

CHIEF: Fired as cop in other town

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complaints.

During the hearing, Chief Herman stated he was "asked to resign from the Stewartstown police force due to scheduling conflicts."

Mr. Ecker confirmed Chief Herman's firing, but he declined to comment further.

At that time, Chief Herman was also employed by West York and Glen Rock boroughs, said another Stewartstown borough official who did not wish to be identified.

A copy of the termination letter from Stewartstown cites difficulty in scheduling sufficient hours of police coverage, according to the letter.

He was employed part time by Stewartstown from March to August, 1984. He was named a full-time employee about two weeks prior to his termination. He did not serve as police chief in Stewartstown.

The chief's attorney, Patrick Lauer, said he was unaware of the chief's termination from the Stewartstown police department.

"I have not yet spoken to the chief about this matter. I will wait for him to call me."

Glen Rock council President Deborah Dominick said she also was unaware of Chief Herman's previous experience with the Stewartstown police department.

"He was hired before I came on council," said Mrs. Dominick. "Any formal action taken in this matter must be done at a council meeting with a motion, second, and vote, so I can't decide what council will do at this time," she added.

Councilman Greg Lyttle, who was a member of the Public Safety Committee in 1984 when Chief Herman was hired, said the procedure before hiring a police officer was to have the mayor do a background check on applicants.

Police controversy launches write-in effort for mayor

By MARILYN COFFRON
Daily Record correspondent

A controversy in the Glen Rock police department has emerged as a campaign issue and triggered a write-in campaign for mayor.

Up until last week, Mayor Donald Swartz faced no opposition in today's election.

However, Bryan Sellers initiated a last-minute write-in campaign for mayor after last week's hearing, which centered on the conduct of Police Chief James Herman.

"The thing that made me decide to run for mayor was after the public hearing concerning Chief Herman. I felt it was totally unnecessary. The charges Mayor Swartz had against the chief were trivial and should have been taken care of privately by the mayor," Mr. Sellers said.

On election eve, Mr. Sellers distributed flyers throughout the borough explaining to voters how to write in a candidate.

In response to Mr. Sellers' write-in campaign, Mr. Swartz said he welcomes the challenge.

"If he feels so strongly about a thing, then he would be remiss if he didn't exercise his democratic right," he said.

However, Mr. Swartz disagreed with Mr. Sellers' assessment on the reasons for holding a public hearing.

"Bryan had no way of knowing otherwise, but it was hardly a bolt from the blue when I pressed charges against Chief Herman. It's been ... at times a painful series of discussions with the chief concerning ways in which I felt he was not doing the job he was being paid for," the mayor said.

Mr. Sellers has served for the past year as the president of a concerned group of residents called Citizens For Glen Rock.

"Although I like Don, I disagree with a lot of the ways things have been handled. I think the ultimate responsibility of the mayor is the police department. However, there has been a history in Glen Rock of problems between the mayor, police department and the council. The problems go back years and years," said Mr. Sellers.

"Jim (Chief Herman) came on duty part time at first on a probationary period when Bill Keller was Glen Rock's mayor. Those were turbulent times in the borough, and the mayor and council did not get along."

Mr. Keller could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Swartz said he was astonished to hear of the report on Chief Herman's employment in Stewartstown, and said that he

will seek new regulations in the hiring practices of Glen Rock's police department.

"The matter is being investigated, and none of us will be able to talk about it until the investigation is complete," he said.

But he added, "Members of the council have initiated the investigation under the advisement of the borough solicitor Jeffrey Bortner."

Mr. Bortner would not comment Monday night.