

**Questionnaire prepared by Christie Lake Association Inc.
To Candidates for the October, 22, 2018 Election to TVT Council
See also Footnotes on pages 2 & 3 of this Questionnaire**

**Responses from Judy Farrell
Candidate for Deputy Reeve**

1. How long have you resided in Tay Valley?
I was born & raised in Bathurst Ward, married 46 years ago, moved to North Burgess Ward – so all my life

2. What is your educational background?
Graduated grade 12, went to Metzler Business College in Kingston. Have taken several computer and accounting courses at Algonquin College in Perth.

3. Provide a brief synopsis of your work history. Be specific.
After business college, I worked at Jergen's Soap Company as the receptionist, office clerk. Went to the Bank of Nova Scotia as assistant loans officer. Worked at the license bureau in Smiths Falls and then on to the International Silversmiths as the payroll clerk. Got my bus license in 1975 and drove part time while raising our 4 children. When our youngest child went to school full time in 1988, I started driving bus full time as well as working at Ennis Carpentry as the office manager. My husband & I operate a successful beef farm and maple syrup operation on the Stanleyville Rd. In 2001, we purchased a 50 unit mini storage facility. We now have 113 units, outdoor storage and a waiting list.

4. What specific qualities and experience do you have that you believe qualify you to serve TVT residents as a Councillor?
My years as office manager and running 2 successful businesses, gives me an advantage as to how a successful business should run. TVT is a business and should be run as such. I have been on the St. Bridgets parish council for many years and have been able to work as a team with the other members to make significant changes.

5. Why are you interested in running for Council at this time?
My husband worked for N Burgess / Tay Valley Twp for 40 years. I have had an interest in the Twp for all these years, as a life time resident. I could not be a councillor when my husband worked for the Twp so 4 years ago, my friends and neighbours encouraged me to run for council to try to help them with the problems that they were facing with the planning and building departments and I agreed. I am

running for Deputy Reeve at this time and look forward to being your voice on council for the next 4 years!!!

6. What do you feel your primary responsibility will be as a Councillor?

To work for the good of the taxpayers in Tay Valley. To be open and transparent and keep no secrets from the taxpayers!! It will be my responsible to make sure the twp runs within their budget and not waste money.

7. Do you share, or identify with, the sentiment “Back off Government! This Land is Our Land!”?

There is a need for some government rules to protect our lakes, rivers and environment but for the most part, property owners should be able to do what they want with their land. Most people have common sense and do not need interference from a governing body.

8. In your opinion, does TVT have adequate regulations in place regarding Council and staff procedures, zoning by-laws, road infrastructure, waste disposal, etc.?

If not, please outline your 3 main concerns and the steps you propose to remedy those concerns.

TVT has more rules and regulations than any other municipality in Lanark County!!! If the head of staff and the head of council were strong and followed the twp’s own bylaws, the harassment allegations could have been handled in house with NO expense to the taxpayers. As we all know, that did not happen!!! With the NEW procedural bylaw that was passed this month (which I voted against), basically removes councils abilities to act as an engaged governing body. All our bylaws need to be revised to give council back their ability to HEAR and engage with the taxpayers in our twp.

9. The Municipal Act requires municipalities to adopt policies to try to ensure that it is accountable to the public for its actions and that its actions are transparent to the public. **[See Footnote 1]** In your opinion, are TVT’s policies adequate for those purposes ? If not, please outline your 3 main concerns and the steps you propose to remedy those concerns.

No, TVT policies do not make council accountable to the public. TVT keeps too many secrets from the residents. We are not open and transparent and have too many “in camera” meetings that shield council from being open and honest with the public. I will recommend that all meetings be recorded and posted on the website. Staff keeps too many secrets from council and has to give council back the ability of knowing what is happening in the office. For the most part, council does not know that there are problems until the complainants threaten to go public. That is what happened with Blueberry Creek. The owners had been having problems dealing with

our staff since last September but council knew nothing about it until March/18 when took the problems to the media. Staff needs to report to council to bring us up to speed about what is happening in the office.

10. If TVT is required to adopt policies to try to ensure accountability, are you of the view that all votes other than unanimous votes, should be recorded so that voters will be able to ascertain who voted for and against each resolution or by-law?

Yes, it would make sense that all votes be recorded so voters could know who is voting for or against resolutions. When the meetings are being recorded, that will make council and staff more accountable.

11. Does it concern you that TVT deals with an increasing number of matters in “closed sessions” which are not open to the public? If so, please outline the reason(s) for your concern(s) and the steps you propose to remedy those concerns.

Yes, there are away too many closed sessions, too many secrets from the public. Too many “legal advice” bills and, in my opinion, the legal advice is not always good advice, just what council & staff want to hear from him.

12. In 2018, TVT passed bylaws containing policies and procedures for dealing with complaints by TVT residents against TVT staff, and *vice versa*. In each case, staff will investigate the complaints, decide the outcome of those complaints, and impose a range of sanctions or penalties, if complaints are upheld. The public is given no role in the investigative, decision-making, or penalty process. **[See Footnote 2]**

If a staff member investigates a claim by or against another staff member with whom the staff investigator works on a daily basis, should the public be concerned about bias in favour of TVT staff, or the appearance of such bias, in the complaint process? If so, please outline the steps you propose to remedy those concerns.

