

SECRETARY

HALLOFFAME

The longest-serving employee in Armagh Township, Mifflin County, **Brenda Aumiller** is the backbone of the community. The supervisors rely on her knowledge and skills, and the residents rely on her willingness to help.

'Our encyclopedia'

Brenda Aumiller

Armagh Township, Mifflin County

34 years

BY JILL ERCOLINO / MANAGING EDITOR

A young mother with spare time on her hands, Brenda Aumiller decided it was time to get a full-time job. The year was 1981, and Armagh Township in Mifflin County was looking for a secretary.

She remembers seeing the ad in the newspaper, filling out the application, and eventually sitting down for an interview with Richard Gayman, the board's chairman at the time.

"He looked at me and said, 'We want someone for the long haul, not someone who's going to leave in six months or a year,'" Aumiller recalls.

"Now that he has passed, I often think that the supervisors got what they wanted — and maybe more," she adds with a chuckle.

Putting taxpayers first

It shouldn't come as any surprise, though, that once Aumiller committed herself to the township, she has stayed put for more than three decades.

The secretary cares deeply about her



Brenda Aumiller, who's been the secretary for Armagh Township in Mifflin County for more than three decades, has played a pivotal role in the community and its growth. Her fans include the township supervisors, who say they wouldn't know what to do without her.

township, the place where she was born and raised, where she raised her own two children, and where her grandkids call home.

"I remember going to the playground that's still here today," she says. "It's just a nice community to grow up in."

And over the years, Aumiller returned the favor to her hometown by serving as the backbone of the municipality, where she spends her time helping residents, answering their questions, being the eyes and ears for the township supervisors, and volunteering with her church and community groups. She also is the former treasurer of the Mifflin County Association of Township Officials.

Glen Boyer, chairman of the township's board of supervisors, says he wouldn't know what to do without her.

"She does everything for me," he says, noting that anytime the supervisors need information about the township or why a former board took a particular action, they turn to Aumiller, the municipality's longest-serving employee. "She's our encyclopedia."

Aumiller is a bit more modest about her role in the township: "I work for the taxpayers, and everything I do is to benefit them."

That's meant learning the ins and outs of the Second Class Township Code and helping to update the township's comprehensive plan and land use-related ordinances and implement an onlot septic management program.

Along the way, she's also had to adjust to change. Aumiller says that when she began working for the township, everything was done by hand, and typewriter. That ended in the mid-'90s

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when the municipality bought its first computer.

“Now we’re doing everything electronically,” she says, adding that the computer has improved her efficiency and productivity.

Having access to the Internet has also enabled Aumiller to connect with township secretaries and other officials from across the state, many of whom are actively involved in “Discussion,” PSATS’ online community for local officials and employees.

No regrets

By today’s on-the-go standards, three-plus decades is an awfully long time to stay in one place. Aumiller, however, has no regrets about putting down roots in Armagh Township.

“Sure, you have to handle a lot of

complaints and answer a lot of questions, and when people have a problem, they’re going to find you,” she says, “but I’ve always really liked the job. It’s enjoyable.”

The supervisors are certainly glad she’s stuck around, too.

“I’ve never heard her say ‘no,’ and she will go the extra mile to solve a problem for us and the residents,” Boyer says. “She has a super attitude, and everybody just loves her. The whole township thinks the world of her.” ♦

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