

This has been a season of terrible losses. People have lost their lives, others have lost their jobs, their savings, their plans for the future. With losses on that order, it might seem frivolous to send out a re-election letter, however I believe it is more important today to detail how those running for office will lead our Village during these challenging times.

Since our incorporation the Village has been led by 20 Mayors and one president who have all been concerned with safeguarding Saltaire for generations to come. We have battled forces of nature with the hurricane of 1938 and Super Storm Sandy being the major offenders. We have also battled man made obstacles like the Robert Moses proposed ocean parkway and over development of our Village. We will weather this current storm and any other that lands on our shores.

Our community is run by volunteers who have donated their time for the benefit of all residents. This community service has served Saltaire well over its hundred years. I have followed in my mother's footsteps who believed we all have a duty to make the world we live in a better place for our friends, family and fellow citizens

When I was first elected to office over twenty years ago, the Village was finishing its third beach nourishment project which was being paid for with bonds that continued 18 years after the sand was gone. The water system was inadequate to provide enough water to address a major fire that occurred on Navy Walk. The head of maintenance was following the ambulance in another vehicle on emergency calls because of concerns the ambulance would break down. Our Village vehicles had fallen through the boardwalks and our dock because they could no longer support the weight. Our infrastructure and equipment were at the end of their useful life.

Since then we have come a long way through the leadership of Mayor Rosenblum and Mayor Cox. During my tenure as Mayor we have continued the path forward. Over the last four years we have spent monies to increase services, purchase equipment, add staff, defend lawsuits and to rebuild our infrastructure while absorbing the significant increase in state mandated municipal costs. We have done so wisely focusing on fiscal responsibility and as a result avoided any assessment or a major tax increase. Our financial condition is strong with a triple A bond rating and debt service less than two percent of our Village's valuation. This fiscal management, these infrastructure projects and the expansion of services are some of the reasons Saltaire today is one of the preeminent communities on Fire Island.

Being Mayor is more than a title, it is a great responsibility that requires leadership, hard work, transparency and compromise. I can tell you after four years that implementing solutions to the serious issues that we confront daily is more complicated than I ever imagined, especially in the environment we find ourselves today. A time when many of our well-established routines have to be rethought because they can now unwittingly cause harm to others.

Our experience over the last several months have strengthened our conviction that we are better when we are together. There will always be differences of opinion, however it is incumbent upon

the Mayor to work collectively with the Board, with State and Federal elected officials and the public to resolve those differences in the best interest of the Village in the short and long term. That is what I have focused on during my tenure and what I will continue to do going forward. I thank you for the privilege to serve as your Mayor. If re-elected I will continue to work collectively to unite our community while improving the quality of life for those who reside in the Village today and in the future.

John A. Zaccaro, Jr.  
Mayor, Village of Saltaire