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—For section.....Voices/Candidate Statement  
—Format.....Opinions  
—Dateline.....Guilford  
—Article Number:.....43174



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Michael Szostak, Guilford Selectboard

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 'I'm proud of the transparency we've maintained  
3 throughout our deliberations, our budget management, and our  
4 increased community engagement'

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 I'M RUNNING FOR re-election to the two-year seat on the  
7 Guilford Selectboard.

8 Patty and I moved here from Pennsylvania 26 years ago,  
9 primarily so she could live her dream of having a team of draft  
10 horses and sugaring with them. For me, my dream was working

11 in a hardware store. I landed a job at Brown & Roberts, and Patty  
12 was able to live her dream but, sadly, she died far too young.

13 Our horses are now gone, and Phil's cows graze in our  
14 pastures. But Elizabeth and I carry on.

15 I have over 60 years of work and business experience,  
16 with a wide range of various jobs, including groundskeeper, store  
17 clerk, technician, technical writer, counselor, and administrator.

18 Over these years, I've served on four boards, although  
19 this is my first elected political position. After 18 years, I retired  
20 from my most recent job at Brattleboro Union High School  
21 working with kids in our restorative justice program. I still do  
22 some part-time restorative consulting work.

23 \* \* \*

24 AS A NEWCOMER to the Guilford Selectboard, over the  
25 past year, I've learned a great deal, partly by making some  
26 mistakes. But I'm proud of the transparency we've maintained  
27 throughout our deliberations, our budget management, and our  
28 increased community engagement. This record is what I plan to  
29 help continue and improve upon.

30 As a Selectboard member, these are things I consider  
31 when making decisions, all equally important:

- 32 • Adhering to local, state, and federal requirements
- 33 • Helping ensure the financial health of Guilford
- 34 • Listening, thoughtfully considering, and openly
- 35 discussing differing views and issues, including those of people
- 36 who may not have a strong voice at the table
- 37 • Helping ensure people are treated equitably
- 38 • Helping retain the historical character, values, beauty,
- 39 and way of life in Guilford

40 Lastly, I try to remember that currently 56 families in  
41 Guilford have not been able to pay their taxes, amounting to over  
42 \$400,000. I bear this in mind, in all my decisions, as a reminder  
43 of the serious challenges faced by many people in our  
44 community, especially those on fixed and limited incomes.

45 \* \* \*

46 MY ROOTS ARE not as deep as those of some families in  
47 Guilford, but they've taken strong hold. I have no specific  
48 financial or business goals other than to live out the remainder of  
49 my life here in Guilford, to see our community's unique spirit  
50 prevail, and as our population ages, to see young families, with  
51 differing backgrounds, join us.

52 Whether you vote for me or not, I appreciate the time  
53 you've taken to read this. Thank you.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

54 **MICHAEL SZOSTAK**, of Stage Road in Guilford, is  
55 seeking re-election to a two-year seat on the Selectboard.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

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####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

57

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

58

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

###END LOGLINE###