

Northampton Tribune

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“NO BID, NO WAY!”

Say Supervisor Candidates Dobbins and Gold

NORTHAMPTON - Marvin Gold and Linda Dobbins are unlikely candidates even by their own admission. Neither has held public office previously; now Gold and Dobbins have decided that they have had enough of “politics as usual.”

“I just started to follow the Board more closely and realized something had to be done,” said Linda Dobbins in a recent interview. According to the Gold and Dobbins campaign, the more research they did on the board the more murky elements they found.

No-bid contracts were top of the list, and Supervisor George Komelasky was a glaring example. “They have found that while President of the Board of Directors of Bucks County Community College Foundation, Supervisor Komelasky arranged to sell millions in insurance premiums to the college through his wife’s brokerage, Paist & Noe, where he is an officer. And

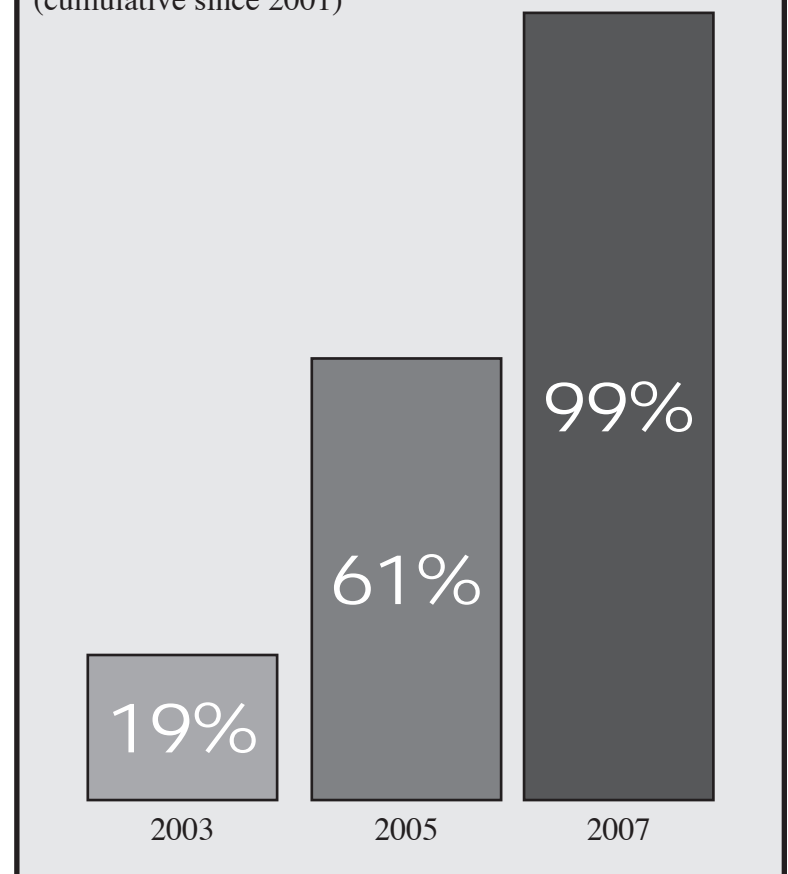
the sale was never opened to competitive bidding. This was well known by George Komelasky’s running mate, a long time committee person who never raised even one objection to the no bid contracts.”

While Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Northampton Township, Supervisor Komelasky arranged to sell millions of dollars of insurance premiums to Council Rock School District through that same brokerage, also while avoiding competitive bidding. Gold insists, “When you look at this consistent policy of no bid contracts, and you start to look into whose pockets are getting lined, the message is clear. Northampton needs a change.”

Gold and Dobbins will call for a nonpartisan process, open to the public, to evaluate consultants and contractors who want to work for the township and make selections based solely on qualifications, experience and costs. Current Democratic Supervisors Frank Rothermel and James Cunningham agree that “No-bid contracts should end and have offered their support to the measure.”



Tax increase IMPOSED by the current Northampton Township majority:
(cumulative since 2001)





“I have always felt the desire to stand up and fight for what matters most to us in Northampton.”

COUNCIL ROCK GRADUATE COMES HOME TO MAKE GOOD

After all the problems plaguing the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors, it is no wonder that residents are looking for a change of course. But sometimes the best step forward is going back to our roots.

That’s why Linda Dobbins is committed to improving Northampton. Linda, a well-respected lawyer and graduate of Council Rock High School, is anything but the typical candidate. In addition to her daily responsibilities as an attorney, Linda also makes time to volunteer as a child advocate representing children who have been sexually or physically abused or neglected.

