

## Search for new chief narrowed to three

09 Jul 2010 — Bucks County Courier Times

middletown

An announcement on a new police chief could be made at the Aug. 2 meeting, one supervisor said.

The search for a new Middletown police chief is down to three finalists, but there won't be an announcement on a new chief at Monday night's supervisors meeting, board member Patrick Mallon said.

Mallon, the supervisor who has coordinated most aspects of the search, had initially hoped there would be news by Monday's meeting. However, second interviews with the three final candidates, background checks and other items will push any announcement until probably the Aug. 2 meeting, he said.

"My best guess is that if everything moves forward, we'll have an announcement by that first meeting in August," Mallon said. "These are three really solid candidates the board members feel very positive about, so it won't be an easy choice. We can't rush these checks and other things we have to do. At the same time, we'd like to get this behind us so we can focus on other areas of township government."

The supervisors have kept a tight lid on information about candidates, and Mallon declined to say whether the three finalists are outside or internal candidates.

Acting Public Safety Director Patrick McGinty is currently in charge of the police department. He was interviewed by a special search committee for the chief's job, but wouldn't say whether he's one of the three finalists.

The seven-person search committee made up of people who live or work in Middletown reviewed 37 job applications, interviewed 14 candidates and recommended seven for the supervisors to interview. They interviewed six and have since narrowed the field to three, said Mallon.

McGinty was promoted from lieutenant to acting public safety director early last year. The township will switch back to a police chief system from a public safety director one once a new chief is in place.

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*"Search for new chief narrowed to three" Bucks County Courier Times 09 Jul 2010: B7*