

# Lies Told

To The Editor:

This is the third in a series of letters which I am sending in response to falsehoods which were perpetrated by my opponent or his supporters during the recent Republican Primary Campaign in the Town of Colton.

This falsehood centers around the stories being spread that I planned to fire certain Town employees when I got elected. This is a distinct lie. I was a union member during my entire 31 years of employment at SUNY Canton and many of those years as an officer of the local, working to preserve jobs - not to eliminate them. In fact, I have worked strenuously to defend town employees whose salaries and/or level of performance were being questioned by others.

During the Organizational Meeting last January, a motion was made to appoint Dan Mac-Namara instead of Dick Owens as Chairman of Assessors and was passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with MaryJane Watson being the only dissenting vote. In other words, Bill Swafford also voted in support of that decision. It appears he is escaping any criticism for that action but he also voted yes. Whether you agreed with that decision or not, the majority of the board felt it was necessary

and voted accordingly. Since we cannot discuss what happens in executive session (although one board member - MaryJane Watson - has done so a number of times in the past), we cannot explain our actions in detail but felt we had no alternative.

The employees who have been named as those I would remove are not even under the control of the town board or the supervisor. One is an elected official and as such answers to the general public, not to the Supervisor. The other performs her job at a high level of efficiency and does not answer to the office of Supervisor. These are the types of scare tactics being used by a well organized group of activists with no basis in facts. This smear effort causes alarm among employees who feel they are in jeopardy but this has never been true.

What MaryJane Watson and Deputy Supervisor Bill Swafford have never allowed the public to know is the number of times they have worked to dismiss or lower salaries of certain employees. One such proposal was made one month after the resignation of Mr. Ford; because of a split vote, no action was taken.

Grace Hawley  
Town Board Member  
Candidate for Supervisor  
Town of Colton