

OUSTED

Continued from Page 1

CAMBRIA TOWNSHIP

Threats force official out

Treasurer resigns position after two harassing phone calls

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Among the names on Tuesday's primary ballot, one that will not be listed is Cambria Township Treasurer Kim Anne Todd.

Todd resigned from the position after the Cambria Township meeting on Tuesday, July

8 after receiving two threatening phone calls.

"Basically, the person said, 'We know how to take care of people like you,'" Todd said. "It bothered me."

Todd said it sounded like the same person on the phone both times and said the person sounded drunk.

Todd believes the calls were

regarding the sewer project study that Cambria, Hillsdale and Reading townships are currently undergoing.

The study is assessing the cost and feasibility of implementing a sewer system in the three townships but has led to much fear and speculation in the communities about the potential for tax increases.

"I think people are under a lot of stress because of the economy right now," Todd said. "(The study) just means we're looking into it."

Cambria Township Supervisor Gary Reppert said he also had run-ins with disgruntled residents but nothing as seri-

SEE OUSTED, PAGE 3

Next step

Cambria Township will appoint an interim treasurer Aug. 12 who will serve until the November elections.

ous as Todd's situation.

"I had quite a few angry residents who didn't like what we were doing but nothing life-threatening," he said.

On the night of the township meeting, Reppert called the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Department and requested to have a deputy in the area during the township meeting in case trouble broke out. Fortunately, a call was not needed that evening.

Todd, who worked from home, said there were several instances of people wandering into her house wanting to know about the property taxes when no one was home.

"It's really hard to have a political business that's run out of the home," she said. "You can't have a public office and do it in your home too."

Though Todd is continuing to perform some of the duties of treasurer, Cambria Township Treasurer candidate Shelley Neukom has been acting as deputy treasurer since July 14 and is taking care of summer taxes.

Neukom said she has not received any threats and is not worried about receiving any in the future.

"I don't take what happened to (Todd) lightly, but I think when we get the info out and people don't feel that it's being withheld from them, then hopefully they won't act in such a threatening manner," she said. "Most people are just concerned. As we talk about it, a lot of them are very understanding."

Kathi Herren, who is also running for township treasurer, said she is also not worried about future threats if elected but would deal with the situation if it happened.

"I'm not really worried about it," she said. "It's just a shame it had to be that way for (Todd). We just deal with circumstances as they come along."

Reppert said, by law, the township board is required to appoint a new treasurer until one is officially elected in November.

Reppert said a new temporary treasurer will most likely be elected at the next township meeting Aug. 12. Those who are interested in the position need to give their name and information to the township clerk by Aug. 12.

Todd is sad to leave the position but wishes luck to her successor.

"I am going to miss the people," she said. "I love doing the job, but it was time to get out of it. Some people are just making it hard to do the job. Good luck to the next candidate."

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