

West Chester losing exec

Township manager takes Deerfield job

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COX NEWS SERVICE

WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP — Taking a pay cut of nearly \$21,000, West Chester Township Administrator David Gully on Friday accepted the job as Deerfield Township administrator.

Gully, who faces criminal charges stemming from a September assault report, was hired to a one-year contract for \$92,000 beginning Jan. 31. His 2005 salary with West Chester Township is \$112,970.

Gully did not return phone calls Friday.

The offer for employment was approved 2-1 with Deerfield Township Trustee Lee Speidel casting the dissenting vote.

The hire was made nine days after Administrator Greg Horwedel tendered his resignation to trustees to accept a county administrator position in Dinwiddie County, Va.

While at the helm of the fast-growing Butler County township of roughly 56,000, Gully has been the subject of recent controversy.

Liberty Township resident Susan Kelch, 48, told police that following President Bush's Voice of America Park campaign rally on Sept. 27, a man, whom she later identified as Gully, allegedly threw a rubber traffic cone that struck her in the neck and back.

Kelch's attorney, Jack Garretson, in December filed public records requests to view information from the West Chester Township Police Department's investigation. Garretson said he intends to either pursue criminal charges or file a civil suit, depending on the facts of the investigation.

Deerfield Township Trustee Randy Kuvin said the board addressed those legal issues with Gully before hiring him.

"We're comfortable with the explanations and the issues surrounding those circumstances," Kuvin said. "Anyone in his position 22 years will have an issue or two in his career."

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Gully

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Speidel declined to comment on the specifics of Gully's explanations.

"For Mr. Gully's and the township's sake, I hope his explanations are correct," Speidel said.

Speidel said the decision was made too quickly.

"I think that when you're hiring someone with this important of a job, with a one-year contract and

this kind of salary, you should spend more than one week and interview more than one candidate," Speidel said.

There will be a one-week gap between Horwedel and Gully's tenures. Horwedel's last day is Feb. 4 and Gully will begin his new position on Feb. 22.

West Chester Township Trustee George Lang said his board will likely appoint assistant township administrator Judi Carter as interim administrator at its next executive session on Jan. 25 and will give her strong consideration for the permanent position.

"My gut tells me Judi Carter is ready for the job," Lang said. "We may appoint her as administrator

and do away with her current job. That way we can reduce administrative costs and save taxpayers money."

Lang said the assistant administrator position was added to relieve Gully of some of his daily duties as he focused on project management issues such as the Union Centre Boulevard interchange.

"Judi has been handling the day-to-day aspect of the job. She's ready and prepared to take on the business of the township. When it came to being a project manager and artist, Dave was a master. With West Chester being closer to being developed, you need a details person like Judi," Lang said.

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David Gully