

From The Morning Call

March 2, 2007

Forks hires experienced municipal official as township manager

By Madeleine Mathias Of The Morning Call

For the first time in seven months, Forks Township will have a township manager on duty Monday morning.

Township supervisors voted Thursday night to hire Richard C. Schnaedter of Oaks, Montgomery County, to replace Cathy Kichline, who was fired by the board in July 2006.

Schnaedter will receive a \$70,000 salary, three weeks' vacation, five personal days, full medical benefits and a cell phone, supervisors Chairman David Hoff said.

Hoff said Schnaedter will bring to the township many years of experience as a township, town and borough manager.

The supervisors fired Kichline, who had held the post for four years, July 10 after a three-hour executive session. The board never gave a reason for the dismissal. Solicitor Karl Kline said the board "felt it was time to move in a new direction." He said she was not fired for any willful misconduct.

The supervisors began a search for a new township manager in August. They received 48 applications, culling that in October to nine.

The supervisors also had agreed to review the township manager ordinance to clarify what his or her responsibilities would be.

During the months the township had no manager, Hoff said, members of the staff and supervisor committees have handled administrative duties.

Schnaedter has been in municipal government for more than 25 years, beginning with an administration manager post in Glen Ellyn, Ill., from 1976-84.

His latest job was as town manager in Randolph, Vt., from 2003-06.

In between, he was a borough administrator in Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill County; borough manager in Yeadon, Delaware County; township manager of Lower Providence, Montgomery County; town manager in Milton, Vt.; and assistant village manager in Streamwood, Ill.

He said one of his most important tasks will be to ensure all supervisors and staff are working toward the same goals.

Schnaedter, who is married with two grown children, received a bachelor's degree in political science from Buena Vista University in Iowa and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

A resident of Oaks since 1991, Schnaedter said he plans to move to Forks.

madeleine.mathias@mcall.com

610-559-2144

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