

LASSER / SELECTMAN

Brookfield2009@charter.net

Statement to the Democratic Caucus after being endorsed as its candidate for Board of Selectmen

July 27, 2009

I first want to thank Joni Park for her service and long dedication to the town. Though she is leaving the Board of Selectman, I am sure she is not retiring from the scene and I expect we will have cause to call upon her again.

I want to thank you all for your support. I have lived in Brookfield for 28 years. During that time, though Democrats represent a relatively small group in Brookfield, we have been continuously involved making positive contributions to the community. From George Brown to Chip Brown, we have contributed to significant improvements to the quality of life and continuously held fast to our ideals and dedication to working for all the people to make Brookfield a great place to live, a great place to raise a family and to educate our children. In doing so we have never made partisanship a part of our agenda and we have demonstrated that again today by putting forward a slate based on competence and commitment to the community not party. I am proud and honored to be a part of that.

I have been asked, why after 8 years, I am returning to run for elective office. The answer can be given in three numbers and you should remember these, \$4.5 million, \$2.5 million and \$400 thousand. When I left the Board of Finance 8 years ago, under Bill Davidson's leadership we had built a fund balance up to \$4.5 million. Today it stands at around \$2.5 million. When I left the Board of Finance 8 years ago, under Bill Davidson's leadership we had built up our program of capital investment to over \$2.5 million annually with investment in roads alone about \$1 million a year. Today the budget calls for less than \$400 thousand in road maintenance. Where did all the money go? What do we have to show for the use of our savings account? The fact is, the people we entrusted with the management of our town have failed us. We need a new direction. We need leaders with true vision, with demonstrated competence and an ability to do the things we say we will do. We do not need the same people who have failed for the past eight years to be in the top elective offices of this town. We need Bill Davidson and Howard Lasser.

As we leave here tonight, we need to leave with a commitment to talk to our friends and neighbors; we need to remind them of the stakes involved. We need to remind them that the time to set the town's priorities is not in May when the Board of Finance presents a budget, but in November when we elect the people who set those priorities. We need to get the people to reach down from the top of our ticket to the bottom to support our candidates for Board of Finance, Education and Land use boards. We need to elect the team to move Brookfield forward.

Paid for by Lasser for Selectman
Elaine Tomanio, Treasurer