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Bedford appoints planning, park reps

By IAN C. STOREY
Evening News staff writer

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP — A familiar face will return to the planning commission for a third term, a move that officials hope will help steer the township during a time of change.

The township board voted Tuesday to accept a recommendation from Supervisor R. LaMar Frederick to retain Arvind Shaw as a planning commissioner for a one-year term despite concerns over setting a precedent of appointing the same individuals over and over.

Mr. Frederick recommended retaining Mr. Shaw for his experience and because of the ongoing work with the township's new building ordinances, which are undergoing review and may require revision.

"The reason for asking for the one-year term for Mr. Shaw was that we have these issues on the architectural, lighting and landscaping ordinances and our discussions with BICA (the Bedford Industrial and Commercial Association)," said Mr. Frederick. "I would like to have him around for another year in as much as he was part of the committee to develop these ordinances. I really didn't think at this time we wanted to put on two brand new members who were not involved in the development process."

Also appointed to the planning commission was Michael Minges, who will serve a three-year term. He has served on the township's zoning board of appeals and "has extensive knowledge of the township, having served on the school board and as a resident of long standing," according to Mr. Frederick's memo.

The board also approved the conditional appointment of Tom Peitz to succeed Phil Koenigseker, who has expressed interest in serving on the fire department committee. If appointed to the fire board, Mr. Koenigseker would leave the planning commission and allow Mr. Peitz to serve out his term.

Township officials have expressed an interest in expanding the number of people serving on the administrative body that regulates fire department operations.

Trustee Arnold Jennings, the board's representative on the planning commission, expressed concern about reappointing Mr. Shaw, a move he said would violate the commission's bylaws and the goal of the township to get a wide variety of citizens involved in government.

"Arvind Shaw has been great on planning, but my biggest concern is that we keep telling the public to get an application in for these boards, but now we are leaving new people out to reappointment someone for a third term," he said. "We set a precedent for reappointing people to more terms than what is normal."

Mr. Jennings and Treasurer Sherri Meyer voted in the minority against reappointing Mr. Shaw, a move that Mr. Frederick said was a necessary exception he recommended to the township to ensure that during a time of transition.

"I think this is one of the situations in our planning commission history where the one year makes some sense," he said.

In other appointments, the board approved Constance Velliquette to the park board to serve out the seat being vacated by Pearl Albert-Green, who in November won the District 8 seat on the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

According to Clerk Robert Schockman, park commissioners selected Ms. Velliquette from a pool of what he called "excellent" candidates.

"The park board asked me to thank all the candidates for applying," Mr. Schockman told the board. "It was a very difficult decision for them to make because of the quality of candidates who applied."

Bedford Township

Officials to discuss planning

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP — Next week, township officials and residents will discuss potential revisions to the township's new master plan.

The township will host a community workshop Monday to discuss revisions to the master plan adopted by the planning commission in June. The 6:30 p.m. meeting at the township hall, 8100 Jackman Rd., will give residents an opportunity to provide input.

Since its adoption, the planning commission has been reviewing the master plan map for inconsistencies and areas that need to be addressed during a series of revision meetings.