



# THE JAMESTOWN PRESS

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## Voters approve Taylor Point site for highway barn

### Completion expected by fall of 2008

By Dotti Farrington and Donna K. Drago

Now that voters have approved the Taylor Point site by a vote of 934 to 753, it will take about a year for the barn to be completed.

Town Council President David Long, who recently announced that he will not run for re-election, said "I'm just happy for the town," and added, "and very relieved."

Long said that having the highway barn issue decided is a good way for him to leave his post. "It's been a heated debate," for the eight years he served on the council, Long said, adding, "It's gotten in the way of other more

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Town Clerk Arlene Petit, at left, reads the final tally of votes on the highway barn at the temporary town hall Tuesday night. The board of canvassers, Dolores Christman, Alcina Blair and Linda Warner, look on.

Photo by Jeff McDonough

## Council approves Taylor Point land purchase

By Tom Shevlin

In a 3-1 vote on Monday night, town councilors voted to approve the purchase of a parcel on Upper Taylor Point needed in order to site the town's proposed highway barn.

The vote came after Town Administrator Bruce Keiser reported that he and Town Solicitor Peter Ruggiero had met successfully with bridge authority (RITBA) Chairman David Darlington last week in order to finalize the sale terms.

Questions had surrounded a number of issues in the final sale terms, including concerns over the liability of subcontractors hired by RITBA officials to conduct bridge maintenance, as well as potentially costly additional engineering and legal obligations.

Darlington requested to see samples of the actual proposed facility construction materials. However, Keiser emphasized that RITBA was not looking for final project design approval.

"The authority is not looking for final sign off," Keiser reiterated.

The town, however, did agree to be responsible for up to \$25,000 in additional engineering costs incurred by the bridge authority. That would bring the town's total potential purchase price to \$122,500, or in line with the bridge authority's original sale offer.

Though the plan has Darlington's endorsement, according to

Keiser, the bridge authority had not formally signed off on the project.

Bridge authority spokesperson Chuck Newton was confident that the sale agreement would be approved by the board should voters elect to move forward with the project. According to Newton, the authority's July 20 unanimous board vote which approved the sale of the property pending a final agreement being reached, stands to illustrate the board's willingness to work with the town to meet its goal.

"It was a timing issue more than anything else," Newton said in regard to why the board had not met to officially sanction the agreement.

Councilman William Kelly, who voted against locating the proposed barn facility at Upper Taylor Point, was the lone dissenting vote in the four-member quorum. Councilor Michael Schnack, who also favored Lot 47, was not in attendance at Monday's meeting.

### New tree warden appointed

Jamestown has a new Tree Warden. Steven Saracino was unanimously appointed Tree Warden after a glowing recommendation by Town Administrator Keiser.

Saracino, a professional landscape designer, is currently undergoing training to become a licensed arborist in order to meet

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## Candidates announce for local offices

By Tom Shevlin

Voters will be able to choose from five Democrats, three Republicans, and two independents in the race for town council when they go to the polls on Nov. 7.

The deadline to file a declaration of candidacy was Friday, Aug. 24.

In all, ten island residents have declared themselves candidates for the council in Jamestown's upcoming municipal election, including incumbents Julio DiGiando, William Kelly, Michael Schnack, and Barbara Szepatowski.

However one name that will be noticeably absent is that of Town Council President David Long,

who after serving on the council for sixteen years, has decided not to seek re-election.

That would mean DiGiando, the current vice president who has served on the council for four years, if re-elected would be the town's senior councilor. DiGiando, of 63 Clarke St, is a school teacher and has previous experience on both the School Committee and Harbor Commission on which he currently serves as council liaison.

Schnack, of 36 Clarke St. is running for re-election for the first time. Kelly, 76 Reservoir Circle, is a former Public Works administrator for the city of Yonkers, NY and currently serves on the Planning

Commission. As the lone Republican on the council, Szepatowski, 80 Riptide St., will also be seeking reelection in the fall.

In addition, Democratic challengers include former Jamestown Town Administrator Robert Sutton, 28 Rosemary Lane, who recently retired as the chief of Planning and Development for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; and Planning Commission member and recently retired Department of Veterans Affairs official Michael White, of 53 Conanicus Ave.

Republican candidates include

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## Jack's building appeal continued until September

By Sam Bari

The Zoning Board of Review was again on the agenda to sit as the Planning Board of Appeals at the August meeting of the board on Tuesday. The board was scheduled to make a decision on the Windridge Properties appeal of the Planning Commission's decision to deny approval of revised plans for the Clinton Avenue building.

However, another last minute letter from Brittain's new attorney, Donald Packer of South Kingstown, requested a continuance to the September meeting, this time so they could resolve still other problems with the Planning Commission and get their recommendation for approval by the zoning board.

Consequently, Jack's Electric is still homeless. The building at 14 Clinton Ave., built by Jack Brit-

tain's Windridge Properties, and finished since last November, remains empty, awaiting an elusive certificate of occupancy.

In other business, the board unanimously voted to approve an application by Donald Bresnan, who represented himself in his request to convert the second floor of his building at 10 Coronado St. for residential use. In 2003, the board approved a special use permit for

mixed use of the property. However, Bresnan's attempts to rent the space as an office proved unsuccessful this year and he decided to change the use of the space back to its original status.

Board member Joe Logan felt that the application met the criteria listed in article 6, section 600 of the zoning ordinance and

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### Next week's newspaper deadlines

The Jamestown Press office will be closed Monday, Sept. 3 for the Labor Day holiday.

Deadlines for the Thursday, Sept. 6 edition of the Press are as follows:

**Display advertising:** 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 31.

**Classified advertising:** Noon, Tuesday, Sept. 4.

**News items:** Noon, Tuesday, Sept. 4.

The staff at the Press wishes everyone a safe and happy end-of-summer holiday.