

Mayor

Gary Wregglesworth was first elected to the Onaway City Commission in 1987, serving until 1989 when he resigned for personal and work commitment reasons. While this decision best served his family, he felt he had not yet fulfilled his commitment to those that elected him.

In 1997, as the City began looking into the construction of a sanitary sewer system, Gary decided to again run for a seat on Onaway's governing body, believing such a system was vital if the community was to experience any growth or development.

Gary was elected in 1997 to a two-year seat on the commission. In 1999, he was elected mayor, believing that he might be voted out of office due to the difficulties involved with building the sewer system but also believing that doing so was too important to give up on.

The sewer was completed in 2006, and Gary is presently beginning his sixth three-year term as mayor. He said he continues to serve because the community has continued to support what he believes is a great team of progressive-minded commissioners and staff.

Gary credits that team with important projects including not only the sewer system, but the restoration of the Onaway Courthouse, the overhaul of the downtown streetscape, major water system improvements, and multiple upgrades to city properties and equipment.

He says he now feels he has honored his commitment to the voters who elected him.

Gary and his wife Ellen have been married 25 years and have three grown children. He has been employed in the security department at the Walter and Mae Reuther Family Education Center for 26 years.

Gary also is employed part-time as a paramedic with Onaway Area Ambulance. He is a lifelong resident of the Onaway area and has resided in the City for 30 years.

Commissioners

Chuck Abshagen was born and raised in Van Buren County. Chuck moved to Onaway in 1968 after graduating from Western Michigan University.

Chuck graduated from Western with a double major in political science and history. He earned a MA degree in secondary education, with a political science area of concentration, from Central Michigan University in 1984.

Chuck taught in the Onaway Area Community Schools for 37 years, retiring in 2005. He is married to Sharon. The Abshagens have a son, Douglas, and two daughters, Danica and Denise. Chuck has served on the Onaway City Commission for a total of 23 years.

Jessie Horrocks was born and raised in the Onaway area. She attended Onaway High School, graduating in 1977. She graduated from North Central Michigan College in 1992 with a degree in general business.

Jessie has worked as a bookkeeper for Northeast Michigan Consortium, and is the former owner of multiple Onaway businesses, including the Sears Catalog Store and R.C. Limited Embroidery.

She purchased the Lyon's Motel of Onaway in 1994 and has owned and operated that since.

A former member of the Onaway Community Federal Credit Union supervisory committee, Jessie has served on the Onaway City Commission for more than 12 years.

Ron Horrocks has been serving on the Onaway City Commission since 2008.

Ron is a graduate of Onaway High School. He attended Alpena Community College, and served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was an employee of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative for 40 years, retiring in 2006.

Ron previously served on the boards of the Onaway Area Schools, Onaway Area Chamber of Commerce, and Awakon Federal Credit Union. He currently serves on the boards of both the Presque Isle County and Onaway Area Historical Museums.

A life member of George Garms VFW Post 5857, Ron also has been extremely active in St. Paul Catholic Church. He is a member of the Onaway K of C Council and immediate past District Deputy of the NE Michigan jurisdiction of the state K of C.

Ron married Jean (Karsten) in 1976, and together they have hosted four foreign exchange students over the years.

Jay Bischer Bio to follow.