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Forks delays vote on board chairman

By: Jan Schott

The annual reorganization meeting of the Forks Township board of supervisors got off to a slow start Tuesday night due to the absence of current chairman David Hoff. The remaining four supervisors voted to table action on selecting a new chairman, vice chairman and secretary/treasurer for 2007 until Jan. 18.

The board did approve their meeting schedule for the new year though, voting to continue meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, with work sessions to be held if necessary 30 to 60 minutes before the regular meetings. Planning commission meetings will be held on the second Thursday of the month.

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Attorney Karl Kline will continue as the board's solicitor at a fee of \$130 per hour, and Frederick Hay will also continue to serve as the township's engineer. Brian Weis was voted in as fire chief, with Charles Gallagher serving as deputy fire chief. Tim Weis will continue to serve as zoning officer in addition to holding the position of emergency management coordinator.

Richard Bassett and Police Chief Greg Dorney were approved as assistant emergency management coordinators. The board noted that Dorney would serve in this capacity until the township hires a new township manager. The board is currently conducting second interviews for this position.

As part of their regular meeting, the board voted to table a request from Supervisor David Howell, who is also on the township's community relations board, to hire WSI as the township's internet web host. The web host stores the township's web site data, Howell explained, and Newnet is the township's current web host.

"WSI is an internationally known web host and they can offer us ten times the storage space, local support and coaching and training to expand web site services," Howell told the board. "Time is of the essence because Newnet wants their entire bill paid in advance."

Both companies charge about \$360 per year for their services, but WSI offers monthly billing of \$29.99, he added. Supervisors John Ackerman and Bonnie Nicholas requested that representatives from both companies bring in their contracts for board perusal and wanted to know if the township's web site would be compatible to a new web host.

The board also voted to purchase a new digital video recorder (DVR) to replace one damaged by a lightning strike. The device records activity around the municipal building and currently displays a snowy video "like a bad TV," Nicholas said. The new DVR will cost \$7,000 to \$8,000, and the old one will be kept for back-up, she added.