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Stellberger wins close vote for Goshen's top board

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GOSHEN - In the only contested race of the election between two political newcomers, John D. Stellberger defeated Joseph M. Frye, Jr. by seven votes, 55 to 48, for Goshen Board of Selectmen Saturday.

"I had a feeling it was going to be a tight race when they said 108 people voted and I wasn't really sure what would happen, but I'm very excited," said Stellberger. "I'll be in early on Monday."

Stellberger will replace Lawrence Miller, who decided not to run for re-election and will join E.J. Brennan and Joseph Dunn on the board.

Though Frye fell short for Board of Selectmen, he was re-elected to the Planning Board.

"I'm disappointed obviously, but I hope Mr. Stellberger does a good job," said Frye. "And, I'm glad to be re-elected to Planning Board because it's a very important position."

He said he will consider running for Board of Selectmen again, but he would not run against any members seeking re-election.

Voter turnout more than doubled from 2008, as 108 of the 718 registered voters headed to the polls, up from 48 a year ago.

"We had the contested select board race which might have brought more people out," said Town Clerk Donna J. Polwrek, who was re-elected to her post.

Polwrek said there was a steady flow of voters during the first few hours after the polls opened at 10 a.m. in the John James Memorial Hall and voting, which went until 2 p.m. went "extremely smooth."

One of the positions for Library Trustee resulted in no winner, as 106 voters left the spot blank on the ballot and the two write-ins, Christine Brazeau and Lisa Roberts, tied. Brazeau had stepped down from the position and there was no one running on the ballot.

Polwrek said the next course of action in filling the Library Trustee position will be determined on Monday.

Marcia H. Shaw was elected to take over for the one year remaining on Gretchen Beaupre's three-year term as Library Trustee, after Beaupre moved out of town. Nancy M. Wood was re-elected to her spot as Library Trustee.

When Pat Kirouac vacated her role as Chesterfield/Goshen Regional School Committee Member, Maria Zilberberg was appointed in June 2008 to cover until Saturday's election. Zilberberg chose not to run. So, with 99 ballots leaving the position blank, Todd Haskell was written in three times to win over six others who were each written in once.

Caucus nominee Nichole M. Walden received the other position on the ballot for Chesterfield/Goshen Regional School Committee Member.

Stephen H. Mollison was re-elected to the Finance Board and Barbara A. Curran was re-elected to the Board of Health.

Hampshire Council of Governments representative William P. Sheperdson, Almoner Julie L. Becker, Assessor Gina M. Papineau and Moderator Anthony J. Thomas, Jr. were all re-elected.

The three Tilton Fruit Farm Supervisors on the ballot # Douglas J. Gagnon, Phillip D. Judd and Richard K. Polwrek # were also re-elected.

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Richard R. Fenwick Jr. were also re-elected.

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