

Solicitor

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second interviews helpful.

Mannis

Among applicants for some town legal work, Attorney Carolyn Mannis applied to continue criminal prosecutions, but no other municipal assignments.

During her interview, the councilors asked Mannis if she would be interested, available, and qualified to do all the town's legal work. She said she could handle the job.

On Jan. 19, when all candidates were identified, some councilors singled out Mannis' work as a prosecutor for praise, mainly based on reports by Police Chief Thomas Tighe. The councilors asked other candidates if they would accept splitting the solicitor duties with Mannis or other candidates for parts of the solicitor's duties and all interviewees said they would.

Councilor comments have not seemed to indicate a preference for any of the applicants, but they initially indicated that keeping Mannis as prosecutor would be given priority. At the interviews, councilors continued to indicate

favor for Mannis, but also seemed open to other possibilities.

Interviews

During the interviews, Council President David Long asked all the lawyers why they wanted the solicitor job here. Each gave similar answers about being qualified and available to do the work. Harsch and his associates, which include Lauriston Parks, a former Jamestown town solicitor who is currently an interviewee, were appointed to serve until the council election this coming November. Harsch agreed to the separation that Parks had requested last November. (See related story on page 20.) Harsch and Parks are the only applicants with residences or offices in Jamestown.

Council Vice President Julio DiGiando said some questions he had were appropriate only in closed session, so he did not make many inquiries.

Councilor Barbara Szepatowski led questioning all applicants about their experience with the "police bill of rights" and referred to Tighe's interest in that category. She emphasized she was not aware of any local actions pending. All responses from the applicants indicated awareness of but not much involvement with that

issue.

Szepatowski also said that some residents working with youths have begun exploring such efforts as juvenile review boards. She asked the applicants about their knowledge and opinions of such boards, and received a range of answers about the pros and cons of such local committees.

The councilors seemed to focus on affordable housing needs as a major concern, as well as the decades-old town highway barn issue, but there was little in-depth talk and suggested potential approaches from the applicants. Most off-island lawyers were aware of some Jamestown issues, but one was firm about not knowing about any, and another had not researched the town's legal budget and workload.

Councilman William Kelly asked each candidate about conflicts of interest, uncovering none. He asked if the lawyers had any issues on which they might be pre-disposed and was told by all that they gave legal advice only, leaving the policy making to the council.

Councilman Michael Schnack directed his questions to a variety of concerns, including choice of substitutes when the primary lawyer is not available.

State law provides that all proposals for professional contracts, such as for lawyers, are subject to negotiations and the town is not required to accept the lowest proposal. At the interviews, the applicants with high bids agreed they would try to negotiate.

Lively racing for frostbiters

By John Horton

On Sunday, Jan. 28, the Frostbiters finally got frostbiting weather — not too cold but in the 30s with 5- to 10-mph winds from the northwest. Ice had to be chipped out of the inflatable race committee boat, which is provided by Conanicut Marina. It was a comfortable day for sailing. The sailors wore layered ski gear with waterproof pants and jacket or wet suits. The race committee actually needs the warmest clothing because they do not move around as much as the sailors.

Race Committee Dick Allphin and Dick Hutchinson set up a windward/leeward course off the beach in front of Shoreby Hill. Boats were overlapped at the windward turning mark. In one close three-boat finish, the sailors had to ask the committee who finished first. Six races were held. John Quinn was the winner for the day with 3 firsts, 2 seconds and 1 third for 11 points. John Horton was second with 12 points; Joe Logan was third with 19 points, and Henry Siegal was fourth with 20 points.

Baseball registration underway

Jamestown Baseball registration is now underway. Players can be registered in one of three ways:

1. Download a registration form from the Web site at <http://www.jamestownri.com/>, click on "Jamestown Baseball" and mail registration form with payment to the address as shown,

2. Pick up a registration form at Baker's Pharmacy or the rec center and mail in with payment,

3. Attend several live registration events, refer to the Jamestown Press for further details).

Parents should note that the organization needs to perform another birth-date confirmation for

all minor, major, and Babe Ruth division players. Copies of birth certificates will be required prior to the first games of the season, which will occur the week of April 23. Parents can send in copies with registration forms or wait until the week of April 23.

Islander exhibits digital prints

A collection of digital prints by artist and jewelry designer Didi Suydam of Jamestown is on view in the Hunter Gallery at the Drury and Grosvenor Center for the Arts at St. George's School from Feb. 8 to March 8.

An opening reception with the artist, free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Suydam's imagery is influenced by her intrigue with the "ephemeral nature of our environment and its emotional and psychological affect on our experience." Utilizing digital imagery, she captures the essence of these experiences, feelings and emotions. Through manipulation of color, composition and light, Suydam transforms space and form ethereally. Her abstract images allude to familiar situations and objects, yet are unfamiliar and dream-like in composition, often "masking and potentially contradicting the real impact they have on our world."

Didi Suydam is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design where she earned a B.F.A. in light metals. Well-known for her mastery in metalsmithing, Suydam has received numerous awards including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Her recent digital images have been included in several group and solo exhibitions, including "VOICE-Women in Contemporary Art," a national competition at the Providence Art Club. Suydam's work, along with a select group of contemporary artists and designers, can be found at her gallery on Bannister's Wharf in Newport, phone 848-9414.

The Hunter Gallery is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

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