

Bee Editorial

Mohan's indecisiveness appears politically driven

Although he didn't state who was pressuring him, Supervisor Satish Mohan e-mailed Council Member Deborah Bruch Bucki informing her that he was under pressure from several sources to change his deputy supervisor.

Bucki commented on the fact that she is a Democrat and Mohan is a Republican and for at least one year there was a bipartisan duo in the supervisor/deputy supervisor team. That ended last week.

Mohan then told Dr. Barry Weinstein, his first choice for the position, that due to additional pressure from the Town Board and other unnamed sources, he couldn't appoint Weinstein.

What happened to the man who campaigned as the nonpolitician, who was going to make changes solely for the residents? In a matter of a few hours, Mohan changed his mind three

times on naming a deputy.

That includes selecting Council Member Mike McGuire, who accepted. Mohan seemed to forget he had asked McGuire when it came down to choosing a deputy. Out of nowhere Mohan named Roy Wixson, and McGuire was blindsided.

We don't know what happened between the work session and meeting on Jan. 2, and it was hard to get a straight answer from Mohan.

It became a nuisance to all those involved, including us — the official newspaper of the Town of Amherst — when Mohan made his announcement for deputy supervisor but took it back. Then to change his mind again and insult a council member is unprofessional.

Days earlier, Mohan was praising Weinstein's experience and the "level of professionalism" he would bring to the town. For a man who has said how professional he wants town govern-

ment to run, he certainly did not lead by example these past two weeks.

Who was putting pressure on Mohan to make these changes? We wish he had come forth with these answers — practicing the open government he talks about at length.

We will not take a stance on who was the best choice for Mohan's deputy. It is a position decided upon by the supervisor — whether the choice is a board member or not. However, the one person who is responsible for that decision was not able to do so in an honorable way this time around.

Last year, Mohan courageously broke with the status quo and appointed a Democrat. His reasons for not appointing Bucki are known, but his thought process on the rest is unclear.

Put under pressure, Mohan appeared to be unable to think for himself, scrambling around in a manner not expected of a town leader.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **AFTER DEADLINE** — Last minute dealings by Supervisor Satish Mohan on Jan. 2 affected an already "done deal" reported by The Amherst Bee. Last week's front page reported the appointment of Dr. Barry Weinstein as deputy supervisor, an action confirmed by Mohan and Weinstein as late as the afternoon of Jan. 2. Due to the printing schedule of The Amherst Bee's Jan. 3 edition, the newspaper was at the plant at 5 p.m. — prior to the chaos over the position at town hall.

Between 6 and 7 p.m. Mohan changed

his mind at least three times between Weinstein, Council Member Mike McGuire and Roy Wixson. At approximately 7:45 p.m. Mohan announced Wixson as his deputy supervisor — hours after The Amherst Bee went to print.

Mohan did not contact this newspaper about the change, and neither did Weinstein. As of press time Tuesday, the decision to appoint Weinstein was solid between Mohan and the county legislator. It was also confirmed by two council members, Deborah Bruch Bucki and Shelly Schratz.

I reported the story as it was told to me, checking my facts up to the last possible moment. Our story was correct when the paper went to press.

• **TASTE OF BUFFALO POSTER CONTEST** — Entries for the annual student 2007 Taste of Buffalo Poster Art Contest are due in March. TOPS Markets and the Taste of Buffalo's Board of Directors invite high school students to be part

of the event by creating original artwork. The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 currently enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school. Unlike in previous years, this year there is no specific theme. The design should incorporate the mission of the Taste of Buffalo, which is to provide Western New York with a premier and affordable summer food and family festival. All entries must also include an image of a fork and an image of a buffalo (the animal).

