

Split

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cial election? What?" Lare said. "I want the public to know where I stand. The solicitor read the statute - that's the way we should go," Douglass said. Conrad said at the Republican Committee meeting he wanted it to be a Ward 2 decision. The committee came up with three names and he nominated Craig because he was the high vote getter. Lare seconded the nomination saying he would support whom the committee recommended. Douglass then nominated John Reckner and Edie Kopsik, but both nominations failed due to 2-2 votes. Lare and Conrad voted no on

Douglass's nominations. The council also voted 2-2 on the reappointment of Donohue as the township solicitor. Beck and Douglass voted against the appointment, with Lare and Conrad voting in favor. Beck said his issue is with Donohue being the county Republican chairman. Lare asked Beck if his no vote was based on Donohue's performance or whether it was a political decision. Beck told Lare not to go there, saying he had no input on Donohue's appointment or the hiring of the new township manager. Donohue suggested an amendment to the resolution for his appointment to allow for him to be appointed temporarily until a permanent appointment could be

made. That motion passed 3-1 with only Beck opposing the appointment. Donohue could be reappointed for the year as early as the end of the month, by when the committee may appoint Simonsen's replacement. Council also failed to approve candidates for a vacancy on the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority Board of Directors. Lare made a motion to table the appointment, predicting council would be deadlocked on every vote. The motion to table the appointment failed, 2-2. Former LTMUA executive director Mike DeMarcantonio received support from a number of community members, including Nels Johnson, the current chairman of the

LTMUA board, and former board chairman Steve Sheftz. Sheftz and Robert Rizzo withdrew their names from consideration wishing to defer to DeMarcantonio. Resident Joe Winters said DeMarcantonio had the best credentials of all the candidates, had gotten the LTMUA's finances in order, and a solar array constructed during his tenure is saving the township ratepayers \$450,000. Sheftz said the savings was \$100,000 annually. DeMarcantonio also received some condemnation for his work at the LTMUA. John Armbruster, whose wife lost her job under DeMarcantonio's management, said DeMarcantonio had taken jobs from locals and given them to out-of-

towners. Ken Mann said there was something wrong at the LTMUA under DeMarcantonio's direction, but did not give details. Beck praised DeMarcantonio's efforts at the LTMUA, saying the authority was like a Third World country when he took over, and he got the house in order and balanced the budget. "The guy did everything but invent water," Beck said. Conrad said his biggest issue with DeMarcantonio was that he had retired from the director's position less than a year before applying to the board. Council voted 2-2 on DeMarcantonio's appointment, and on Conrad's nomination of former councilman

Tom Frisoli. Beck reminded council that Frisoli had used the expression, "To the victor go the spoils," regarding the appointment of the party chairman as the township solicitor. "Is the MUA part of the spoils," Beck said. Lare said Beck didn't condemn his appointment, Ed Butler, to the LTMUA when he condemned the school system before council. Conrad said Beck was holding Frisoli to a different standard. "This goes to a higher level," Beck said. "This goes to the political system." Frisoli is a former councilman and current Republican committeeman in Lower Township.

Water

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that was just a mechanical replacement. They put something in that's in line with the wireless system that Cape May and we already have," Kaithern said. "So we'll be able to do that master meter read remotely - we'll be able to check it in a moment, basically." However, she said the meter needed to be a larger size model. At the Cape May City meeting, Murray said two old

pumps would be replaced as well. He said they were being replaced with newer units that would be much more efficient, and reduce the system from 12 to 10 inch piping. The engineering contract with Van Note-Harvey is the first step in the process of replacing the meter and updating the system.

Sworn

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The freeholders receive a proposed budget in January, which can make it difficult for new freeholders, she said, but they will be going over the budget and reviewing the budget through the approval process. Asked about the congeniality shown by the freeholders at the reorganization meeting, Gabor said it was genu-

ine. "We have mutual respect for each other, while we come from different backgrounds. We will most likely not agree on everything, there will be differences of opinion, but we will come together to make the best decisions. Doing the right thing - that's what really counts," she said. Gabor said she wants to see a more transparent government than what might have

been perceived in the past. "Some people thought decisions were made and people were just being told what was what. People need to be a part of the process," she said. Gabor said, from her position as a municipal committeewoman, she believes she has seen that trend already in the freeholder board. "The past year saw shift, the bringing in of more communication," she said.

Gabor also said she believes the all-Republican board would seek to establish good relations with every municipality. "Municipalities, sometimes they really need help, and it's important we have relationship regardless of party," she said.

Morey sees county as a symphony

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Freeholder Will Morey is used to things being up in the air - mainly people riding the amusements on Morey's Piers. However, when he looks at county government he uses a different analogy. "We have to be focused more like a symphony. We have to get working better than in the past," he said. "So much one does has an effect on something else. Morey said he didn't want to fall into sports analogies, but said there is something to be said for both planning and flexibility. "Part of it is like run and shoot offense, but we also want a plan," he said. Morey said his brother often reminds him you can only plan the beginning. What comes after that is often determined by other circumstances. As freeholder, Morey is Director of Planning and Economic Development. He oversees roads, bridges and open space. He said he doesn't bring experience in

