The Village of Central Lake has been in a state of turmoil over the past few months due to the resignation of its recently elected President, Walter Russell. Russell has been in a close race against apparent successor Village President, Larry Eckhard. Russell's tenure has been highlighted by controversy, misbehavior on his part and outspoken angry calls for him to resign and threats to launch a recall campaign against him if he doesn't.

The village council meeting on Monday, April 11, a woman in the audience read a prepared statement that was critical of Russell and the Village Clerk. She chastised him for not showing up in the office often enough to resolve issues regarding village business. Russell appeared uninterested in the criticism.

Last Friday, events may have taken a turn with Village President Pro-Tem, Brian Pat, sending a letter to Russell as well as the other council members and village department heads, informing them of his resignation. Pat is supposed to resign from the Central Lake Village Council effective April 22, 2011. His resignation was not unexpected. He has been the amount of time he has had to spend on village business matters that should have been attended to by Russell. He also mentioned that during the three days following the April 11 council meeting, he had to deal with 28 village issues at his place of business. These issues “should have been handled by Village President.” Paton wrote, adding that the村的business and personal life has reached its limit.”

Paton’s letter also verified the clerk’s comment that the village president not coming to the office enough, writing that Russell has “not been in the village office since January to talk face to face with our clerk.”

The community remained tight-lipped about Russell’s resignations. It did not appear that any council members support him in this decision. The village clerk also formally notified Russell’s resignation; however, to the locals in Central Lake, life is still full of smiles now that Armor Express is back in operation.

In addition to this, I do not understand how recalling the recently passed Healthcare Law will aid retirees with limited budgets, pre-existing conditions, and limited resources (especially in Michigan) to acquire the current coverage of Medicare Parts A and B. I would much rather invest my limited money into a Medicare rider that would provide and protect my better quality of service.

This brings me back to the topic of “The Path to Prosperity.” Who’s prosperity are we talking about? It can’t be mine. It can’t be my friends in Antrim County. They make about the same job (or a little more). I don’t know any of these men who made sure that the village president not coming to the office enough, writing that Russell has “not been in the village office since January to talk face to face with our clerk.”

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