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Former librarian wins seat in Lansing contest

By Kym Liebler

In the hotly contested race for the Lansing Library Board, the two available six-year terms were won by Joanne Jensen, the former library director who resigned after she learned the village gave her a smaller pay raise than other village employees, and David Przybyl, a self-employed businessman.

Jensen won 23 percent of the vote by collecting 1,236 votes, while Przybyl earned 21 percent of the overall total with 1,140 votes.

Challenger Jean Lefler McCall, a kindergarten teacher, garnered 986 votes; Mary Kern, a library clerk, obtained 957 votes; Norreen Nelson, a seamstress won 567 votes and Elizabeth Bush, a school librarian, came in with 479 votes.

As expected, Robert Reich will continue to serve the unexpired four-year term to which he was appointed last year.

Jensen admitted that having six people vie for two library positions was a rare occurrence. "It was most unusual. We used to have to drag them (candidates) in from the streets."

The former director said the fact that so many people ran for a position on the board is proof that "there was discontentment with the way things were being run."

Jensen said she has a slew of ideas she will bring to the board.

"First of all, I want to do something permanent about the roof; I'd like to look at different means of funding the library and I want to look into the possibility of getting an automated circulation system which," she added, "a library our size should have."

Jensen said she views the task of serving on a board she once had to answer to as "a challenge. A lot depends on them, actually," she said.

So far, Jensen said she is pleased with Jan Bojda, the library board director who was appointed in November to fill Jensen's position.

"She's done some good things," Jensen said.

According to Jensen, the duties of the library board are to set policy and investigate different ways to fund the library, not "to interfere with staff and decide where the furniture should go."

Jensen and Przybyl will begin serving their tenures at the Library Board's May meeting.

In the Glenwood-Lynwood library race, where three six-year terms are up for grabs, the two candidates, George McDonald and Zell Ingersoll, captured 1,427 and 1,223 votes respectively. The board will appoint someone to fill the third seat.

Not to be taken from this issue