

MIDDLETOWN

Manager to seek price on lift truck

One supervisor said he thought the price on the truck could be lowered by at least \$15,000.

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The Middletown supervisors will leave it up to township Manager Ray Stepnoski to determine how to get the best price on an aerial lift truck that will be used to trim tall trees and do other work in township parks and streets.

The board made that decision at Tuesday night's meeting after Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna had recommended buying the truck through a state bid program called Co-Stars for a price of \$78,398. She said state officials have already gone through the process of determining the best price on items before they are put up for sale through the program.

However, Supervisor Robert McMonagle believed the township could possibly get a price around \$55,000 or \$60,000 by calling around to companies in Middletown and the surrounding area.

"Middletown dealers deserve a shot at this contract," he said.

If during that informal process it looked like the Co-Stars price could be lowered, the township could then go through the formal bidding process for the truck, added township solicitor Mike Savona.

In the end, the supervisors voted 3-2 to leave it in the hands of Stepnoski.

"He can determine what the most economical way is," Savona said.

Stepnoski was absent from Tuesday night's meeting.

McMonagle, Chuck Thompson and Kathy Heuer voted to leave the matter with Stepnoski. Supervisors George Leonhauser and Jasper Caro voted against that motion and indicated they favored following Lamanna's recommendation.

"I think we can rely on Mrs. Lamanna and her prowess on this," said Leonhauser.

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