



THE EXPRESS-TIMES

Forks puts retiree to work

new Public works director held similar position in Bucks.

Friday, April 06, 2007

By **COURTNEY LOMAX**
The Express-Times

FORKS TWP. | Supervisors unanimously agreed Thursday to hire Mark Roberts as the township's new public works director.

Roberts, 53, of Pohatcong Township will begin work April 30 with a starting salary of \$59,000.

The township has been without a director since January, when supervisors demoted former Director Gary Sandt to the road crew. Sandt's 2007 salary was budgeted at \$60,570.

Roberts was the public works director in New Britain Township, Bucks County, for 30 years until he retired in 2005. Since then he has worked as an equipment manager for Drum Construction Company.

"I'm retired and I miss the work," Roberts said after supervisors approved his appointment.

Roberts' experience in New Britain will transfer to his work in Forks Township, he said.

"(The township is) very similar to New Britain with growth issues," Roberts said. "I've been through a growth spurt and I know what they are going through."

Supervisor John Ackerman said Roberts stood out from the 28 applicants vying for the job.

"When we questioned him he didn't have to hesitate before he answered," said Ackerman, co-chairman of the Public Works Committee.

The township needed to hire someone who could manage the other public works employees, Ackerman said.

After a three-month probationary period, Roberts will be eligible for a \$1,500 salary increase, Ackerman said.

"I think he is going to be a very excellent person for our public works department," Ackerman said.

Reporter Courtney Lomax can be reached at 610-258-7171 or by e-mail at clomax@express-times.com.

© 2007 The Express Times

© 2007 PennLive.com All Rights Reserved.