

## MIDDLETOWN / FALLS

## Finance director switches townships

*Middletown's finance director said she was looking for a "different set of challenges" in accepting the same position at Falls.*

By CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES

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Middletown finance director Betsy Reukauf is moving over a township to take the same position in Falls.

Reukauf, Middletown's finance director for five years, will finish there March 14 and start in Falls on March 17. Her starting annual salary of \$76,000 will be \$2,000 more than she was making in Middletown.

"I have enjoyed my years in Middletown and will miss my co-workers here," said Reukauf. "It's been a pleasure to serve the residents, but I was looking for a different opportunity and a different set of challenges."

Falls Manager Peter Gray, who hired Reukauf, said she was the most qualified among the 15 applicants for the job.

"She has the background and experience in municipal accounting," said Gray. "I'm sure she will do fine."

Reukauf replaces Jo Ann Rodgers, whose last day in Falls was Feb. 15. While Gray on Monday would say only that Rodgers and the township had "parted ways," Supervisor Dorothy Vislosky said during a recent public meeting that Gray had fired Rodgers, a claim Gray didn't deny Monday.

Reukauf said she isn't concerned about the rather volatile political atmosphere in Falls, where Vislosky and Phil Szupka often battle with the other three board members, Robert Harvie, Jonathan Snipes and Jim Prokopiak.

"I always perform my job to the best of my ability and am nonpartisan," said Reukauf. "I serve the board, but my primary function is to serve the residents of the township to the best of my ability, and that's what I plan to do for Falls."

Reukauf said she would continue to work for Middletown during her off hours after March 14 to help with the transition. Her pay as an independent contractor has not been determined, she said.

"It won't affect my job in Falls," said Reukauf.

Middletown Manager Richard Gestrich said the opening will be posted internally for three days and then advertised in newspapers and trade publications. He hopes to have a replacement for Reukauf by the end of the month.

The new finance director will start at an annual salary between \$56,575 and \$80,543, depending on experience and other factors, Gestrich said. Middletown is looking for someone with a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field and at least five years of professional accounting experience involving fiscal and budgetary activities, preferably in a nonprofit or government operation.

The applicant can have only three years' experience if he or she also has a master's degree in business administration, public accounting or public administration or a certified public accounting certification, Gestrich said.