

# Fire Facts

To The Editor:

I read with interest the letter that Kathy Connelly wrote regarding a supposed "conflict of interest" between the town and the fire district because of the appointment of Richard Wood as deputy supervisor.

She should really check her facts out regarding how a fire district operates so that she can better understand its workings.

The Colton Fire District is a taxable entity which was formed in 1894. Five commissioners are elected by those registered voters who live within the district. It is the job of the fire district to provide fire protection to the residents of the fire district. The district also contracts with the Town for fire protection in the outside fire protection district which lies within the township of Colton.

Another task of the district board is to come up with a budget which helps to provide needed vehicles, equipment, insurance, training and to cover other expenses that the district may incur during the course of its operation. The budget is forwarded to the Colton Town Board so that the fire district tax would be levied

and collected along with the town taxes. Mrs. Connelly states in her letter that the fire commission gets their money from the Town of Colton. This is only partly accurate. The Town of Colton only acts as the collecting agent for the fire district and in fact has no say whatsoever in the district budget, nor can they make changes to this budget. So there is no conflict of interest.

As for whether or not the deputy supervisor should attend meetings as a private citizen if he is interested in running for politics, I think you will find that many if not all the town board members currently elected never attended many board meetings until they had an interest themselves in running for a position.

Could the people of this town for once dwell on the positives rather than be constantly negative all the time. No wonder there is a declining enrollment here- who would want to move here after reading about Colton in the papers 24/7.

Dennis Eickhoff

Colton

Chairman

Colton Board of Fire Commissioners