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Change comes hard, but it's inevitable in order to bring this town forward.

CM: Would you be for or against having more affordable housing in Andover?

ML: It comes down to what kind of affordable housing we are talking about – zero-property-line housing? Single family homes?

It would be nice to have some affordable housing in town to help the town grow. But it brings in more residential, so the tax base still falls on the residents. Affordable housing is a good idea, but has to be limited.

CM: What problems facing Andover would you most like to see the Selectmen address over the next three years?

ML: Taxes. People have seen their taxes go up exponentially, and a lot are having a hard time. Roads and bridges are in dire straits. The weather has not been kind. Washouts, horrific snows, potholes that can swallow cars. It's a problem every community is facing. The Board of Selectmen has got to bring the town forward into the future.

CM: Are there any areas of the town budgets that you'd like to see reduced or increased?

ML: The Road Agent's budget will have to be increased. But to get a full picture you have to look at the entire town budget. There are probably some aspects that could be reduced. Could there be cuts in the school budget? In the solid waste budget? The entire budget needs to be scrutinized.

CM: Waste disposal is a large chunk of our annual budget. What can be done to reduce our costs?

ML: Recycling has to start at home. As long as people are unwilling to recycle, our costs won't go down. There may be ways of educating kids in the school. Maybe go home and educate their parents. Maybe Andover should look into education. Also, a lot of kinds of plastic aren't currently accepted for recycling.

CM: How strongly should the town emphasize acquisition of conservation land, and how should that acquisition be paid for?

ML: Land Conservation is good in

lots of ways, bad in others. It is good for conserving land for the future of the town, but the town has to grow. Is the money for conservation coming from the tax base? We're looking at a lot of very pressing issues in town. We have to look at all the issues very, very closely and weigh out the benefits. Land conservation is a wonderful idea, but at what cost?

CM: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

ML: I'm hoping to do the best possible job I can do to help this town grow and develop all aspects of its future. Vote your conscience and I hope you'll vote for me.

Vicky Mishcon

CM: Why did you decide to run for Selectman?

VM: I had the pleasure of interviewing Dennis Fenton [long-time chairman of the Board of Selectmen] for the *Beacon*, and that piqued my interest. There has been little interest shown in running for this board, as there's a lot of work involved. But Dennis made it sound as if it were a do-able thing to serve on the Board. He went through what he enjoyed about the job.

I've done three full terms on the School Board, and I wanted to stay involved. I like working with the different boards. This gives me an opportunity to stay involved in town.

CM: What experience do you have that prepares you for this job?

VM: I've served for nine years on the School Board and as a member of the School Board I attended a lot of Budget Committee meetings and participated in a lot of contract negotiations. I'm used to working with other town officials, both in Andover, in the School Administrative Unit, and in other Merrimack Valley towns.

I understand how you have to work as a threesome on the Board. I look forward to taking advantage of the training offered by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

I was also service unit manager for the Girl Scouts, a member of the Recycling Committee, co-chair of the East Andover Village Preschool board, and a member of the board of the Andover

After School Program.

CM: How would you define the job of Selectman?

VM: The voters in Andover are the legislative body through Town Meeting, and it's the Board of Selectmen's job to carry out and enact what's voted at Town Meeting, doing whatever it takes to carry out the wishes of the people of Andover. Fortunately we have a Town Administrator to do a lot of the work.

CM: What do you think are the main powers the Selectmen have to get their job done?

VM: They have supervisory powers, to start with. They appoint officers on different boards, all of which are profoundly important in getting the work of the town done. In addition, the Selectmen have executive and administrative powers.

CM: How knowledgeable do you think the Selectmen need to be to manage the Road Agent?

VM: They need to be very involved. The budget for bridges and roads is our second-largest budget after the schools. There are many challenges due to flooding. A well-informed Board of Selectmen will only help.

CM: Would you recommend putting up more structures at the Transfer Station, such as a garage for the town grader or a shed for sand and salt?

VM: It would really benefit the town to have its own supply of sand and gravel, but whether sand and gravel should be stored at the Transfer Station is another question. Most town roads are in Andover Village and to the east, but the Transfer Station is at the west edge of town. We rent all our snowplows and their drivers hourly, so if they have to pick up sand in west Andover to use in East Andover, that's expensive.

We need to have sand and gravel and sheds, but they should be in a more centrally-located area.

CM: Do you think the town should buy its own sand and gravel pits?

VM: With gas prices rising, we don't want to have to transport sand and gravel a lot. In the long run it would benefit us to have it here in town. It's a matter of figuring out how to manage the costs, the environmental impacts, and the "hot in my backyard" reactions.

CM: Since growth seems inevitable, how would you like to see the town grow?

VM: We need a mix of residential and commercial growth. Business and industry help ease the burden on residential taxpayers. Because we are a bedroom community, there's very little unemployment, so if an industry comes to town, they won't find a workforce waiting here. So there'd have to be more local housing for their workers, and it would have to be affordable.

CM: Would you be for or against having more affordable housing in Andover?

VM: I feel it's important to keep our young families and our seniors in town. There are many different models for this. For the next 10 years, having more kids in regular education programs won't add to the tax problem. The school can handle 20 or 30 more kids in its regular programs. It's the number of special education programs that made us ask for more space in the school.

CM: What problems facing Andover would you most like to see the Selectmen address over the next three years?

VM: The Board of Selectmen should help get a new Master Plan in place. We're overdue. We need to address roads and bridges by updating our plan for maintenance and repair.

Solid waste is our third largest budget, after school and roads. Costs of disposing of solid waste are heading up unless we do something about it. There are
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