Fellow supervisor candidate Marvin Gold was quick to give perspective of Linda’s activities in the community, “Linda really is a hometown lawyer with an incredibly big heart. Linda’s sense of compassion would be a real asset to the Board of Supervisors and her perspective is one that the Board currently lacks.”

According to Dobbins, “There is something so meaningful about being able to help children through some really difficult times, especially when they have no one to stand up for them or to make sure that their needs are being met.” As a candidate, she hopes to bring representation to the Township Board of Supervisors to stand up for those who are left most vulnerable by current policies.

Supervisor Vincent Deon Strong-Arms Employees

NORTHAMPTON – Northampton Township is known throughout Bucks County for a lot of things – a vibrant residential community, nice public facilities, and great local businesses. Thanks to current Supervisor Vincent Deon, it can also add ‘public officials who strong arm county employees to vote the party line’ to the list.

In the last major county cycle, Supervisor Vince Deon emailed employees to remind them that “Many... owe their jobs to GOP Leadership.” As if people on the public payroll did not get the message enough, Supervisor Deon directly appealed to consultants and local contractors reminding them they “have benefited handsomely by GOP control.” (*Philadelphia Inquirer* 8/16/07)

Supervisor George Komelasky and other members of the Board’s majority stayed silent on these obvious pay-to-play games. Many believe that this has tainted the local board and believe that the subsequent negative coverage in local news outlets – like the Philadelphia Inquirer – only made the matter worse.

“This whole pay-to-play situation has just made it really hard for the Township Board to be credible” says local resident Bill Richart. “I am particularly disappointed with his running mate. She has been involved in local politics for a long time now but has never raised a peep about all this corrupt wheeling-and-dealing. Not much of a reformer, you know?”

Supervisor candidates Marvin Gold and Linda Dobbins have called for measures that separate politics from township government. Gold and Dobbins have joined with Supervisors Frank Rothermel and James Cunningham to institute a new code of conduct for members of the board that would eliminate these conflicts.

“It just makes common sense after all that we have been through as a Township,” said Dobbins of the team’s plan, “to stop these partisan tactics and put Northampton families first.”

Ex-manager of Northampton convicted, but Supervisor Komelasky’s role still in question

NORTHAMPTON – Even though ex-manager Bruce Townsend was sentenced for misappropriating over \$157,000 from the township some time ago, concerns still linger about just what went wrong.

“I don’t get it,” Stephanie Hallman says, “the Supervisors are supposed to sign-off on those expenses. Were they asleep at the wheel or what?”

The expense vouchers were none too subtle either; they included bills for liquor, over twenty local motel visits,

vacation rentals and personal gifts (*Bucks County Courier Times*, 6/13/07). Two Supervisor signatures were required to clear a voucher, and from 1999-2006, they were apparently easy to come by.

“Supervisor George Komelasky and other board members at that time, who were not able to keep an eye on the township’s finances, have to be replaced” Rodger Bushnell told us outside of his home. “And frankly I am afraid that his running mate will just be another rubberstamp for these guys.”

The newly elected members of the Northampton Township Board, Frank Rothermel and James Cunningham, have

heard this call. They were not on the board at the time of Mr. Townsend’s embezzlement and they have begun drafting new rules to ensure it never happens again.

2009 supervisor candidates Linda Dobbins and Marvin Gold have already pledged their support for such rule changes.

“Our tax dollars are being stolen because George Komelasky and his associates on the Board of Supervisors can’t provide oversight” Linda Dobbins told us, “We finally have a plan to restore accountability and responsibility to the board.”

Board of Supervisors Increases Taxes, Money Wasted on Dead-End Projects

NORTHAMPTON – Like many residents of Northampton, Barbara Snee is angry. Since 2001, her property taxes have nearly doubled but she feels there is nothing to show for it. In 2001, the George Komelasky led Board of Township Supervisors raised property taxes 19%, in 2005 raised property taxes another 35% (*Bucks County Courier Times 11/20/03; 12/15/05*), and in 2007 raised property taxes another 24% (*Northampton Board of Supervisor Meeting Minutes 12/19/07*).

“What is all this money going for?” Barbara wondered aloud to us, “All I am seeing is dead-end projects.” She is confused for good reason. ***In 1998, the township was \$4 million in debt; today the township owes \$35 million*** and the annual debt service is over 15% of the overall budget. A \$20 million dollar bond-issue in 2001, which was slated for various public work projects, has been almost completely depleted with only a fraction actually spent on public works.

