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## **3 months later, supervisors elect chairman**

### **After indecision in January, Forks board names David Hoff.**

By Joe Nixon Of The Morning Call

It turned out to be a title-swapping night for the Forks Township supervisors Thursday as the five-member panel, while still split, managed a majority vote to elect a chairman.

The panel failed to produce a majority vote for a leader at its Jan. 3 reorganization meeting, but decided Thursday to approve David Hoff on a 3-2 vote with John Ackerman and Bonnie Nicholas casting the dissenting votes. Nicholas had nominated Ackerman, the chairman until Thursday, but his candidacy got only two votes. Ackerman had retained the chairman's job because of the lack of a majority vote in January.

Hoff's election as the current chairman set off a chain reaction of other moves because as chairman, he could not also serve in his previous role as board secretary-treasurer. In the end, Supervisor C. David Howell was voted in as secretary-treasurer on a 3-2 vote, with Ackerman and Nicholas dissenting. Howell, who was elected vice chairman in January, had to give up that post to be secretary-treasurer and Supervisor Donald Miller was then unanimously elected board vice chairman.

Ackerman declined a nomination from Hoff to be vice chairman.

Hoff was nominated for chairman at the reorganization meeting, but declined to vote for himself at the time. He served as supervisor chairman from 1998 to 2002 before Ackerman took the helm.

Hoff explained Thursday that back in January he wanted to continue working with the township's new finance manager, a position he advocated. "The way things were set up, the secretary-treasurer's job handled that," he said. "We've since switched to the committee system." In the committee system, Hoff serves on the administration/finance committee with Howell. "I will still be part of that process. Nothing changes with the committee structure."

Howell raised the issue of taking another try at electing a chairman. "It is incumbent upon the legislative branch to elect a chairman and that's all I'm saying," he said. "Not to [elect someone] is a disservice to our responsibilities."

In other business Thursday, supervisors authorized solicitor Karl Kline to draw up a resolution establishing a liquor license transfer application and fee process.

Howell said the procedure, in place in other communities, will allow township officials to be well prepared for any liquor license transfer hearings.

He said the township was unprepared for a liquor license transfer hearing earlier this year in which the operators of Big Woody's sports bar restaurants in Allentown applied to open a location along Sullivan Trail.

Supervisors agreed the township would charge \$1,000 for the initial hearing and \$750 for a second hearing. Township Manager Cathy Kichline said the fees will cover the cost of advertising the hearings and hiring a stenographer to make a record of the session.

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