

Finger Lakes Times Questionnaire

FRANK SCHMITTER:

Age: 64

Family: Wife of 42 years, Maria; three children, Greg, Lisa and Laura; eight grandchildren

Professional experience: Retired New York State Trooper; investigator with Seneca County District Attorney's Office

Political experience: None

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

Seneca Meadows has the Town of Seneca Falls divided. I believe the Town Board must get all the facts, both positive and negative, about the landfill from outside sources. The facts cannot come from the landfill or people opposed to the landfill. We need to know the health factors, environmental factors, and the financial factors. All these need to be honest and totally transparent to the people of Seneca Falls and then the people should have a vote on what they want. Then, if I am elected, I will do what the people of the Town want.

What is your position on the significant benefits increase and environmental improvements by SMI contained in the Memorandum of Understanding authorized by the Town Board, if SMI gets the new permit?

First, I believe SMI should be paying more now and should have been for the last four years. But as far as the MOU goes, it needs to be more definite. Instead of \$4 a ton, which might be \$10 million, which mathematically does not add up to the allowable tonnage accepted a day, think it should be a guaranteed \$20 million a year. Also, I believe there should be a financial penalty for odor problems. It also states that in no event shall SMI be required to disclose financial statements to the Town. Where is the

transparency there? I know that \$20 million seems like a lot, but the company that owns SMI is worth \$64 billion.

A new comprehensive plan calls for the town to formally recognize the Cayuga Nation and form a committee to work with the tribe on economic development and land use issues. Do you agree?

We need to work with the Cayuga Nation. They are here to stay. Once again, if we are honest and transparent with them, I believe that they would be more than willing to work with the town to assist in the development of the town, through work and finance, to help the town grow. I believe we saw their willingness to help by the work they voluntarily did on the Ludovico Sculpture trail.

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

Water and sewer, drainage, and housing. I'd like to explore the benefits to the taxpayers of Seneca Falls by creating a county water and sewer district. This would help increase grant opportunities and help improve water distribution to rural areas, thus increasing housing and business developments.

As far as drainage is concerned, we need to apply for grants, have the Town employees do more of the work instead of hiring outside contractors, and we need to get the state to handle the large projects such as replacing the pipe under Bayard Street from Benton Pond to the canal.

As for housing, we need to make Seneca Falls a place where people want to live, raise a family and open businesses so that people will choose to settle here. Make it an attractive place where a builder would be interested in developing new housing.

Why do you feel you are the best candidate for the position of town supervisor?

Three words: honesty, integrity and transparency. The people of Seneca Falls have been bullied and lied to long enough. It is time for them to be treated with respect and dignity. I will listen and work with every person in Seneca Falls and Seneca County to make this a better place.