

Candidates questioned at public forum

By Brian Ojanpa

Conlon, Dranttel and Genelin all consider economy to be Nicollet County's top concern

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ST. PETER — Three candidates for the Nicollet County District 1 Board of Commissioners seat fielded questions Monday at a public forum in St. Peter.

The gathering at Nicollet County Historical Society Treaty Site Center was hosted by the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce and Greater Mankato Growth as a prelude to the Aug. 10 primary election.

The three candidates — farmer Tom Conlon, certified public accountant Marie Dranttel and insurance agent Terry Genelin — are vying for the position being vacated by Judy Hanson. There was a 90-second response limit to questions submitted online and by the handful of citizens in attendance.

To the question “ What is the most pressing issue facing Nicollet County?” all three sounded a familiar refrain — the economy.

Dranttel said making available funds stretch will continue to be a challenge.

Genelin said likewise, adding that regulatory issues will also come to the fore.

“ We’ve got to pay attention to planning and zoning activities to grow the economy ... to grow the pie,” Genelin said.

Conlon added to the culinary metaphor: “ The pie is getting smaller and the gravy train from the state and federal government is drying up.”

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Clockwise from bottom left: Tom Conlon, Marie Dranttel and Terry Genelin.

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