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1. Have you ever been appointed or elected to public office?
If yes, which office? Roosevelt Park Mayor Pro Tem
2. Have you ever owned a business or has someone in your family owned a business? If yes, please describe. I am the owner of O'Riley Media Group.
3. Briefly describe the qualifications and experience you possess that make you the best candidate for this office. I have been fortunate to have learned first-hand from people in every part of Muskegon County that our greatest missing link is our communications. I have 30 years plus of experience in speaking to people and learning from them and earning their trust in what I hope is an even and level basis.
4. What do you believe should be the role of the office you are seeking? I think the County Commission is there to serve the people and employees of the county. To make sure that the adequate funding is there for safety, infrastructure and operations is essential and to lead by example so other local municipalities can see that working together can be much more beneficial.
5. What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing Muskegon County businesses today and, if elected, how can you address them? The top three issues to me are recruitment,

retention and development of staff. How can I address them? First by example. We pay our people an advanced wage for what they do and see the benefit of employees that feel appreciated. Next, to continue to build this community so it's attractive to those looking to build a business or buy a home. We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. Development of staff can continue with the educational opportunities presented in the county with Muskegon Community College and even work it's way into the secondary schools to help learners develop the talents and tools needed for today.

6. How do you balance personal values and beliefs with problem solving for the public's issues? I was born with a conscience and I stand by what I do and say. I am careful to learn what I feel I need to before I pass a judgement on anything as a rule and I also understand the mentality of people here in Muskegon when it comes to their feeling of what's been "Taken away". I sometimes feel that I am looking down the road maybe 15 years more than some and it's not always the easiest to explain, but to try and think things through to the end where others might not is where I believe my strength lies.

7. In what areas do you feel you can make the most difference as a local elected official? Improving our local connection. Our rural communities are seeing the substantial growth in the city, there's so little relevant local news to keep everyone up to speed. To some, it seems like all the attention is going in one direction when the reality is, there's plenty for everyone, and the county can offer more to rural municipalities, but we need to get the channels back open to help facilitate that. By no means is it a "coming to the rescue" mindset, but more of a "help is here if you need it, and yes...it can come closer to you to help you get it."

8. How will you leverage and utilize the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce as a resource should you be elected? I will have to learn how the MLCC can help me in this capacity

9. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities?

1) To improve emergency communications and preparation in the county. Believe what you will about the pandemic, however it proved that we are desperately lacking in ways to communicate to our people if there's something that needs to be heeded where they can turn to for information.

2) To help reunify a county that's been stripped of it's connection due to lack of media. I publish all I can. I work 7 days a week right now, but it's not enough. To have had others try and instill fear into District 2 by suggesting they secede into a neighboring county proves the fragility of how we see ourselves.

3) Continued intelligent growth. As we are on the rise, it's essential to find ways to include the rural municipalities while respecting the AG land and livelihood of our farming community. Where can we find places to help grow the population in ways that will allow for a better tax base for the smaller communities and help ease the cost placed on their services? Where can we find ways to help the AG community benefit from green technology and reduce the costs they have to operate?

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share?

Our disconnect seems so personal. The reality is, we all feel it. Urban or rural everyone is asking "What about us?" There was a time that there was enough information out there that you knew when something great happened in Ravenna, it made the paper. Or when something bad happened, you heard about that too. Now.....it's a feeling of every community for itself and it's a river we have to swim up together. We're not going to get back to the "Good old Days" however, a bold future is in front of us and the shifting of the sands of time is showing Muskegon County as the dominant place on the lakeshore for the next 50 years. To assure that all of the county is included on that, is my key goal.

Send completed questionnaires to:
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