

Robert Marsh

Meet the Candidates Event

Topic 1 Please tell the voters a little about yourself and what makes you a good candidate to help perform the crucial work of establishing Spring Lake.

Response

Good evening, I am Robert Marsh. I have loved living in Spring Lake for the past 31 years. Spring Lake has been the best place on earth to live and raise a family. I would first like to say that I know most of the candidates here tonight and I am so happy that we have so many individuals that love our community enough to be willing to take on a great deal of responsibility. These candidates are such good people and regardless of who is elected, I am thrilled that we will have great community leaders come November. I greatly appreciate Jason reading my response to both topics this evening. The reason Jason is reading this is because I'm out of town celebrating my 39th wedding anniversary with my wife Sandra. The two of us have 6 children, all of whom have grown up right here in Spring Lake. Some of our children attended this very elementary school. We live on the West side of I-15 and happen to be the last parcel to the North in the boundary of Spring Lake. I have held my breath with nervous anticipation over the years as I have received notice after notice from Payson City having a potential annexation that included our home, or the boundary line was the road in front of my home. Either way, these changes would have an impact on my family. High density housing seemed to always be in the mix, which was the very reason I left the City and moved here 31 years ago. I am not against homes being built. Everyone here tonight who has children knows that those children will need a home to live in. What I'm not happy to see is all the high density housing everywhere I turn.

I grew up on a farm and learned very early in life the importance of hard work. I have a strong love for my church and country, for freedom and liberty. I also learned the importance of helping each other. All of us are fortunate enough to live in a community that is so willing to help one another.

I believe I can contribute to this new town because of my experience working with the public almost every day. I have owned a used car dealership in Payson for the past 21 years. Being a successful business owner has helped me tremendously in the area of building trust and helping those in need of a vehicle. I understand the importance of revenue. I also know how absolutely critical it is to keep expenses where they should be. A major contributor to my success has been maintaining the highest level of integrity and using a common sense approach to all that comes along. When I first opened my business it was very eye opening with all the ordinances that I had to deal with. I had opened 4 other dealerships in 2 different states and never experienced the ordinances and city requirements like I did in Payson. This helped me understand two things. 1- Ordinances are helpful to maintain proper order and uniformity. 2- Its very important to get the ordinances right. I mentioned earlier my 6 children. I know and understand the many challenges that

growing families face. This is most helpful as it relates to the future of our town and the families currently living here and those that will move here in the future. There are those that are dealing with similar challenges today. I believe that the experiences in both family and profession will help me in fulfilling the responsibilities if I am elected.

Topic 2 Please share with the voters an overview of your vision for the future of Spring Lake.

Response

When I moved here 31 years ago, I was so happy to be back in the country and the small community atmosphere. One of my visions of Spring Lake moving forward would have it be the most welcoming and inviting place that anyone could ever live. As changes take place in the future, we will have new people move here. My neighbor Richard Lovell, just to the west of me, passed away recently. Whoever moves into his place hopefully will feel welcomed. We will have a **limited number** of new homes built in the coming years. I mentioned in my previous response the dislike for high density housing. **I am completely against this in our new town.** I do believe that any new homes that are to be built should be done in a thoughtful and fair manner. Planning and zoning will be paramount to limit any large scale developments. To maintain our township and not become a city, we need to keep our population under 1,000 residents. There needs to be some growth because the revenue that is needed to run a municipal township will increase as time passes. If nothing changes and we stay **exactly** the same, all of our property taxes will increase beyond what is acceptable and normal. The majority of revenue comes from the land owners and any businesses that generate sales tax. Although I don't see Spring Lake attracting big box retailers nor most retail type businesses, there are some types of business that could find this an attractive place to open up shop.

Some examples could be a nursery or a bed and breakfast, both of which generate sales tax. Having more land owners will increase the revenue needed to run our town. I feel strongly that those in our town whose land is used for agriculture should have ordinances that protect that use. So I do envision a lot of input from our citizens to come up with a viable way to keep a small town **small**, but expand the revenue base with limited new houses being built and some new businesses. I could talk about the amazing dreams that everyone living here might have and what living in the town of Spring Lake would be like. I could say "Hey, elect me and you'll all get a big fat check in the mail and have everything you want in life. Our town will have a walking trail with a covered bridge over Spring Lake that lights up at night, as well as a rec center and air conditioned covered parking for the future community buildings." But that would make me a true politician and I'm **definitely** not one of those. The fact of the matter is this. I do have a vision of super good people making very important decisions that will ultimately impact each one of us. Whoever those individuals are, they need to be good at listening to those who voice their opinions and concerns. Our elected leaders should do what the **majority** of residents want and not implement any personal ambitions. If our citizens don't voice their personal opinions then our leaders are left to do what they believe is best. I am a good listener and always use a

common sense approach to important matters. I look forward to our future Spring Lake and whoever our new town council will be.