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Morris Township plan makes volunteering easier

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MORRIS TWP. - Township Committeemen Jeffrey Grayzel and Ronald Goldberg proposed and co-sponsored a new ordinance at the Wednesday, Aug. 19 Township Committee meeting that would give interested citizens the opportunity to more easily apply to any board or committee with vacant seats.

The ordinance, named the "Citizen Service Act," is something Grayzel and Goldberg said they have been very passionate about implementing.

Grayzel said not only would a process such as this enable citizens to indicate his/her desire to seek appointment to any municipal board but it would also foster the openness of local government.

"This ordinance will provide a simple and uniform process for any and all citizens to seek participation on local committees, boards and commissions," Grayzel said Thursday. "Citizens will know which vacancies there are on local committees, boards and commissions and how to quickly and easily apply for them."

Under the proposed ordinance, the township administrator would be required to maintain a current and updated list of all vacancies for each appointed municipal position in the township.

Mayor Scott Rosenbush, who supported several ideas in the ordinance but noted many of the provisions it seeks are already in place, said at the Aug 19 meeting burdening Township Administrator Fred Rossi would be unnecessary.

Township Clerk Kathy Amelio is already responsible for most of the work involved in noticing the status of township board opportunities.

The list would be posted in the municipal building on Woodland Avenue for public viewing and would also be available in the township clerk's office free of charge.

Citizens interested in filling any vacant seat would simply need to fill out an application which would be reviewed by an appropriate appointing authority for that position.

Once a decision is reached, all applicants would be notified of the decision.

Goldberg noted, "This ordinance is a win-win.

Appointing authorities will have a much larger and more diverse pool of candidates to choose from.

Citizens in Morris Township will access the rewards of service easily.

They will be able to formally apply for positions which have direct influence on policy that affects issues such as the environment, safety, housing, historical preservation and setting spending priorities."

The Citizen Service Act proposal will be up for final consideration by the Township Committee at 8 p.m. Wednesday Sept. 16.

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