Editorial

Camille Rose in Aquinnah

May 5, 2005

Wednesday, Aquinnah voters will have an opportunity to elect a selectman who is a longtime resident, with years of demonstrated commitment to the interests of her town and an undiluted determination to modernize municipal government. Camille Rose, running unopposed on the official election ballot, has served Aquinnah voters well on a variety of municipal boards, and she promises to do the same as one of the three chief executives.

Among matters that need thoughtful but immediate action by selectmen, there is the question of how town financial affairs are managed. It reflects poorly on the executive threesome that anticipated revenues, such as the payments expected from the Wampanoag tribe for public safety services, are presented in the budget as dependable sources of funds, only to learn later that the payments have not been made, and negotiations over the value of the payments themselves continue. Voters need to be able to rely on the revenue - as well as the expense-side estimates of the selectmen. Ms. Rose understands and appreciates the importance of accurate and honest budget building.

And selectmen cannot make promises to voters that go unkept, for instance promoting withdrawals from the stabilization fund, promising to reimburse the fund because it's an important municipal backstop, then failing to do so. Ms. Rose will help the selectmen to make only promises they will keep.

Aquinnah voters will improve the performance of town government by electing Camille Rose selectman.