Amanda Martin responses to Interview questions

Interview Questions 2026

What is your position on retaining or selling the Valley water system and reasons for that position? And why?

I believe we should not rush into a decision to either retain or sell the Valley water system at this time. Selling the system is a permanent decision—once it's gone, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to get it back. Because of that, it's critical that we approach this carefully and thoughtfully.

At the same time, I do think it's important that we evaluate all options. That includes fully understanding the costs of maintaining and improving the current system, as well as reviewing multiple offers if selling is being considered. We need to compare both the short-term and long-term financial impacts of each option.

Most importantly, I believe our community needs more education on this issue before any vote takes place. Residents should have clear, transparent information so they can make an informed decision that affects all of us.

What is your position on how to meet future budget requirements as costs increase?

I believe we should take a proactive approach to rising costs by considering adding a modest cost-of-living adjustment to our annual dues increases, helping us keep pace with inflation in a steady, predictable way.

We also have a committee working to identify new financial strategies, and their recommendations should be carefully considered. Just as importantly, we should continue encouraging feedback from neighbors to ensure decisions reflect the community's priorities.

Do you see any areas of the current budget that are over funded or underfunded? If so, which areas?

My personal belief is that the amenities category is underfunded, though I understand there are higher-priority needs that must be addressed first. For example our roads will require ongoing repairs and improvements, and I'd like to see additional paving happening in the future. It's important that we have a plan and budget for those long-term costs.

We should also account for cost-of-living increases for our employees, as well as the ongoing maintenance of existing equipment and the upkeep of our current buildings, to ensure we're protecting the value of what we already have.

What events or programs in the Valley would you like to see implemented or done away with if any?

I would like to see the implementation of an active neighborhood watch program to help improve safety throughout the community. I also believe we should consider adding roadside mirrors at blind intersections—I've personally donated one and hope the neighborhood will look at installing more to create safer roadways for all residents.

At the same time, I strongly support continuing community parties and events, as they help build connections and strengthen our sense of community.

Do you have the time necessary to devote to this position as it requires without it affecting other areas of your personal or professional life?
Yes.

Can you describe how you interpret and apply the Bylaws and Covenants in situations involving yourself and your friends?

I believe the Bylaws and Covenants should be applied fairly and consistently to everyone, without exception. That includes board members, friends, and myself—no one should receive special treatment.

Under what circumstances do you believe that a covenant or bylaw should not be followed?

I believe covenants and bylaws should be followed at all times, except in cases where a change has been properly approved by a neighborhood vote or when safety concerns require immediate action.

What are your ideas in regards to holding property owners accountable to the covenants and bylaws?

I believe accountability starts with clear structure and consistency in how warnings and fines are applied. Expectations should be enforced fairly so all residents are treated equally.

I also think education is key. I would like to see the board provide information about the rules by highlighting one section of the covenants or bylaws at each monthly meeting to help improve understanding, answer questions, and encourage compliance.

What is one current bylaw or covenant that you believe should be changed or updated and why?

One area I believe could be updated is the construction-related covenants. For example, we could consider allowing homes to have more than a three-car garage, provided the home's square footage remains larger than the garage so it stays proportional.

I would also be open to revisiting the cap on the number of lots that can be combined, as adjusting this could provide more flexibility for property owners while still maintaining the character of the neighborhood.

What experience do you have in a business environment?

I have held management positions with my last three employers, giving me strong experience in leadership, decision-making, and day-to-day operations. I also currently help run our family construction company, which has provided valuable insight into budgeting, project management, and long-term planning.

In addition, I have been working since I was 15 and have experience with organizations such as March of Dimes, the United States Postal Service, and other charitable organizations, which has strengthened my work ethic and commitment to serving others.

What is your experience with Google Documents, Sheets, Excel, and zoom?

I have experience using Google Docs, Google Sheets, Excel, and Zoom from my previous employment. I am comfortable using these tools for communication, organization, and basic data management.

Are you willing to sign a confidentiality agreement?

Yes.

GVL has a wonderfully diverse mix of residents, many of whom live here full-time and many who are here part-time. Because people have different schedules and levels of availability, not everyone is able to stay consistently up-to-date on what's happening in the community. What concrete ideas do you have for strengthening communication and encouraging broader involvement across all resident groups in the activities and decisions that shape Grand Valley Lakes?

I believe improving communication starts with making information more accessible and convenient. One idea is to implement a texting system that allows updates and important

notices to be sent directly to residents' phones, helping reach both full-time and part-time homeowners more effectively.

In addition, we've recently added subcommittees to support future planning, which I think is a great step. Offering both in-person and Zoom meeting options, along with encouraging residents to submit suggestions, helps create more opportunities for involvement and ensures a wider range of voices are heard.

What do you feel GVL's top needs and priorities are for the community as a whole?

I believe GVL's top priorities are water, roads, and overall safety. It's essential that we budget responsibly for the maintenance and long-term upkeep of our roads, buildings, and equipment, while also ensuring we can continue to provide fair wages for our employees.

What are your thoughts on how to bring in more funds for the needs of the community without raising our dues higher than the annual cost of living?

I believe we should focus on creative ways to generate additional revenue, with the goal of not placing a heavier burden on residents—while recognizing that these efforts will only be successful if they are supported and backed by the community. One option is encouraging residents to help promote lodge rentals and community events to increase usage and income. We could also consider offering beach or guest passes as another revenue source.

In addition, we already host several fundraising events each year to help offset dues, and increasing participation—along with encouraging residents to invite guests—can further improve their success and revenue.

We should also look for ways to better utilize the resources we already have. This could include re-exploring opportunities such as carbon credits, responsible timber harvesting, hosting events, or leasing small hunting parcels where appropriate.

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