(land use) planning, but has been involved with economic development as a businessman for many years. He has also been an observer of county government. "My interest in county government is borne out of observations. I believe the county could be more proactive with towns to make this a better place to live and work," he said. Morey said he is excited about the opportunity to work in Cape May County government, because he wants to contribute to making it better. "I believe in many ways the county is under-performing. I believe we have the strengths to bring people together to find our strengths and weaknesses and envision higher a higher ground for everyone," he said. Morey said he believes economic development is best resolved with the cooperation of local, county, and state government in cooperation with the residents, businesses and educational institutions. "It takes a fairly broad level of participation," he said. Morey agreed that politicians like to talk about job

creation, but the talk often stops once the candidates are in office. "There is definitely room in the county for light industry, but I don't know if there is the demand," Morey said. "Certainly there is the room in places like the Cape May County Airport or Upper Township. But I'm not sure there is one solution. I think it is a different equation." Morey said there is room for job growth in the service industry as well. He said the key is to develop a process to identify what other geographic areas, counties or regions have done to tackle problems such as those faced in Cape May County, which is fairly remote and has a seasonal economy. "There are lot of ideas out there that aren't really receiving attention right now," Morey said. "I intend to be talking about this and intending to do something about this for the next three years," he said. Morey believes he will have the cooperation of the freeholder board, which he said would be working as a team throughout his term. "There is absolutely no indi-

cation of anything but that. I don't want to criticize those who went before me, a number of those gave their best effort, but when I stand back and look, I feel we need to take a proactive approach," Morey said. Morey said one of the first things he would like to do is visit each municipality, meet with the mayor and whoever he would like to have involved, and see what the needs and priorities are in those towns. He said ultimately the county cannot do anything alone, but will achieve its objectives for economic development with and through the municipalities. "We can't do it without them, or as well," he said. "Ultimately, as part of the solution, we've got to bring up the tide with regard to year around employment opportunities," he said. "We need to find secondary and tertiary industries or segments of the economic spectrum." Morey summed up his feelings about the future, or at least the next three years, saying, "I believe in the county."

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Beyel, Sheets' terms come to an end

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE - Longtime freehold-

ers Daniel Beyel and Ralph Sheets retired from the county board they led for nearly two decades. Beyel served as freeholder director and Sheets, vice director. Both decided not to run for re-election in November. Republicans Will Morey and Kristine Gabor ran unchallenged to the county seats and took their oaths of office to the board on Jan. 5. Beyel, 63, graduated Ocean City High School and received a B.S. degree in Business Administration and an M.B.A. degree from Drexel University. He started his political life as mayor, deputy mayor and committeeman of Upper Township from 1978 until 1987, when he was elected to the freeholder board. He was named freeholder director in 1995, and served as the board's vice-director for three years previous to that.

Beyel owns Boulevard Super Liquors in Marmora, a business he said has been in his family since 1938. Beyel has been an active member of the Marmora Volunteer Fire Company, the Cape May County Fireman's Association, Upper Township March of Dimes and the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce. During his time as freeholder, he served as chairman of the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, the New Jersey Expressway Authority, the League of Municipalities and the Southern New Jersey Freeholders' Association. Beyel said one of his greatest accomplishments was dealing with the financial oversight of the county. "When I got there we had the seventh lowest tax rate of all 21 counties. Now we have the lowest property tax rate. We were the sixth best bond rating, now we have third best," Beyel said. "When I got there the tax rate was 44

cents and today it's 18 cents, a 60 percent less tax rate than it was 24 years ago." Beyel attributes Cape May County's good financial position to a growth of development, with ratables rising from \$8 billion to \$50 billion. "We just kept the cost of government the same and just gave back whatever means we could to make the tax rates lower because we had a bigger property base to assess the tax rate," Beyel said. "Where some communities have increased expenditures and when they ran out of revenues, had to do dramatic cuts, we tightened our belts the whole time and tried to be financially responsible." He said the county's population has remained the same since he first took office, and tourism is still the driving economic engine. "We tried to protect our environment here because clean air, water and soil are the biggest assets for people to live here and visit here," Beyel said. Beyel said a community college in Cape May County was another significant accomplishment during his time as freeholder director. In 1999, Cape May County entered an agreement with Atlantic Community College to build a campus in Cape May Court House. Atlantic Cape Community College, located in Mays Landing, changed its name to Atlantic Cape Community College and opened a Cape May County branch in 2005. "We needed to have more opportunities for education in Cape May County and we had to get special legislation to Trenton to have a joint college with Atlantic County. With Atlantic County, we had to work out an agreement to share the costs of the college and establish a branch campus in Cape May County," Beyel said. "Education is a good foundation for everybody trying to get a job or advance in their careers, so

we had to make it geographically convenient." Beyel said he has no plans to run for future political office. He said he served in office for over 37 years, between local and county office. Beyel said he first met Sheets as a teenager, when Sheets delivered beer to Boulevard Liquors. "I saw him in community events and different places. He's a great guy. He was a great asset to the board. His public safety background was phenomenal. He was very available and he enjoyed doing it," Beyel said. "We ran together as candidates and got to know everybody." Sheets graduated from Middle Township High School and received an A.S. degree in Law Enforcement from Atlantic Community College and a B.A. degree in Criminal Justice from Stockton State College. He began his public service career while serving as a military policeman in the U.S. Army. Sheets, 80, served in the Wildwood Police Department for 28 years, first as a police officer, and then police chief. He then served as Wildwood's mayor from 1987 until his election to the freeholder board in 1990. "When I was chief of police, politics was the farthest thing from my mind. Every time I would meet with the commissioners, they'd cut my budget. In order to keep the police department more efficient, I ran when the time came and became mayor," Sheets said. Sheets is an active member of the Cape May County Association of Chiefs of Police, South Jersey Police Chief's Association and the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. Sheets also represented Cape May County on the New Jersey Association of Counties' Board of Directors and served as president of the Southern New Jersey Freeholders' Association.

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