

MIDDLETOWN

Marseglia steps down; board fails to name replacement

By CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES

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Bucks County Commissioner-elect Diane Marseglia resigned her Middletown supervisor post at Tuesday night's meeting and the board failed in an early attempt to appoint her replacement.

Marseglia, who had more than four years left on her latest six-year supervisor term, said she decided to step down now rather than wait until she is sworn in as commissioner sometime during the first week of January.

"I am submitting this resignation so that I can prepare for my position as Bucks County commissioner and my replacement can become involved with the 2008 budgeting process," said Marseglia, a Democrat. "It is with reluctance and sadness that I hereby relinquish my position as a Middletown supervisor. This has been a tremendously rewarding experience and one I hope I have served well."

A motion by Republican Supervisor Chairwoman Lisa Pflaumer to appoint Democrat Chuck Thompson as Marseglia's replacement failed by a 2-2 vote. Pflaumer and Democrat Robert McMonagle voted yes and Republicans John J. Kelly III and Jasper Caro no.

The remaining four supervisors have 30 more days to appoint Marseglia's replacement, said township solicitor Mike Savona. If that fails, a vacancy board consisting of the four supervisors and vacancy board Chairman Bill Cosen, a Democrat, would have 15 days to fill the post. After that, the matter would go to Bucks County Court, Savona said.

Whoever is appointed to replace Marseglia, 46, would have to run and win in Middletown's next municipal election [2009] to retain the seat, he added.

Pflaumer said she nominated Thompson as Marseglia's replacement because he was the next-highest vote getter behind winners McMonagle and Republican George Leonhauser in last week's election.

"It would seem he would be the people's choice for this," Pflaumer said.

Marseglia was a supervisor from 1997 to 2003 before losing the 2003 election. She was then elected again in 2005.

She said she will give up her other two jobs — social worker for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit working at Pennsbury High School and part-time instructor at the College of New Jersey — when she assumes the \$81,513-a-year commissioner post.

"We commend you for your service to the community and hope you will visit and stay active in the community," Pflaumer told Marseglia.