

OBPA- Oakdale City Election Questionnaire

The Oakdale Business and Professional Association is a vital community organization serving Oakdale and surrounding community businesses. Our motto is: For A Better Community. In this goal we are actively encouraging our members and their employees to become better informed voters who are more actively engaged in the political process. The OBPA may choose to inform and/or endorse candidates in the general election. Please use brief answers to complete this questionnaire for our member businesses. Thank you for your commitment to improve our community.

Please return this form to:

Dr. Richard Timm DDS

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Deadline: September 3, 2013

Name Marty Jurgensen

Date September 9, 2014

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Address 6963 Upper 35th Street Circle North, Oakdale, MN 55128

Employment ISD 622 - Skyview Middle School, EBD Special Education Assistant/Soccer Coach

Paid On-Call Firefighter/EMT Oakdale Fire Department

North High Baseball Coach

Website None

Party Affiliation None

How long have you resided in Oakdale? 22+ years

Political Background: Beginning with the most recent position, list all public offices you have held.  
(Include positions on appointed boards and commissions:

Vice-Chair Oakdale Planning Commission

Chair Oakdale Fire Department 50th Anniversary Committee

1. Why are you running for this office?

I'm a very active and involved member of the Oakdale community and want to help contribute at higher level with a fresh perspective and new leadership. As Vice-Chair of the Oakdale Planning Commission, Paid On-Call Firefighter/EMT for the Oakdale Fire Department, youth athletics coach for the Oakdale Athletic Association, Skyview Middle School and the North St. Paul Area Hockey Association I've built relationships throughout the entire community and seek to help guide the city into the future. As a past public employee for the cities of St. Paul, Shoreview and Woodbury for a combined 20 + years in community development and planning I've experienced interaction with other governmental agencies, neighborhood groups, planning commissions, mayors and city councils. Not only because of my vast civic experience but for the energy, new ideas and change I can bring to the table. The city has exciting and challenging development opportunities on the horizon, and I know with my experience, passion and relationships I've built I can help make a difference.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek. Leadership, building relationships/trust, listening, working well with others (teamwork) to reach common goals.

3. What experience do you have running a business, managing employees and controlling a budget?  
Limited

4. Please describe accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. Examples should illustrate skills and capabilities apply to this office, and may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional or public life. I was asked to be Chair of the Oakdale Fire Department 50th Anniversary Committee. This was a 18 month process from inception to the final event. It included bringing together retired members, current members, neighboring jurisdictions, working with public and private vendors and City staff. There were many night meetings, collaboration, discussion/disagreements but always reaching consensus and common ground. I am proud to say that, as a result, the entire process of hard work was a huge success and the positive feedback was incredible - exceeding expectations!

5. What endorsements do you have, or are seeking; and what organizations are you a member of?  
Ongoing

6. What role does the City have in encouraging job creation and retention in the City of Oakdale? (please describe the model/tools and/or incentives you would support to boost economic development) Currently the City staff does an excellent job with a strong business focus and offers many economic development opportunities for encouraging job creation and retention. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) is formed of civic leaders and business representatives and is a great forum to discuss the concerns of both the community and entrepreneurs. Some tools include the Washington County Workforce Center to provide help for businesses and job seekers. There are opportunities for City

Council and staff to call upon businesses to answer questions, address concerns, and provide information which is a great way to both learn more about the community and to provide information about each company. There are other incentives such as tax abatement, commercial rehab loans, federal and state funds and grants, low interest loans, Investment Fund, and various Small Business Development Loans. Some thoughts would be to include both the Tartan H.S. and North H.S. D.E.C.A. (Distributive Education Clubs of America) organizations early on in the job creation process as our future local employees, engage local businesses to have community job fairs and survey local businesses on desired needs and training opportunities to retain valuable employees.

7. What role does the business community play in Oakdale's success? The obvious role of the business community is that it is vital to expand the tax base, promotes job opportunities and increases fiscal contributions for community based public improvements that benefit all. However, it is also promoting "home grown" business opportunities for residents, gives greater community exposure to potential companies and encourages investments and improvements to existing businesses. The unique part of the Oakdale business community is that it provides many locally owned options which allows residents the opportunity to support their neighbors. The Oakdale business community also plays a major role in partnership with the city for many public/private events.

8. What are your top budget priorities for the next fiscal year? First, I would meet with the City Administrator and Finance Director to assess the fiscal "State of the City" including the Capital Improvement Program, major purchases and "need versus want". After that hold a work session with the City Council and formulate an action plan. The goal would be to maintain or improve services while holding taxes at their current levels.

9. What City services would you consider using shared services or contracting with other public or private partners? None at this point. I believe the current City staff from City Hall to Parks and Recreation to Public Works do an outstanding job including Fire/EMS and Public Safety. The existing mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions for the safety and welfare of the residents are established and beneficial to the community.

10. What are your top priorities you will champion to move Oakdale forward? The redevelopment of the Tanners Lake site, the improvement of the Hadley Avenue/Highway 36 intersection and continuing to promote and market Oakdale Crossing for high quality development. Most importantly to maintain and improve the quality of life Oakdale residents experience through neighborhood revitalization, continued park and recreation opportunities and engaging young adults in community pride.

11. Businesses in Oakdale are impacted by a number of city regulations. In each of the areas listed below, how would you expand or contract current regulations?

Signage - I would support expanding sign regulations to allow "flexible" comprehensive sign packages for internal staff review and administrative approval for signs that meet the ordinances without Public Hearings. I would solicit input from the business community on the regulations and would survey other similar sized communities for updated standards if changes are needed.

Permitting - I would support contracting the permitting process to expedite reviews and approvals through staff in a reasonable manner.

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Variances - I would support expanding the need for the Public Hearing process for Variances if there was a conflict in the findings or adjacent property owner concern. In addition, each case would be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Inspections (commercial & residential) - I would support contracting multiple inspections and create more of a "One stop shop" to expedite/consolidate the timing issues on the contractor's side but not compromise the integrity of the inspection itself.