

Township hires four patrol officers

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middletown

The hires beef up a department that was depleted by death, retirement and disability.

Middletown has replenished its police ranks by recently hiring four new patrol officers.

Joining the force are Wayne George, Troy Clawson, Andrew Herman and Zachary Brosius. George, Clawson and Herman have been through the police academy and are on duty, though they will work the first few weeks with a training officer, said acting Public Safety Director Patrick McGinty.

Brosius is attending the six-month police academy at Temple University's Ambler Campus and will be on duty sometime in the fall, said McGinty.

George was a part-time officer in Newtown and New Hope before being hired in Middletown.

Clawson was working with a private security firm but had previous police experience in several municipalities, including as a full-time officer in Lansdale.

Herman and Brosius have no previous police experience, but all four ranked high on a list that was a combination of candidates' scores on a Bucks County Police Chiefs Association test and ratings in oral interviews before a panel of Middletown sergeants, said McGinty.

Brosius was No. 1 on that list and George No. 2, McGinty said.

The rankings for Herman and Clawson were unavailable but they weren't far behind the other two, said McGinty.

"I'm very happy with the quality of candidates we hired and believe all four will be great officers in Middletown," he said.

The recent hires bring staffing in the department back up to 53 total officers, said McGinty.

The force had been short staffed after Officer Chris Jones was killed in an accident last year, Officer Arthur Laycock retired and Officer Michael Rosenstein and Detective Brian McDonough were both granted disability pensions. Jones was posthumously promoted to detective.

George, Clawson and Herman start at annual salaries of \$53,942. Brosius starts at \$47,332 but will earn the same as the other three once he completes the police academy.

"I was very happy with all the candidates, and their hires will give us more police coverage and presence within the township," said supervisors Chairman Tom Gallagher.

There's also been some movement within the department. Patrick Nicastro was recently promoted from patrol officer to detective, Dale Keddie from detective to sergeant, and John Michniewicz from sergeant to lieutenant.

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