

GRAND ISLAND

McMahon seeks seat on board

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Published: December 2, 2011, 12:00 AM

Updated: December 2, 2011, 7:14 AM

Is there a game of musical chairs in store for the Grand Island Town Board?

Republican Town Board member Mary Cooke unseated longtime Democratic Supervisor Peter McMahon in last month's election. Now McMahon is hoping to be appointed to her vacated seat on the board.

"I think I've got some institutional knowledge that would be helpful to the board and to the community," McMahon said.

He hasn't yet discussed his application for the seat with any Town Board members and said he has "no clue" whether he will win the seat.

Councilman Richard Crawford said he is not surprised McMahon has thrown his hat into the ring.

"He has a passion for serving the people of Grand Island, and he's putting his name in to hopefully continue that," Crawford said.

Crawford said McMahon "certainly has the qualifications" for the job, but declined to indicate whether that would give him an edge over the other candidates or what the outcome of the appointment might be.

"He has just as much of a chance as anybody else," Crawford said.

McMahon said he isn't aware of any bad blood among board members and that he has been working closely with Cooke to help her make a smooth transition to supervisor.

He insisted it won't sting to serve on the board in a capacity other than that of supervisor.

"I'm way over that," he said. "I got over that at about 1 a. m. on election night."

The deadline for resumes was Wednesday at midnight, with roughly 12 applicants responding.

Whoever is appointed to replace Cooke will serve on the board until a special election is held in November 2012. In that election, candidates will run for a one-year term. After that one-year term ends, that same seat will be filled during the regular election in November 2013.