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Stafford Township agrees to contract with new administrator James Moran

By LEE PROCIDA, Staff Writer Dec 2, 2009

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP - Township Council unanimously approved a nearly three-year contract for Township Administrator James Moran on Tuesday night, touting it as a vast improvement over his predecessor's agreement.

Moran's base salary will be \$155,000 per his agreement, although it will increase

3.5 percent per year starting Jan. 1, upping it to \$160,425 for 2010.

Former Administrator Paul Shives also received \$155,000 as a base salary this year before being ousted by the newly elected administration in July after about 14 years in the position.

However, Moran will not receive a stipend for heading the water and sewer utility department, nor will he receive longevity pay or be able to cash in his unused personal or sick days when his contract is up.

Shives' latest contract entitled him to a \$52,402 stipend for heading the water and sewer department and \$15,500 in longevity pay. He also exchanged unused sick, vacation and personal days for \$35,767 when he left office.

Mayor John McMenamin heavily criticized Shives' contract during his campaign and after he took office.

"We're saving substantially with Mr. Moran," McMenamain said Tuesday night.

The former business administrator for the Southern Regional School District, Moran started in his current position Aug. 1, but he could not agree to a contract since he was collecting more than \$42,000 in disability pay because of a tumor he had on his adrenal gland.

He was just recently medically cleared to begin work again, allowing him and the township to finalize the agreement. He will be paid retroactively to the start of his employment.

Moran's contract is effective through June 30, 2012. He will receive 26 vacation days, six person days and 17 vacation days per year.

He will be able to carry over an unlimited amount of unused vacation days from year to year, and can sell them back to the township at his daily rate of pay.

One resident asked the township not to approve Moran's contract, criticizing his management style, but others praised Moran for his work thus far.

"I'm impressed," said former police chief Larry Parker Sr., who acknowledged he at first had reservations about Moran's appointment but said he has performed well so far. "He's earned n admiration."

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