

HISTORY AND POLICY STATEMENT

Silt has always been an important part of my life. My great grandfather, Raphael Zarlingo, homesteaded in the Harvey Gap area in the late 1800s. My mother grew up in Silt, where my grandfather, Joe Costanzo, had a grocery store that stood where the Town of Silt now has a parking lot. My grandfather served on the Board of Trustees, and two uncles served as mayor.

I served as the Town Administrator in Silt for over five years. I also served as the Clerk/Manager in Wellington, Colorado. I am very familiar with municipal issues in general and Silt's issues specifically.

Silt's future is at a pivotal point. It is important for the Mayor and the Board of Trustees to have a deep understanding of the issues and the policies that will form the framework of Silt's growth not only for the next several years, but for the next 15 to 20 years. Having served as the Town Administrator in Silt for over five years, I believe I have a very strong grasp of those issues.

- **Budget and Finance** – As Town Administrator, my duties included preparing the budget, obtaining and managing bond and other financing instruments and applying for grants. I am very aware of every detail of our budget, including the principals of governmental fund accounting and our fund balances. I presented the Board of Trustees with budgets that posted surpluses, and I personally wrote or collaborated with other staff members in writing grants that netted 1.935 million dollars for various Town projects.
- **Development** – I am very aware of current developments and development regulations. I know the importance to the financial health of the community of obtaining sound commercial development. Commercial development brings higher property tax revenue (29% commercial assessment rate as opposed to a 7% residential assessment rate), and the potential for sales taxes – critical revenue to help maintain our streets, parks and other infrastructure. Sound commercial development can only come with commercial buildings that are attractive and comply with current building codes. As a local business owner, I am doing my part to contribute to that financial health.
- **Agreements** – I have a strong understanding of our current agreements. It was important for me to understand all of the Town's agreements in order to administer them properly. I familiarized myself with the agreements that preceded my time as Town Administrator as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. Since I was involved in negotiating many agreements, I understand those in even greater detail.

- **Municipal Code and Home Rule Charter** – Since one of the responsibilities of the Mayor and the Board of Trustees is to uphold the Silt Municipal Code, my familiarity with the code will be extremely beneficial. I am well aware of what the Mayor and the Board of Trustees are empowered to do, and, sometimes even more importantly, what they are not empowered to do.
- **Open Government** – The Open Meetings Law requires that a municipality conduct its business in open, public meetings, except for the very limited issues that may be subject to Executive Session. Private consultation with other board members regarding quasi-judicial matters, whether at lunch or via email, telephone or other means, is a violation of the Open Meetings Law. I will strictly follow the policy of open government.
- **Due Process** – Every municipality has specific processes for such issues as annexation, development, site plan review and other similar issues. The Mayor and Board of Trustees sit in what is known as a “quasi-judicial” capacity when these issues come before them. This means they sit in a similar capacity as a judge or jury in a trial. Just as it would violate a defendant’s right to unbiased, due process if a judge or member of the jury were to testify against a defendant and then pass judgment on his or her case, it is entirely inappropriate and a violation of an applicant’s due process for the Mayor or any Trustee to present evidence either for or against an applicant. I will not violate the due process rights of any applicant.
- **Conflicts of Interest** – Every public official will face a conflict of interest at some point. Knowing when to recuse oneself without being forced to do so by the Town Attorney or the Board of Trustees is one of the most important aspects of public office. I will recuse myself when necessary without being forced to do so.
- **Oil and Gas Development** – I am very aware of the impacts of oil and gas development and what we can and can’t do to control those impacts. I served on the Garfield County Energy Advisory Board from the time of its inception until I resigned my position at the Town.
- **Water** – I currently serve on the Silt Water Conservancy District board. I am very familiar with the critical water issues that we face as a municipality.

The Town of Silt can no longer afford to wait for someone to learn the importance of these issues and the proper role of the mayor. If you agree, please vote for the recall and for me.

Rick Aluise