



Grand Haven Board of Light & Power Questionnaire

Name: Geri McCaleb _____

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Employer: __semi retired_____

Office Being Sought: _Trustee Grand Haven Board of Light and Power_____

**Please feel free to attach a separate sheet if the space provided is not sufficient.*

General:

1. What qualifications/experience do you feel you possess that will enable you to fulfill the responsibilities of the elected office you are seeking?

In my 8 years on City Council and 8 years as Mayor I grew to understand the relationship between the City and the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power. It is a complex relationship of duties and responsibilities. We discussed the roles and the responsibilities of each board to each other and the community. My last two years as Mayor we worked thru the retirement of Sims and planning for what should come next depending on the needs and responsibilities we each have.

2. Have you ever run for political office before? If yes, please explain.
Refer to the answer above, I served eight years on City Council and eight years as Mayor

3. If elected, what would be your top priorities and why?

The viability of our community, for both citizen and industry needs a reliable and affordable source of electric power. The comments I hear most from BLP customers is that they appreciate the reliability of our electric service and the quick response when there is an outage to get everyone back on line quickly. We need to make sure that we continue in that excellent service to our customers.

While I was still in office as Mayor we had a plan to build a peaking plant on the former Sims sight to give the city capacity to generate and sell power at peak price times and also provide affordable heat to the City's snow melt system. I want to see the continued working together between the City and the Board of Light and Power to do that for the overall health of our city.

Clean up of Harbor Island is just a natural part of the process and we move forward. That is a complicated issue as the history of Harbor Island is complicated in its uses over the life of the city; it was the city dump not that many years ago. As a consequence the pollutants on the Island are a combination of issues of the City over time as well as the coal ash

produced by the operation of the Sims Plant. So responsibility and culpability are in question as are solutions as more and more investigation is done on the island.

4. Please provide information regarding your knowledge of municipal power.

. That depends on what you are asking? In my conversations with Dave Walters, Eric Booth and Rob Shelley, I learned a bit about what they do and how they get their jobs accomplished. I have also spoken with retired BLP employees and employees of neighboring municipalities in the power industry to educate myself on the challenges they face. I know what is important to all of them and that is to provide reliable and cost effective energy systems to their customers in a highly regulated and changing industry. I have had conversations with present BLP Board members about their job. There are many factors involved in any decision including politics. In our relationship locally we have an elected City Council and an elected Board of Light and Power, they have a level of independence but are also interdependent in their relationship to the City Charter for the benefit of the people of Grand Haven and all of the rate payers the BLP serves.

5. What are your top three priorities for the Board of Light & Power for the next 6 years?

1. Reliability and customer service for all BLP Customers
2. Build a peaking plant on Harbor Island to generate electricity when profitable and supply heat to the city's snow melt system which is such a plus for the downtown.
3. Continued work on a clean-up plan for Harbor Island.

6. Reliability and competitive rates are critical to not only manufacturers but to all customers of the BLP. If elected, how will you work with the board to insure both are a priority.

They are a priority now and will continue to be a priority in the years ahead. Communication and trust is a vital part of any relationship between parties to come to equitable solutions for all involved. This cannot be an us against them issue for anyone, the big picture should be for the health of the entire community. It is important that everyone sees the other persons concerns and find solutions to address those concerns. Hanging over every issue are the legalities and regulations involved and not every issue can be resolved to everyone's satisfaction. I have found through honest conversation and a willingness to compromise and look at a realistic picture of looking out for the best interest of all for all involved, good things can be achieved.