

Dear Residents of the Town of New Castle,

As a candidate for Town Supervisor, I will be engaging in a lot of discussions with residents and others about the important issues facing our Town—and we are facing a lot of them. In the coming weeks, I will be writing to NewCastleNow and others with my analysis and position on each of them. I have enjoyed talking with residents about their concerns as long as I have worked for the Town, and now that I am a candidate for Town Supervisor, I want to make my views clear.

Since I decided to run for Supervisor, I've been asked many questions ranging from "Why in the world do you want to be Supervisor?" to "Don't you already basically do that job?" The questions that focus on "what I do" as the Town Administrator and "why I want to leave that position to serve as Town Supervisor" are so fundamental, I will respond to them first. As certainly we have meatier questions facing us, I will get to them as the weeks progress. For now, I want to use this communication as an introduction to those of you who don't know me—and take the opportunity to answer the fundamental question of why I want to run.

What does a Town Administrator do?

The Town Administrator is appointed annually by the Town Board in January at its Organizational Meeting. In other words, the Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Board. The Town Administrator is the chief administrative officer of the Town and is not a policy making position—but more of an operational role. As Town Administrator, I do not vote on any issues. The Town Board makes their decisions after due consideration and vote on matters before them. It is then the job of the town employees to put the Board's decisions into action. And it is my responsibility, as the Town Administrator, to make sure that the implementation of the decisions goes as effectively and smoothly as possible.

As a result, the Administrator's responsibilities include but are not limited to overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Town. The Administrator may be appointed as Budget Officer. (This appointment has taken place every year since the position of Administrator has been established.) This requires the preparation of a "Tentative Budget," which the Board uses as a basis for its fiscal decisions for the following year. Administrators do not have the authority to hire and fire. This power remains with the Town Board. (Managers in Cities and Villages have this authority.) The Administrator, however, does manage all personnel matters on a day-to-day basis.

Beyond all the day-to-day operations of the Town, I work with our residents when they are unable to reach the Supervisor. I make the best effort to be responsive to the issues that they present. Sometimes these are very simple requests and can be handled very quickly. Some are more difficult and require gathering several of the department heads to figure out how we are going to resolve the problem. I hope that our residents know that resolution of their issues is a number one priority for me.

Someone asked when and how they can reach me. As those who have looked for me know, I am easy to find. I am in the office usually by 8 a.m. at the latest and leave by 9 p.m. unless I have a meeting in Town Hall or elsewhere. You can always reach me by e-mail at ppaderew@town.new-castle.ny.us 24/7 or at 914-238-4742 during regular Town Hall hours – 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Why do I want to be Supervisor?

This is a great question, especially since I have a wonderful job that's exciting and very fulfilling. I have had a lot of success in effectively and efficiently implementing the Town Board's policies. But, after working in an administrative capacity for the Town for over 27 years, I am at a point now where I would love the opportunity to serve our community in another capacity. I want the chance to make those very important decisions, as difficult as they may be, that will help shape the future of New Castle. I want to be given the chance to work through those gnarly issues with my fellow Board members and to engage our residents in the process.

My connection to and love for New Castle goes way back. When I was in High School in lower Westchester, my family used to come to Chappaqua for special dinners to a place called The Fish House (I believe that was the name) where CitiBank is now. I thought this was a great place—and I always thoroughly enjoyed my visits to Chappaqua. There was something very special and unique about it—the beautiful trees, the quaint stores, etc. When I visited back then, I never knew that my family would be fortunate enough to end up living here. I did not know that I would leave my city career and come to work locally. I did not know that I would raise my three children here and I would end up being involved in the PTA, become a special education parent advocate and sit on the special education committee, or become a President of the Chappaqua School Foundation, or become a Brownie or Girl Scout Leader in Chappaqua, or the President of my Synagogue, or become a President of Chappaqua's Rotary Club and volunteer annually at the Chappaqua Library's Friends Annual Book Sale and participate in a host of other local functions as a volunteer. This is my Community. After all these years, I still believe New Castle is a wonderful place. I would like the opportunity to work with the Town Board and our residents to help guide the future of New Castle, keeping its charm and making it even better.

Let me give you an example of one of the things I would plan to do if elected. I believe setting up an "Advisory Committee" to the Supervisor, that would meet with me once a month, could provide me with a good connection with the community—your concerns, your perspectives, and your ideas. I envision this as an eclectic group. Its purpose would be to discuss what New Castle is doing, what we can do better, what we hear people are talking about, what is on your mind, etc.

I believe strongly in community and communication. People who know me know that these are values I have held throughout my tenure as Town Administrator. I want varied

input from many perspectives. In fact, I would love to have as many as 20 people on this Advisory Committee. I would look for individuals who would really like to be engaged in some brainstorming, who do not have specific agendas, and who want to discuss New Castle as a whole. But this is just an example of some of the ideas of I have to communicate with you.

Those of you who got off the train one Friday night when I was trying to get our residents to learn about and to sign up for CodeRED (our emergency call out system) might have encountered me at the top of the train station stairs. Some of you stopped and took the hand out and some of you passed me by. I plan to stand at the train station again—to meet you and to speak with you during the campaign. And, if elected, I will stand there again to get the word out about important issues—if that’s what it takes! One of my major proposals that I will include in the 2014 Tentative Budget are new, more effective ways to communicate with you.

Let me give you one more thought about communication. I believe the best communicator is a good listener. As many of you know, every Tuesday evening there is either a Town Board meeting or a Town Board work session. If elected Supervisor, I plan to make myself available to anyone who has specific questions/thoughts about the meeting that will take place that night one hour before the scheduled meeting. This is not for the press. It is for New Castle residents. But of course, if you can’t make it on a Tuesday, I promise that anyone can contact me at any time with those questions or any other questions or thoughts that are on your mind. I will always be available to you, my fellow residents.

The New Castle Democratic Slate of Candidates has created a Facebook page: “New Castle Community Concerns.” If you have any comments on this letter or on any issue facing New Castle, please write to me – and my fellow candidates - there. We will respond. I have chosen during this campaign not to respond to any comments that are anonymous. I am running my campaign openly and want to get to know you and what your concerns are – and to have a productive dialogue with you. I hope you will utilize our new Facebook page. However, if you prefer to speak with me directly, I encourage you to please call me at 238-4742 or email me with issues at my town e-mail: ppaderew@town.new-castle.ny.us with work-related questions/comments/issues or if it is campaign-related or personal, please call me at my home (914) 666-2501 or my personal e-mail: penellem@aol.com. I do want to hear from you.

Until next time,

Penny

Penelle M. Paderewski