. "Learning how to make things happen, even parliamentary procedure for making motions, was my biggest challenge and biggest accomplishment," she said.

Acquiring patience was an offshoot of her education in holding public office. Szepatowski admitted that she has sometimes felt disappointed in the amount of

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4 Black Cats



Tigger

4-5 YEAR OLD TRADE-IN