Completed entries should be mailed or hand-delivered to: "Taste of Buffalo Poster Art Contest," Buffalo Alliance for Education, 275 Oak St., Suite 220, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203, attention Pat Jensen. Entries must be received by March 16. For complete rules and eligibility requirements, visit www.topsmarkets.com.

by DAVID F. SHERMAN
Managing Editor

• **ENGAGEMENTS AND WED-**

DINGS — This is the time of year when many couples begin planning one of the biggest events of their lives. Newly-engaged couples, as well as those closer to professing their vows, may want to have their good news announced in their local community newspaper. The Bee has the following policy:

Bee Group Newspapers will publish engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements free of charge in cases where the bride, the groom and/or the parents of the bride or groom reside in one of the communities covered by our nine newspapers. The policy also includes any of the aforementioned individuals if they formerly resided in, or attended school in, one of the communities covered by our nine newspapers.

Announcements may be submitted by logging on to our Web site at www.Bee-News.com and clicking on the engagement or wedding icons. A printed form is available at our office, 5564 Main St., Williamsville.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Jan. 12, 1882

During the year just closed, six thousand one hundred and forty-six new buildings have been constructed in New York and Brooklyn at a cost of over fifty-seven million dollars. A few years ago, a man would have been considered extravagant who would expend two hundred thousand dollars on a building, but to-day houses costing them from two to three million dollars are in course of construction in New York.

Our schools have opened with a good attendance for the new year, there being over 90 pupils registered for the Senior department, over 70 in the Primary in the Academy building, and about 80 in the Primary at the stone school house.

Mr. Phillip J. Snyder has recently had five stone hitching posts placed in front of his premises on Main Street. The job was done at the Williamsville Marble Works by Mr. Oliver Deazley.

Mr. John Oberhualser, living at the Eggertsville toll gate, is laid up with pneumonia.

Owing to the mild weather this winter, thus far, some alarm is felt that the ice harvest will be short.

"An advertisement works for you both when you are awake and when you are asleep. It is a friend which is constantly extolling your merits and those of your goods to a large number of people at the same time."

100 Years Ago Jan. 10, 1907

Mr. A.L. Witmer was elected superintendent of the Christian Sunday School.

H.L. Reist was elected president of the Williamsville Hose Co.

75 Years Ago Jan. 14, 1932

In Amherst Town Court this week, Nelson S. Button, 67 years old, was charged with running a disorderly house in the Millersport section. He was sentenced to sixty days. Anna Miller, an occupant of the place, was also given sixty days. (*Editor's note: A "disorderly house" is defined as either a house of prostitution or gambling site, according to the Random House Unabridged Dictionary.*)

The Amherst Town Board completed its list of appointments on Monday afternoon. The offices of town attorney and town engineer were filled by J. Francis Harter and Cyrus H. Fields.

John J. Wade, of Dietel & Wade, architects of the new Buffalo City Hall, was the guest speaker at the Williamsville Rotary Club meeting at Fink's restaurant on Monday evening.

Construction is well underway on two fine new homes in the Snyder district. One is at the corner of Main and Darwin and is being constructed by Swan and Walter. The house under construction at

32 Roycroft Blvd. is being built by Brogan & Fitzinger Inc.

The Amherst Police Department reported it responded to 83 fire calls and 23 ambulance calls during the year 1931.

50 Years Ago Jan. 10, 1957

Work is being rushed on the completion of the Nike installation on the Millersport Highway and it is expected it will be ready for opening in a few weeks time. The Amherst Nike base will be capable of launching 12 individual missiles.

Mrs. Florence Schoenthaler Stutzman, for many years a teacher in Eggertsville School No. 13, died suddenly in Rutherford, N.J. on Jan. 5, 1957.

25 Years Ago Jan. 6, 1982

The Amherst Town Board voted Monday to rescind a resolution adopted last November calling for an investigation of ways to finance further improvements on the 160-acre Farber-Jacobs property on the south side of Sheridan Drive just east of Evans Street.

Erie County Legislator Mary Lou Rath was sworn into office for her second term last Wednesday by her husband, Village Justice Edward A. Rath, in the village court.