

Name of Candidate: Ed Hernandez

1. What seat are you running for?

Town Board Chair and Town Board Seat #2

2. Why are you running for the position?

I want to provide a high quality of life for the residents in the Town of Springwater

3. How long have you lived in the Town of Springwater?

Our family moved here in 2018 and we have lived in Waushara County since 1998.

4. What experience/background do you bring to the board?

I have been called to public service since the age of 18 working as a federal, state, and volunteer firefighter. I have also been a part of two emergency medical services (EMS) as an emergency medical technician (EMT) for over 22 years. As someone in a conservation field, I am passionate about protecting our natural resources and continue to assist property owners with their soil and water concerns for over 30 years. I currently serve as the President of Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Inc., an organization that dedicates it's work to natural resource protection. I chair the personnel and finance committee and serve on its Board of Directors. I've served on church Deacon board and currently serve on the hospitality team. I served as Alderperson for the City of Wautoma for over 5 years and have been on the Springwater Town Board for over 3 years and I believe I can serve as Town Board Chair and/or Town Supervisor just as effectively.

5. What do you see as the major issues to address in the Town of Springwater?

Land Use:

- ❖ Monitor and reevaluate VRBO and Airbnb type of activities*
- ❖ Update the Town's Comprehensive Plan as necessary to ensure proper development*
- ❖ Continue to work on updating fiber-optic service throughout the township*

Roads:

- ❖ *Continue to upgrade our roads while supplementing plowing & sanding as needed*
- ❖ *Develop a living snow fence program to protect roads that constantly drift creating road hazards*

Water quality:

- ❖ *Increase Invasive Species funding for prevention & control efforts*
- ❖ *Encourage private well water testing*
- ❖ *Introduce a tax rebate for property owners who install water quality practices*

6. What do you see as positives in the Town of Springwater?

First, I would say the Covered Bridge gives the Town its own uniqueness. There is a sense of pride for the town and its residents regarding the covered bridge. The park provides a location where many wedding ceremonies are held and it's a great location to view the Pine River.

Our township is blessed with 8 public lakes (which includes a small section of Long Lake) and several DNR properties which provide an abundance of water and recreational activities. A few of these lakes have the Dept of Natural Resource Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW) and Outstanding Resources Waters (ORW) designation. I think it's important to protect these waters and work to enhance or improve all the waters in the township.

Kusel Lake County Park is a great spot a family can come to enjoy the lake. The We Really Kare Fishing Club also provides a great Fisheree in February that brings the community together.

I appreciate the efforts our fire departments as they report monthly to the town. Keeping the township up to date on equipment needs, the training firefighters receive and the commitment to keep our citizens as safe as possible is very much appreciated!

Monthly town meeting attendance has been up lately and its good to see our townspeople actively engaged in town business! Lastly, I also enjoy the small town community.

7. Recntly Waushara County allowed ATV/UTV traffic on County Roads. What is your position on opening the Town of Springwater roads to ATV/UTV traffic?

While I would agree the use of ATV/UTV on town roads may be challenging for some folks to get use to, I do believe an individual should have the right to travel on town roads if that is their choice, particularly now that the use of these vehicles is permitted on county roads. I don't believe the town board should have the authority to decide for the town people. In my opinion, the fair way is through a democratic process and referendum. This process lets the people of Springwater decide.

8. Anything else the electors in the Town of Springwater should know about you?

In my current role as County Conservationist for Waushara County, I oversee soil and water quality initiatives. My focus is to direct our team to accomplish these goals to better serve the residents of Waushara County. I am married to my wife and soul mate and our 6 children (14 grandchildren) range in ages from 19 to 35. Our family has been living in Waushara County since 1998 and enjoy most outdoor activities, but my passion is duck/turkey hunting and ice fishing.