

## Search for new police chief begins

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middletown

Supervisors are not limiting the scope of their search for a police chief, the board chairman said.

Middletown hopes to advertise for a new police chief by the end of March, Supervisor Chairman Tom Gallagher said.

Gallagher said the board would like to approve a job description and requirements for the position at either Monday night's meeting or the March 15 meeting. If that happens, an advertisement would be placed in local and national media outlets soon after, he said.

Candidates both inside and outside the township police department will be welcome to apply, Gallagher said.

"There could be candidates from all over the country," he said. "We're not limiting our scope. We want the best individual for the job. That doesn't mean local talent isn't the best, but we're not limiting ourselves solely to that."

A previous board intended to move back to a police chief system, from a public safety director system, late last year. And the board planned to name acting Public Safety Director Patrick McGinty as the new police chief. Feeling that naming a new chief should be a decision made by the newer board, which took office in January, Supervisors Patrick Mallon and Drew Kreiling obtained a court injunction preventing any action by the previous board. Mallon, Kreiling and Tom Gallagher took office in January.

The parties battling over the police chief issue reached an agreement that stipulates the township will not switch back to a police chief system until a new chief is named. McGinty will remain in his acting public safety director position until then, the agreement stated. He was promoted from lieutenant to his current position in January 2009 after the township could not nail down a permanent PSD.

McGinty, 60, has the most seniority in the department at 36 years. He plans to apply for the police chief position.

McGinty is enrolled in the township's Deferred Retirement Option Plan and would be required under that program to retire in August 2011.

However, if he gets the police chief job, McGinty said he would ask the supervisors to extend his retirement date.

"The supervisors are allowed to do that, and I would ask them to because there are things I would like to work on beyond that date if I'm named chief," he said.

If he doesn't get the chief's job, McGinty said he would retire on schedule.

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