

## MIDDLETOWN

## Motion to appoint supervisor fails

By **CHRIS ENGLISH STAFF WRITER**

*Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or .*

A motion to appoint Republican Russ Kavana to the Middletown Board of Supervisors as the replacement for Lisa Pflaumer failed Tuesday after a stormy debate.

Republicans Jasper Caro and George Leonhauser voted for Kavana, a township zoning hearing board member, while Democrats Robert McMonagle and Chuck Thompson voted no. Pflaumer, a Republican, resigned March 25 to spend time with her family and concentrate on her business.

McMonagle questioned Kavana's integrity by saying he took a "payoff " from a developer who had an application pending before the zoning board. McMonagle was referring to a \$2,500 contribution by Reedman/Toll Auto World owner Bruce Toll and \$500 contribution from attorney Ed Murphy to the Middletown Republican Party when Kavana was running for supervisor last year.

Toll has a proposal to demolish the dealership's test track and build a shopping center on Route 213. The deal includes a donation of land for a community center. Toll had applied for zoning variances as part of what he needed for the project.

Kavana, a supervisor from 1987 to 1995, said he had come out against the project even before he was aware of the contributions to the party. After he was aware of them, he voted against the variances.

"I have never let anything like that sway my vote," he said. "[McMonagle] has slandered me."

Thompson was appointed to the board last year after county Commissioner Diane Marseglia resigned. In voting for Thompson, Pflaumer said he was essentially the "people's choice" because he finished third in the November election, behind McMonagle and Leonhauser.

Kavana finished fourth, and Caro said he would be the next logical choice for a seat on the board based on that vote. McMonagle said he did not support Thompson because of the vote but because he possessed the qualities necessary to make a good supervisor.

The supervisors have until April 24 to appoint a replacement. If they can't, the matter goes to a vacancy board and then, if still unresolved, to Bucks County Court.