Where has all the money gone? Sometimes out the window. The plan for a Community Center next to the Council Rock South High School was scrapped, but \$3.5 million was spent to design it anyway. Paid with borrowed monies – that’s an \$8 million dollar mistake! Even when the township obtained free land at Hatboro & Bristol Roads for a Municipal Park, they managed to sink \$7 million into the project and \$700,000 just to design (not even build) swing sets, ball courts and two small buildings there.

Upon hearing these facts, Bud Johnson lamented, “I am tired of bank-rolling Supervisor George Komelasky’s wasteful mistakes.” The newly elected Democrats to the Northampton Township Board, Frank Rothermel and James Cunningham, have heard this call. They were not on the board when the wasteful projects were approved and they have pledged to put an end to it.

2009 Supervisor candidates Linda Dobbins and Marvin Gold signed on to their pledge after hearing frustration at every doorstep. “People are not happy that our tax dollars are being wasted because George Komelasky and his associates on the Board of Supervisors would rather tax than save” Marvin Gold told us, “We have an opportunity to finally return our government to the tax payers.”

IT MAY TAKE A MECHANIC TO FIX NORTHAMPTON

Everyone knows that Northampton Township Board of Supervisors needs fixing. But many residents do not know that this time around Northampton could elect a skilled mechanic to do it!

Sound farfetched? Marvin Gold, a distinguished Bucks County attorney and candidate for Northampton Board of Supervisors, was not always a legal scholar. In fact, Marvin worked full time as an automobile mechanic while attending law school at night.

Fellow supervisor candidate Linda Dobbins was not surprised to learn of Gold’s past career, “Marvin Gold solves problems in a calm, methodical manner. Anyone who spends time with him understands that this is the person we want solving Northampton’s toughest problems.”

When asked about his former vocation Gold is quick to relate it to the job at hand, “Mechanics identify problems and devise ways to fix them and many of us have identified serious problems with the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors.”

According to Gold, “A new emphasis on integrity, and respect for everyone’s opinion, regardless of political affiliation, is badly needed. Also, ending inflated, partisan, no-bid contracts will go a very long way towards curing the serious problems which afflict our current Board.”

Marvin Gold and Linda Dobbins, the reform ticket, may get their chance!



“With the right attitude and right solutions, we will fix Northampton’s Board of Supervisors.”

Quote of the Day

Judge finds Northampton Board of Supervisors Appointees Deprive Constitutional Rights:

“The Authority is taking advantage of the Board proceedings to intimidate and harass NARRS [A Northampton Residents Group] membership... We are not only concerned with the apparent misuse of procedures, but with the chilling effect such measures might have on the citizens’ constitutional right of association.”
(EHB Docket No. 2008-184-L)

Judge Bernard Labuskes Jr. Opinion regarding the Water and Sewer Board demand to subpoena and depose the members of the local residents group even after the group withdrew their legal challenge to the Northampton Township.

The Board refuses to disclose the amount spent on harassing the residents.



Register to Vote!

We need your support to put government back into the hands of the people of Northampton Township!

If you are not yet registered to vote:

- **Download the Bucks County Voter Registration Form from:**
www.dobbinsgold09.com/Images/voterregistrationform.pdf
- **Fill out and mail your form to the Bucks County Board of Elections at:**
55 East Court Steet,
Doylestown, PA 18901

The deadline to Register for the November election is October 5th;
Make sure not to waste this valuable opportunity to be heard!

Useful numbers

All Emergencies 9-1-1

Other police calls	215-322-6111
Other fire calls	215-357-8277
Other ambulance calls	215-357-0473
Township Business	215-357-6800
Zoning & Code Office	215-355-3883
Public works	215-355-3433
Tax Office	215-357-1343
Library	215-357-3050
Water and Sewer Auth.	215-357-8515
Parks and Rec. Dept.	215-357-5396
Senior Center	215-357-8199

FOOTBALL COMES BACK TO NORTHAMPTON!

Council Rock High School North
Football Schedule:

9/04/09	@ Father Judge
9/11/09	vs. Central Bucks South
9/18/09	@ Hatboro-Horsham
9/25/09	vs. William Tennent
10/03/09	@ Pennsbury
10/09/09	vs. Bensalem
10/16/09	@ Abington
10/24/09	@ Neshaminy
10/31/09	vs. Harry S Truman
11/06/09	vs. Council Rock South

Council Rock High School South
Football Schedule:

09/04/09	vs. C.B. South
09/11/09	vs. C.B. East
09/17/09	vs. Conwell Egan
09/25/09	@ Pennsbury
10/02/09	vs. Bensalem
10/09/09	@ Abington
10/16/09	vs. Neshaminy
10/23/09	vs. Harry S Truman
10/30/09	@ William Tennent
11/06/09	@ Council Rock North