

## Farry not interested in manager job

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A state representative and former assistant township manager said he has no interest in the open manager's position.

As Middletown officials search for a new township manager, one thing is for sure, according to state Rep. Frank Farry, R-142. It won't be him.

Farry, who is running for another term against Democrat John Toth in November, emphatically denied rumors that he is giving up the state job to become Middletown's new manager. The township is looking for a new top administrator after Raymond Stepnoski left on July 8 after failing to agree on a new employment agreement with the supervisors. Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna will be acting manager until a permanent replacement for Stepnoski is found.

Farry, 37, said he's frequently been asked while going door to door campaigning about being Middletown's next manager. He wanted to dispel the rumor so voters knew where he stands. He said he won't apply for the manager's position and would not accept the job even if offered. The rumors could be circulating because he was Middletown's assistant manager from 2000 to 2008 before resigning, and also because he's a well-known and popular Republican who people speculate would be an attractive candidate for a Middletown Board of Supervisors that is now 4-1 Republican.

"I'm flattered people think I would be a good candidate for manager, but I'm not applying for the position and, at the end of the day, I'm very happy serving the residents of the 142nd District as their state representative," said Farry, who lives in Langhorne.

"I'm looking forward to a successful election and continuing to serve them," he continued. "I love this job and am 100 percent dedicated to it."

According to an advertisement that will run soon in a regional publication and on national websites, the Middletown supervisors will accept applications for the manager's job until Sept. 1. They are looking for someone with a master's degree in public administration or related field from an accredited college, though demonstrated experience may substitute for field of study.

Another requirement is a minimum of three to five years of comprehensive experience in municipal administration, preferably in Pennsylvania. Whoever is chosen will also be required to move to Middletown within six months after being hired, if he or she doesn't already live in the township.

Applicants are being asked to submit a salary expectation along with their application and resume. Stepnoski was making \$124,897 a year when he left.

Until a selection is made, Lamanna will serve as the manager like she did on an interim basis for four months in late 2005 and early 2006 when the township was between permanent managers. During that time, Lamanna's annual salary was increased from \$53,993 to \$90,000 and she anticipates her pay will be increased this time around while she is acting manager. She is making \$70,671 a year as parks and recreation director.

"I'm going on the assumption I'll be compensated for my extra responsibilities during the time I'm acting manager," said Lamanna, who said she has no interest in being permanent manager.

"It's being discussed and, in my opinion, there will be some extra compensation," said supervisors Chairman Tom Gallagher.

A decision on extra pay for Lamanna and Stepnoski's severance package could come at the Aug. 2 meeting, said Lamanna. She said township solicitor Joseph Pizzo and other officials are reviewing Stepnoski's employment agreement to determine what severance benefits he is entitled to and the package must then be reviewed and approved by the supervisors.

Stepnoski, a former township manager and supervisor in Buckingham, had been Middletown's manager for only two years when he left. The township has had three managers and two acting managers since 2004.

Farry represents Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Penndel, Hulmeville, most of Middletown and most of Lower Southampton. Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or [cenglish@phillyBurbs.com](mailto:cenglish@phillyBurbs.com).

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