Menomonie City Council Elections: Ward 10

Beety touts experience, while Sabelko says new blood needed

By Pamela Powers
Menomonie News Bureau

Menomonie City Council Ward 10 incumbent Susan Beety believes her experience and proven leadership make her the best candidate for the position.

But her opponent, political newcomer Tracy Sabelko, says her fresh perspective would be an asset to the city.

“I think that I stand out as a candidate because I want to know what members of the community think,” Sabelko said. “It should not just be what I think or believe, but what every person in my ward thinks.”

Beety, who represents the city’s east side, said her life experience, business and educational background are all assets to the council.

“I strive to make the right decisions and understand that each issue the City Council votes on effects not only the future of the city, but also could affect someone personally,” she said. “I question and seek answers to each issue.”

Both candidates agree improving water quality in Lake Menomin must be addressed.

Beety said balancing city services with budget constraints is an issue the council must deal with.

“The state gives cities more unfunded mandates, but takes more of our state aid to balance their own budget,” Beety said, noting city administration and the council have worked diligently to maintain services amid budget constraints.

Sabelko said she wants to increase citizen involvement in city matters. She also said she will work to keep citizens safe.

Sabelko and Beety said while they don’t oppose possibly allowing city residents to keep hens, regulations must be in place to protect citizens. Beety is part of a committee studying a recent proposal to allow urban chickens in Menomonie.

“If passed, this ordinance needs to protect neighbors, have penalties that are enforceable, and proper procedures need to be in place for the licensing and inspections of the coops and birds,” Beety said.
Tracy Sabelko

Age: 40

Address: 921 16th St. S.E.

Education: Kimberly High School, UW-Stout.

Occupation: Customer service representative for a local financial institution.

Political Experience: None.

Family: Married, two children.