



## THE EXPRESS-TIMES

### Forks supervisors fill manager void

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By **COURTNEY LOMAX**  
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FORKS TWP. | Supervisors unanimously agreed Thursday to hire Rick Schnaedter as township manager with a starting salary of \$70,000.

He will begin work Monday.

"The board spent many hours and nights interviewing," supervisors Chairman David Hoff said.

Schnaedter, 58, has 20 years experience as a municipal manager. He worked in Vermont, Illinois and Pennsylvania. He served as the borough manager of Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

"I wanted to come back to Pennsylvania," Schnaedter said of his decision to work in Forks Township.

Schnaedter currently lives in Oaks, Pa., and plans to move into an apartment in Easton until he and his wife find a home.

He called Forks Township supervisors and office staff stable and professional.

The township has been without a manager since supervisors fired four-year township manager Cathy Kichline in July. The 2006 budget included \$65,000 for Kichline's salary.

Former Township Manager George Gemmel was asked to resign in 2002.

Schnaedter said he isn't worried about managers' track records in the township.

"(I) can't be concerned about what has happened in the past," he said. "The process has been going on for six months," Schnaedter said explaining he has had time to get to know the supervisors.

More than 30 applicants expressed interest in the position in September. The number was narrowed down to four in January.

Supervisor Donald Miller said supervisors agreed on the top three candidates and Schnaedter was one of the three.

Schnaedter's municipal experience set him apart from the other candidates, supervisors said.

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