

## MIDDLETOWN

## Township bids farewell to police chief

*Frank McKenna received a gold watch, a certificate of appreciation and two standing ovations at the supervisors meeting.*

By **CHRIS ENGLISH**  
STAFF WRITER

The Middletown supervisors, fellow officers and audience members bid a fond farewell to police Chief Frank McKenna at Tuesday night's meeting.

McKenna, 73, is retiring after 51 years on the Middletown force, the last 20 as chief. His last day is Friday.

Township Manager Ray Stepnoski guided the audience through a PowerPoint presentation with pictures and highlights of McKenna's career. He started on the Middletown force as a patrol officer in 1957 and quickly rose through the ranks, making detective in 1959, sergeant in 1961, detective sergeant in 1967, lieutenant in 1971 and chief in 1988.

McKenna is the longest-serving police officer in the state, Stepnoski said.

"He's had an absolutely remarkable career," said Stepnoski. "He has really served his community well."

During the meeting, McKenna received a gold ESQ Swiss watch and a certificate from the supervisors in appreciation for his years of service. He also received two standing ovations.

"This has been a special time in my life, and being a police officer has essentially been my entire adult life," said McKenna. "It will be difficult to leave this position, but the most difficult thing will be leaving the people I've worked with. I think we've accumulated the finest bunch of people in uniform in the state of Pennsylvania."

Middletown is replacing McKenna with a public safety director, but hasn't nailed down an employment agreement with any of several candidates interviewed for the position. After McKenna leaves, Patrick McGinty and James Kane, both lieutenants, will step in to lead the department until a public safety director is hired, Stepnoski said Tuesday night.

"They are two capable people and we'll utilize their talents," he said.

McKenna said that when he leaves and until a director is hired, Kane will oversee the patrol division and McGinty will oversee criminal investigations. Both will report to Stepnoski, said McKenna.

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Frank McKenna