

Former Dresden Supervisor Charles Tall Reappointed After Rival Withdraws Before Interview

By EJ Conzola II · Published July 30, 2026



James Huntington listens July 27 as newly appointed Town of Dresden Supervisor Charles Tall outlines his qualifications and plans during what had been scheduled as public interviews of the two candidates for the appointment to fill the remaining five months of former Supervisor Paul Ferguson's term. Tall and Huntington had put their names forward for the position but Huntington withdrew minutes before the interviews were set to begin, saying he had learned one of the three Town Board members had spoken out in opposition to his candidacy – making it impossible to win the appointment.

Photo Credit: EJ Conzola II

DRESDEN – Former Supervisor Charles Tall was returned to the position he lost in last year's general election after the only other person who had sought the appointment withdrew from consideration just minutes before the start of a public interview of the two applicants.

James Huntington told the recently revived Town Board – and the roughly 20 town residents who had turned out for the scheduled July 27 interview with the two aspirants – that he had heard one of the three board members say they would not support his bid and was therefore no longer interested in the appointment.

Huntington declined to identify the board member who he said had made up their mind before the interviews were even held.

"I refuse to be a pawn in this," Huntington said in announcing his decision. Rather than seek the appointment to fill the remaining 157 days of former Supervisor Paul Ferguson's term, Huntington said he plans to concentrate on winning the seat in the November general election.



James Huntington

Both Huntington and Tall have filed petitions to run as independents in November. Huntington also won the backing of the town Republican committee at that organization's caucus – defeating Tall 61-12, town GOP Chairman Scott Brown said.

Those caucus results had not been posted by the Washington County Board of Elections as of Monday night.

Because the town currently only has three board members, Huntington would have needed unanimous support to win the appointment. After Huntington's withdrawal, Tall received the backing of the three board members.

Several of those who came out to hear the candidates express their views on the issues facing the town voiced their disappointment with Huntington's decision.

Because they were unable to hear the qualifications and plans of the two supervisor hopefuls, "the voters are shortchanged," said resident Stephanie Aiken Copeland.

"We want to hear their voices," she said.

Even after Tall was appointed, the board offered both men the opportunity to answer a list of prepared questions board members had been prepared to ask them. Tall accepted, outlining his background, qualifications and some of his plans for dealing with critical issues such as a proposed battery energy storage facility facing the town. Huntington declined.

Tall had been appointed supervisor in October 2024 after Ferguson's first resignation, then won the remaining one year of Ferguson's unexpired term. However, he was defeated in the 2025 election by Ferguson, who had been drafted as a write-in candidate. But Ferguson had faced public criticism almost from the moment he took office and resigned after a particularly contentious meeting in February, leaving the town's top spot vacant.

Tall, Huntington and Dresden business owner Laura Generous sought the appointment but before the Town Board could act, board members Christine Diekel and Marc Brown – who had supported Ferguson – abruptly resigned, leaving the board without enough members to conduct town business. Gov. Kathy Hochul recently appointed Suzanne Shad to fill one of the two board vacancies, restoring the board to a functioning governing body. The appointment of a new supervisor was one of the first items on the board's agenda, with the interviews scheduled just a week after the Town Board was able to hold its first meeting in four months.

Generous had previously withdrawn from consideration for the supervisor's seat.

The board – with Tall once again in the supervisor's seat – will meet next at 7 p.m. Aug 10 to begin tackling the backlog of decisions the board was unable to make due to lack of a quorum. Among those decisions will be whether to impose a one-year moratorium on the development of battery storage facilities and begin to plan how to spend roughly \$470,000 in payments in lieu of taxes and host community funds expected to be received later this year from the developers of the Champlain Hudson Power Express project, which was built to carry hydropower from Quebec to New York City.