

Finger Lakes Times Questionnaire

Jackson Puylara

Age: 23

Family: Significant other for five-plus, Olivia Jones

Professional experience: Two and a half full years in Sales and Customer Service at Waterloo Container; various stints at Montezuma Winery and Fall Street Brewing Co.

Political experience: None

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Should the town formally recognize the Cayuga Nation and form a committee to work with the tribe on economic development and land use issues, as recommended by the new town comprehensive plan?

The town should be forming a committee to work with the tribe on economic development and land use issues. We share this land so we might as well try to work together as much as we can to benefit the town. The comprehensive plan calls for a potential cultural center which I think would be great. The Cayuga Nation has a rich history that many people, including myself, would love to know more about.

Do you support Seneca Meadows Inc.'s application to expand its landfill upward and remain open until 2040?

I am concerned with SMI's bid to expand and remain in operation until 2040. With the discovery of the cancer clusters in the area, I think there needs to be a further look into that before any expansion permit is granted. On top of this, we live in such an important environmental area. I am not convinced that adding 15 more years of trash will be beneficial to our local environment. The tourism brought in by the wineries and lakes outweighs what SMI brings in per year, so we must do everything we can to

protect our strongest assets. Pristine lakes and nature are helpful in attracting people to the area, not SMI.

What is your position on the significant increase in benefits and environmental improvements by SMI contained in a Memorandum of Understanding recently authorized by the Town Board, and should SMI get a new permit to expand?

While there is an increase in benefits from the new MOU, it still is not enough. \$4 per ton is insignificant when the amount they make per ton is much higher. The new MOU also provides little to no leverage to the town if SMI does not fulfill their promises. Overall, the MOU needs to be much stronger if we were to have one. Even if I was satisfied, as has been brought up before, this agreement is not legally binding.

What are your top three infrastructure priorities and how should they be paid for?

My number one priority would be to fix the 100-year-old-plus water piping around town. There are too many water line bursts which are devastating to local businesses. Another top priority would be to determine the causes of all the frequent flooding around town and fix the issues. Finally, there are many residential roads that haven't been paved in over a decade. I would try to apply for as many grants as possible to take the burden off the town taxpayer as much as we can.

Why do you feel you are the best candidate for the position of Town Board member?

I have been attending the meetings for over a year now because I care about this town and its issues. As your representative, I will ask the tough questions about spending. Before expenditures get passed, I will know why and determine if it's necessary. I will bring a fresh perspective to this board that is needed in a time when taxes keep going up. On top of this, I can work with anyone in a calm manner. I promise to treat everyone who comes before the board with respect and dignity.