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2 declare intent for Forks supervisors' seats

Democrat Robert Egolf is a township zoner; David Billings seeks GOP nod.

By Joe Nixon Of The Morning Call

Two Forks Township men, including a member of the township Zoning Hearing Board, have announced their candidacies for supervisor.

Two seats are up for election this year. Supervisors serve six-year terms.

Robert H. Egolf, 67, of Willow Drive, is seeking a Democratic nomination for one of the seats, while David Billings, 48, of Falwood Drive, is seeking a Republican nomination.

Egolf, a township Zoning Hearing Board member since 2004, said he wanted to be able to help guide the township's direction and said the municipality needs to balance its growth with its infrastructure. "As a member of the Forks Township Zoning Hearing Board, I realize that forces that may not have the township's best interests in mind may rapidly mold our township's future," he said in a statement. "If the citizens of Forks are not vigilant, we might soon live in a community overrun with strip malls, macadam, and vinyl siding. I lived in Allentown when MacArthur Road was beginning to grow. I do not want to see Sullivan Trail become another MacArthur Road."

Egolf, a Forks resident since 2003, taught English for 32 years at Allen High School. He was the school's English department chairman for 20 years and English Language Arts Curriculum coordinator for 10 years. A graduate of Muhlenberg College, he holds a master's degree and a doctorate in English from Lehigh University.

He has served as a consultant to the state Department of Education in the division of evaluation and assessment and is a co-author of the assessment guide used by state teachers to evaluate their students' writing. He also was a member of the committee that developed early versions of the statewide writing tests.

He currently is a freelance writer and an adjunct professor in the College of Education at Lehigh.

Billings, a township resident since 2002, holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Virginia Wesleyan College and a master's degree in business administration from Moravian College.

"We have seen many changes to our community in the past few years. We face many challenges as we try to maintain critical public services, update the infrastructure to support our growth, and sustain fiscally responsible policies with our township finances," Billings said in his campaign announcement. "I believe we need to develop robust recreational opportunities for our children and senior citizens. Improving the quality of life for the residents of Forks Township is a key issue facing our community."

Billings is a co-officer of the Easton Area High School Swimming and Diving Booster Club and last year was appointed to the nine-member Easton Area School District Local Tax Study Commission. A Navy veteran, he has worked for AT&T since 1988 and is a product management director.

He has served on the vestry at Trinity Episcopal Church, Easton, for two years.

"I believe my concern for the community, combined with my leadership experience, uniquely qualifies me as an ideal candidate for change," Billings said, adding he would seek diverse opinions to "formulate creative solutions to complex issues."

Billings is the second Republican in the supervisors race. Incumbent Supervisor John Ackerman has said he'll seek re-election, but has not made a formal announcement. Egolf is the first announced Democrat.

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