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## Milton Twp. revokes censure of assessor

By James Fuller  
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Maligned Milton Township Assessor Jim Gumm got what he sought for more than a year Tuesday night, though perhaps not as much as he'd hoped.

Township trustees voted 3-1 to revoke the censure they placed on him following a sexual harassment allegation by a former township employee. The censure acted as a symbolic disowning of Gumm and the accusations against him.

Gumm fought against the township's eventual settlement of the lawsuit stemming from those allegations, denying the claims all the way. He later filed his own lawsuit claiming a clandestine effort to smear his name and get him booted from office for raising property assessments on politically connected township residents.

That lawsuit was also recently settled, with one stipulation being the removal of the censure. Gumm believed it would be as close as he'd get to the township ever admitting they were wrong for buying into the harassment allegations.

"If people want to hate and continue to point fingers, they can," Gumm said. "I'm just tired of it. The idle gossip in politics is something that I guess you just can't get away from. I did the best I could for the people."

The lone vote against removing the censure was Trustee Jim Flickinger, who was one of the parties named in Gumm's lawsuit.

He would not comment on his "no" vote Tuesday night.

Gumm said Flickinger's "no" vote was "all about publicity" and made no sense given Flickinger's signing off on the settlement of Gumm's lawsuit.

Regardless of the vote, Gumm said it ends the battle between himself and township officials, which resulted in the end of Gumm's political career. Township GOP members supported a replacement candidate for Gumm as assessor in the last election. Gumm didn't even make it to the ballot. His term ends later this year.

Gumm said he decided to settle his lawsuit because he faces mounting health problems with his back and growing hatred for politics and gossip.

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