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Forks Twp. official fired manager CAthy Kichline is out. Supervisors won't say why.

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By SARAH MAUSOLF
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FORKS TWP. | After emerging from a nearly three-hour closed-door session, supervisors voted unanimously Monday to fire township Manager Cathy Kichline.

Supervisors failed to provide a specific reason during the meeting.

Under state law, the township manager serves at the pleasure of the board and can be removed at the members' discretion, Solicitor Karl Kline said.

Supervisors Chairman David Hoff declined to elaborate on what prompted the decision, saying it's a personnel issue. A recent controversy over a \$2,982 table in the lobby of the new municipal building had nothing to do with it, he said.

Kichline could not be reached for comment at home Monday night.

Kline said he and Kichline's lawyer, Lawrence B. Fox of Bethlehem, have started discussions about a severance package. Kline declined to comment on the terms of the negotiations while they are ongoing. He expects action on the severance package at the July 20 supervisors meeting.

Kichline has served as township manager since September 2002. This year's budget lists her salary at \$65,000.

Supervisors plan to advertise the manager position later this month or in August, Hoff said. The ad will include a salary range, he said. No exact timetable exists for filling the position.

As they work to find a new manager, supervisors will oversee the township through their committee system, Hoff said.

A legal advertisement in The Express -Times said the purpose of Monday's special meeting was to consider "restructuring management responsibilities and to transact any other business which may come before the board." Supervisors left the board room to discuss personnel matters at about 7 p.m. and returned at 9:45 p.m.

Kichline oversaw a \$10 million building project, including a new municipal building, fire station and police department. Property taxes the township levies remained steady during her time in office.

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