Stump and Brown Sworn in as Commissioners

By Rande Davis

Tom Kettler, chairman of the town’s Board of Elections, officially reported the results of the election for town commissioner at the November 8 town meeting. Jim Brown was re-elected with 698 votes while Chuck Stump took the second spot with 573. Jennifer Kasten, the third candidate in the race, fell just nineteen votes short with her 555 vote total. The town has 3,348 registered voters, so the turnout for this off-year election was thirty-one percent as compared to only fifteen percent for more recent special elections for the commissioner position.

Mr. Kettler also reported that the referendum rejected the proposed changes to the town charter, last revised in 1982, by a vote of 575-369, and by overwhelming proclamation, approved officially changing the chartered name of the town from the Commissioners of Poolesville to the Town of Poolesville. That vote was 909 to 94.

Prior to the swearing-in ceremony of the new commissioners, former commissioner Lori Gruber was presented with a plaque of appreciation for her service. Commissioner Stump stated that he looked forward to the new position and “thanked all the voters who turned out, especially those who supported him.” Commissioner Jim Brown commented that he wanted to keep Poolesville going in a positive direction. He thanked both supporters and opponents and stated that he was gratified by the quality of all the candidates in the election.

After the official swearing-in, Eddie Kuhlman was unanimously re-elected as the president of the town commission, and Jim Brown, after impressively getting sixty-seven percent of the vote total, was elected to replace Jerry Klobukowski as commission vice president. In voting for committee assignments of responsibility for each commissioner, Jerry Klobukowski, in recognition for his hard work in matters of education, was again voted as the commissioners’ representative to the Poolesville School Cluster committee. Jim Brown was voted to continue on the Parks Board. Link Hoewing, who previously was the liaison to the Planning Commission, graciously stepped aside from that position so that Chuck Stump, who has been a member of the Planning Committee prior to running for office, could take that slot. Hoewing was assigned to the Community Economic Development Committee.

With the rejection of the revised town charter, decisions on this matter will await the results of the State of the Town meeting on January 10 and further feedback from the community.