

MIDDLETOWN

Acting director of public safety named

— *Chris English, 215-949-4193*

Lieutenant Patrick McGinty has been named acting director of public safety in Middletown, both McGinty and township Manager Ray Stepnoski confirmed Friday.

The appointment was effective at 4:30 p.m. Friday when Police Chief Frank McKenna's retirement became official, McGinty said.

McGinty will head the department until a permanent director is hired, he said. The township has interviewed several candidates but has been unable to nail down an employment agreement.

McGinty applied to be permanent public safety director but has been notified by letter he is not in the running, he said. The Middletown supervisors had voted last year to switch from chief to public safety director when McKenna retired.

With McKenna's retirement, McGinty has the most seniority in the department with 34 years, a few more than Middletown's other lieutenant, James Kane.

McGinty, 59, started as a patrol officer in Middletown in 1974. He lives in the Highland Park section of the township.

"We'll just move forward with programs and issues as they come up," said McGinty. "It's a good department and, hopefully, this will be a positive thing and we'll move forward."

Stepnoski said McGinty will get a raise and be paid at the rate of \$100,000 a year while he is acting public safety director, the same salary the township plans to pay a permanent director when one is hired.

Though McGinty's exact salary as a lieutenant was unavailable, the raise is not that significant, Stepnoski said.

"It's not much of a bump," he said. "Both the lieutenants are handsomely compensated."

Though he is retired, McKenna will be the "face" of the Middletown department at the funeral of Officer Chris Jones, said McGinty. Jones was killed Thursday in an accident on the Route 1 Superhighway after stopping a motorist for speeding.