

Timothy M. Herbst
First Selectman



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TOWN OF TRUMBULL CONNECTICUT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST SELECTMAN APPOINTS ELAINE HAMMERS TO THE TRUMBULL BOARD OF FINANCE

Former Trumbull State Representative, Town Finance Director to succeed the late William Crooks

TRUMBULL - First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst announced today that he has appointed Elaine Hammers to the Trumbull Board of Finance. Mrs. Hammers, a former State Representative and Board of Finance Chairwoman, also served as the Town's Finance Director. Mrs. Hammers will succeed the late William Crooks, who passed away last week. Mr. Crooks served as the Chairman of the board.

"In selecting a successor for my dear friend Bill Crooks, I kept coming back to the same question – who would Bill be most comfortable with?" said Herbst. "Each time I kept coming back to the same answer – Elaine Hammers." The First Selectman indicated that Crooks and Hammers had a mutual respect and close friendship for many years. "Elaine and Bill worked closely together when she was the Town's Finance Director and Bill was the Business Administrator for the Trumbull Public School System. During that time they developed a close friendship and strong working relationship. I know Elaine will honor Bill's legacy and continue his good work on behalf of the people of Trumbull."

The First Selectman also indicated that as the budget process is in full swing, it was critical to appoint a person to fill the vacancy who would be able to hit the ground running. "Elaine has a very strong command of the issues and understands the Town's finances and the Town budget. As Finance Director, Elaine implemented the Town's Munis System, which is currently in use, and also established a remediation plan to replenish the Town's General Fund Balance, which preserved the Town's bond rating. As a current member of the Town's Pension Board, Elaine has worked with her colleagues to develop an action plan to remediate the Town's pension fund. No one is better qualified to sit on the Board of Finance and I have every confidence that Elaine will represent the Trumbull taxpayers well."

Hammers expressed confidence and appreciation in carrying on the work of Crooks, who Hammers said was a close friend and colleague. "When the people of Trumbull elected Bill Crooks, they selected an honorable, dedicated and wonderful man who always put the best interests of the Town first. I will do my utmost to uphold his principles and work as hard as he did. It is an honor to fill out the remainder of his term."

Others praised Mrs. Hammer's selection. "It is a pleasure to have Elaine on the board, bringing her years of experience at this critical juncture. Elaine will bring the necessary leadership to the board that we will need during a tough budget cycle that is compounded by a tough economy," said Mark Smith, who succeeds Crooks as Chairman of the Board of Finance.

A 27 year resident of the Town of Trumbull, Mrs. Hammers is married with two grown children, both products of the Trumbull Public School System. Mrs. Hammers is a former executive with Exxon Office Systems and Air Products and Chemicals. She most recently served as a Vice President of Retirement Systems Group, headquartered in New York City. Mrs. Hammers currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer of her family's business. Mrs. Hammers is a graduate from Marymount Manhattan College and holds a Master's degree from Columbia University. In addition to previously serving as the Town's Finance Director and Chairwoman of the Board of Finance, Mrs. Hammers also previously served the Town of Trumbull as State Representative.