



## Andrew Potter Mayoral Candidate Statement

Dear Residents of Harbor Springs,

My first introduction to Harbor Springs was in 1985 while driving home from Minot Air Force Base, ND after serving 4 years in the United States Air Force. That same year, I was lucky enough to learn my college roommate was from Petoskey who would then take me to the area to include Harbor Springs on long weekends. I have been coming to Harbor Springs on boats and in automobiles ever since considering myself lucky to find a place in Harbor Springs to call home.

After retiring in law enforcement, I graduated from the University of Michigan earning my Master's Degree in Public Administration. I found my niche in "Community Development" working with the Village of Holly and Ortonville Downtown Development Authorities, the National Main Street Program, Planning Commissions, Zoning Board of Appeals, and County Economic Development entities in developing successful strategies in restarting and connecting community distress areas in need of economic growth to include historic downtowns. While serving as the City Administrator/Finance Director for Lathrup Village, I was involved in several infrastructure projects to include Cure-In-Place sewer pipe projects and the critical 3 million gallon Sewer Retention Tank pump and software updates that were critical to the transportation of product to the Detroit Sewer Department.

I was employed by the City of Harbor Springs for approximately 2.5 years. While employed for Harbor Springs, I attended every Board & Commission meeting. I was involved in every meeting relating to the FEMA Flood Plain project making recommendations along the way. In 2019, I wrote and was awarded a \$650,000 grant from the Michigan Waterway Ways Commission that the City had tried previously to get for the past 5-7 years. In 2020, I discovered the City Council had overlooked insurance carrier language relating to damaged docks. My single call to our insurance carrier resulted in a \$47,000 reimbursement to the Marina Fund. During COVID, I wrote a Petoskey Harbor Springs Community Foundation grant resulting in COVID19 reimbursement for \$5,000. I was also instrumental in highlighting the City was not using its Act 51 monies and the 2017 Streets and Sidewalk Millage to replace non-motorized walkways (sidewalks) resulting in the City amending the sidewalk ordinance language mandating the City would be responsible for 100 percent of any sidewalk replacement.

I am running for Mayor specifically because the trust between the tax payer, residents, and visitor have disappeared. Residents are afraid to voice an objection in fear of City Council retaliation. Fiscal responsibility is also gone replaced by careless "good ideas". Special favors are traded in plain view like the card game "go-fish". Honor, mutual respect, and an ethical responsibility between the community and the City Council is non-existent. As your next Mayor, you get over 32 years of municipal and governmental experience. With my election, your voice, your home, and your family will be considered in every decision; placing you alone at the top of the priority list – I promise.