

To the Guilderland Town Board

33A

March 4, 2008

When I last spoke before this board, I cited the progress the town has made under this administration including the many improvements in openness and accessibility. Since then a change in the board's composition has occurred.

Whenever change occurs there is anticipation of at least an element of continued forward movement. However this has not happened.

Instead there is increasing concern over the tone and substance of the discussions at this board's meetings. Generalities and implications have been repeatedly raised without any defining facts or substance. One example is; Mr. Grimm and Mr. Redlich have both repeatedly and theatrically stated that our assessment process is unfair, called attention to their campaign promises and repeatedly stated that Guilderland's assessment process is broken. At the last meeting Mr. Redlich, went so far as to hold up his campaign sign with his political slogan.

However even after 2 months in office they admitted neither of them had met with our Town Assessor to discuss their concerns. They have not provided any substantive information regarding how the assessment process is broken nor how they would mend it. Instead they have chosen to imply, without proof, that in some way or other our Town Assessor is not following the laws of New York State.

The town assessor, Carol <sup>WYSONSKI</sup> Wyonski has worked in the Town's Assessment Office for 36 years during 6 different administrations, and has been our assessor for the last 16 years. Since 1980 the town has used the State's assessment and valuation program, RPS V4 .

While repeatedly insisting that Guilderland's assessment process is broken, they have chosen to ignore, or perhaps are ignorant of the fact that the Sate of New York mandates the same assessment process for every town, city and village in the State. If Guilderland's process is broken then the process for every town, city and village in New York State is broken.

It would well suit any members of the board who do not understand a process to confer with the department head - a person qualified through knowledge and experience to best explain the laws governing town processes, and provide the informational resources needed to resolve any questions.

While Mr. Grimm and Mr. Redlich are entitled to conduct themselves as they best see fit, if they still believe the process is broken they should keep their campaign promise by seeking remedy where remedy should be sought with the state legislature. The time that has been spent on these unfounded and implied accusations against the Town Assessor and the assessment process is not productive, and is certainly not part of an informed open governmental process.

*Robert J. Redlich*

*Received  
3/4/08*