

Middletown supervisors OK basketball court construction

By *CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES*
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More basketball is coming, but volleyball will have to wait.

The Middletown supervisors Tuesday night approved a notice of intent to award a \$59,990 contract to K.E. Seifert Inc. of Langhorne for construction of a full basketball court in the Cobalt Ridge section of the township.

However, a sand volleyball court in Forsythia Crossing Park in the Forsythia Gate section was put on hold when the same company's low bid of \$59,716 came in more than three times the township engineer's cost estimate of \$17,000.

"I'm surprised at the cost," said township Engineer Herb Gery. "It involves some excavation, an underdrain and filling an area with sand, but obviously the contractors feel there is something else going on."

Township officials will look into whether the Public Works Department can handle construction of the volleyball court, though Public Works Director Rick Wendel indicated at Tuesday night's meeting he didn't think his workers could take on the job.

"I have a problem whacking the taxpayers for \$60,000 for a volleyball court that is essentially a sand pit," said Supervisor Robert McMonagle.

The Seifert firm will be awarded the contract for the basketball court in two or three weeks if township officials confirm the company meets all requirements of the township's responsible contractor ordinance, something that happens in all but a few cases.

The full basketball court will be built at Cobalt Ridge Park and will replace a half court there now.

The new court will be constructed at a location in the park farther away from houses so, hopefully, games won't disturb neighbors, said township Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna.

She hopes the new basketball court can be completed by late summer.