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## No raise for Forks zoning solicitor

### Supervisors decide not to hike his rate to \$145 per hour.

By Tom De Martini

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Forks Township supervisors last week balked at increasing the pay rate of Zoning Hearing Board solicitor Michael Shay to \$145 per hour.

At their annual board reorganization meeting, the supervisors deadlocked in a 2-2 vote on a motion to grant Shay an hourly increase from \$100 per hour.

The increase would have made Shay's hourly rate equal to that of township solicitor Karl Kline.

Supervisor C. David Howell, whom the board voted in for a second term as chairman, and Supervisor Erik Chuss voted in favor of the increase, with Vice Chairwoman Bonnie Nicholas and Supervisor Robert Egolf weighing in against the motion.

Supervisor Donald Miller was absent because of a death in his family.

Both Nicholas, who garnered the vice chairman title earlier in the meeting, and Egolf said they couldn't swallow such a large rate increase for Shay after increasing taxes by 10 percent in the 2009 budget.

Howell said Shay has not received a rate increase for his Zoning Hearing Board duties in more than five years.

Chuss noted Shay has defended the township well against a two-year zoning challenge by developer KMRD LP, which has proposed a 3,000-home development.

Supervisors will address the matter of Shay's hourly compensation at a future meeting.

Egolf also railed at Keystone Engineering after supervisors voted a 4 percent increase for members of the firm and township engineer Fred Hay.

Egolf expressed annoyance that Keystone's financial rate request was not received Dec. 30 and asked that future requests are given to the board in a more timely fashion.

#### Williams Township

No changes in the Williams Township Board of Supervisors were made at last week's reorganization meeting, according to Township Manager Deborah Patterson.

Supervisor Sally Hixson retained her position as chairwoman of the three-member board with Robert Doerr serving another term as vice chairman.

#### Lower Mount Bethel

Township supervisors voted Luis Santiago Jr. to the chairman position during last week's reorganization meeting, according to township secretary Lori Stauffer.

Santiago replaces former Supervisor Chairman Frank Capobianco. Susan Disidore retained the position of vice chairwoman. Supervisors Charles Palmeri and Alfred DiFelice round out the board.

#### Glendon

Tom Hodge retains the top Borough Council post in Glendon as reorganization in the 0.79-square-mile borough takes place only during even-numbered years.

Tom De Martini is a freelance writer.

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