I agree that there should not be harassment by the public against staff or council. However, this policy limits the public from having a disagreement with staff and that should not be allowed. When you work for the public, whether it be TVT or in retail, you may not be able to satisfy everyone. You have to “work with” the public and try to solve their concerns, not get your back up and work against them. When a taxpayer come in with a concern, the job of staff is to say “how can I help you” not outline a list of “hoops” and “barricades” to prevent your project.

13. Based on the fact set out in **Footnotes 3 and 4** (which you should assume are correct), are you satisfied that the TVT tax expenditures for the 14 years from 2004 to 2017, both inclusive, are fair and reasonable having regard to:
- (a) the relatively large percentage of TVT residents aged 65 years and older, many of whom may be on fixed incomes; and

(b) changes in CPI, CPP retirement benefits, and GIC interest rates during the same period?

I am appalled at the increase in the taxes in TVT!!! There will be a very close watch on this if I am deputy reeve and Brian Campbell is reeve with a strong, supportive council!!! We have gone from 7 office staff to 12, including public works, in those years and they are the some of the highest paid staff in the county!!! There will be a review of job descriptions and I will look into sharing services with other twp's, as I have suggested this in the past. We have to work within our means. We have too much equipment. 2 trucks sit rusting in the yard all summer waiting for the snow. We could lease 2 trucks for the winter months and not have that overhead. There will be ways of getting our spending under control. Yes, the cost for policing has taken a toll on our tax increase but if we cut in other ways, we can manage that. It is very important to me that we support our excellent hospital in Perth and Smiths Falls because they are an asset to all of us, not just our aging population.

14. The derelict restaurant premises on Hwy 7 just west of Hwy 511 (last known as "Paros Island Restaurant" and once known as "Patterson's Restaurant") is located in Tay valley Township. It has been a community eyesore for more than 10 years and is getting worse every year.

Questions for incumbents: -

- (a) during your years on Council, what steps has Council taken to eliminate this blight on our community, and when were those steps taken?
- (b) What are the impediments, if any which prevent TVT from demolishing the building on the premises and either allowing the property to return to a state of nature, maintaining it as parkland or a recreational facility, or offering it for sale for commercial development?

Questions for all candidates:

(c) What steps, if any, would you propose to eliminate this community eyesore? Paros Island restaurant has been an eyesore and many years. Last year I asked what council could do about it and the reeve said "nothing". Their taxes are not in arrears and we have no property standards bylaw. I have been talking to a couple developers / contractors in the past couple months and have suggested they purchase it and tear it down & build something. The one that is most interested suggested he build a new beer store there... That would work. I was thinking of a retirement facility or apartment building, but I will work towards doing SOMETHING about it in the very near future. The owner needs to be contacted and the Twp needs to "work with him" to clean it up.

Footnotes to Questions for Candidates

Footnote 1

The Municipal Act , 2001, S.O. 2001., C 25 as amended, S. 270(1)

Footnote 2

Complaint Policy – Complaint made by member of the public regarding municipal facilities, operational procedures, programs, services, or staff.

<http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/municipal-government/resources/By-Laws/Section-AD-2---Complaint---Policy.pdf>

Complaint policy- Complaint by municipal Staff against a member or member of the public in respect of Unreasonable Customer behavior.

<http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/municipal-government/resources/By-Laws/Section-AD-3---Unreasonable-Customer-Behaviour---Policy.pdf>

Footnote 3

The 2016 Government of Canada Census Profile indicates that TVT seniors' population (aged 65 and over) represented 25.7% of TVT's total population on Census day whereas the provincial average was only 16.7%.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3509015&Geo2=CD&Code2=3509&Data=Count&SearchText=Tay%20Valley&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1>

Footnote 4

In the 14 years from 2004 to 2017, TVT's tax expenditures have increased from \$2,716,700 to \$5,453,364 an increase of \$2,736,664 or 100.73% for an average annual increase of 7.2%.

[Information obtained from TVT Budget Summaries for the years in question]

By comparison, over those same 14 years:

CPI for Canada All Items on the 2002 base stood at 104.7 in 2004 and at 130.4 in 2018 , an increase of 25.7 or 24.55%, for an average annual increase of 1.75% per year; <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1810000501>

CPP Maximum monthly retirement payments (without supplements) have increased from \$814.17 per year to \$1,114.17, an increase of 36.9% for an average annual increase of 2.64%

Average 5 year GIC rates paid by the major Canadian banks have **declined** from 2.53% to 1.01%.

http://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/selected_historical_v122515.pdf

Consequently, over same 14 years, TVT tax expenditures have increased:

4.1 times greater than the CPI index noted above;

2.7 times greater than CPP increases as noted above.

At the same time income generated from falling interest rates has **declined.**