

MIDDLETOWN

Supervisors split over board replacement

They're looking to fill another vacancy after the second resignation in five months.

By **CHRIS ENGLISH STAFF WRITER**

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Two Republican supervisors in Middletown think fellow GOP member Russ Kavana would make a good replacement for Lisa Pflaumer on the board.

The two Democratic supervisors disagree. All four supervisors, Republicans Jasper Caro and George Leonhauser and Democrats Robert McMonagle and Chuck Thompson are looking for someone to fill the seat vacated by Pflaumer, a Republican who resigned March 25 to spend more time with her family and concentrate on her at-home chocolate business.

The four remaining board members have 30 days from March 25 to appoint a replacement. If they can't, the matter would move to a vacancy board and, if still unresolved, to Bucks County court.

Caro thinks Kavana, a township zoning hearing board member and former supervisor, is the best candidate to replace Pflaumer. Kavana, who got 3,896 votes in the November election for supervisor, was fourth in that race behind McMonagle (4,709), Leonhauser (4,145) and Thompson (4,117).

Thompson was appointed supervisor on Dec. 18 to replace Bucks County Commissioner Diane Marseglia. At the time, Pflaumer said Thompson was essentially the "people's choice" as an appointee because he finished third, just behind the two winners, in the November election.

Kavana was just behind Thompson and the same logic should apply now that the board is looking for another replacement, said Caro.

"He's been a supervisor in the past, and all those things together are telling me Russ should get the job," said Caro. "He can hit the ground running."

"Russ has experience and was close in the election," added Leonhauser. "He's a viable candidate."

McMonagle said he voted for Thompson as Marseglia's replacement not because of the November vote tally but because Thompson had the "volunteer activism, intellect and other qualities necessary to be a good supervisor."

McMonagle and Thompson said they would not vote for Kavana as Pflaumer's replacement.

"He ran the worst, most sleazy campaign I have ever witnessed," said Thompson. "The voters rejected Russ Kavana. He would be the worst possible candidate for that position."

Kavana, a supervisor from 1987 to 1995, said he would be interested in being appointed as Pflaumer's replacement and denied Thompson's allegations.

"We didn't say anything in the campaign that was not true," said Kavana. "I don't know if anyone has more experience than me for this job. For the good of the township, I think I'm the best choice."

Any township resident interested in the position can e-mail McMonagle at or township Manager Richard Gestrich at . Interested residents can also send a

letter of interest to the township building at 3 Municipal Way, Langhorne, PA 19047.



Kavana