

# Board Pardons, Then Gives Teeple's Ultimatum

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In the case of Teeple's, the motion read, "In order to avoid disciplinary action by remaining a candidate for supervisor, he must within 24 hours of the passage of this motion do one of the following:

1. Apply for a leave of absence until after the Nov. 3

general election, or 2. resign his position as police officer with the police department.

In case Teeple's does not apply for a leave of absence or does not resign and remains a candidate for election, Oppertthaus added, he will be appropriately disciplined by the police chief.

THE DISCIPLINE, the motion explained, would "in no event be less than a suspension without pay for a period of 30 days."

Before making the motion, Oppertthaus said the board had studied the matter for some time and was prepared to act at the last meeting two weeks ago.

Action was tabled at that time because Oppertthaus had been selected to make the motion and was absent two weeks ago when he was home recovering from an operation. Oppertthaus Monday night said he prepared the motion and made copies available in advance to all board members except Nolan who apparently had previously removed him-

self from discussion on the matter.

Because of the lawsuit in circuit court, Oppertthaus explained, the board was prevented from acting on the alleged violations of the manual until just recently.

The police chief must take any action necessary in the future, Oppertthaus stressed, because the township board might have to sit as a review board if any discipline is taken.

OPPERTHAUS SAID he felt the police manual "did leave something to be desired" in explaining just what political activity was.

"I don't expect our police officers to be knowledgeable of all the Supreme Court rulings on the Hatch Act."

Now that the manual has been upheld in court, and a legal opinion given by Brennan, Oppertthaus claimed the mere circulation of a petition did not constitute prohibited political activity, said Lichtman, because petitions could be withdrawn.

"Our officers should stay out of politics as long as they remain policemen," Lichtman said.

when announcing his candidacy.

"Leniency should be granted at this point for past transgressions because of the ambiguity of the regulation," he continued. "But our officers, having been advised, are now expected to abide by the manual."

Trustee Fred Lichtman said he agreed with the motion except he did not think the leniency shown should include that no disciplinary action be taken.

LICHTMAN SAID the officers should at least receive a written reprimand.

"The manual is not ambiguous. When it says no political activity, that's what it means. I don't think the board requires a legal opinion from Terry Brennan to tell us what the manual says."

Lichtman added he did not agree entirely with Brennan's opinion. Brennan claimed the mere circulation of a petition did not constitute prohibited political activity, said Lichtman, because petitions could be withdrawn.

"I would hope Mr. Teeple's would see fit to take a leave of absence until after the election," she added.

OPPERTHAUS agreed officers should not be restricted from signing a petition but that circulating petitions, passing out literature, or having bumper stickers on cars were improper.

"Under our manual, it would appear that the mere signing of a petition is prohibited," said Mrs. Schaeffer, "but I don't think it should be."

"That gives us a problem. Should we reprimand just those we feel did an improper action or for all those who violated what the manual says?" she asked.

AFTER THE motion passed, the board gave Bernard Kahn permission to speak. Kahn is

attorney and campaign manager for Teeple's.

"I feel this action of forcing Detective Teeple's resignation is ill-timed because we are beset with many problems in our police department," said Kahn.

Kahn noted that on Monday three command officers were absent from work, including Chief Yakes, Lt. William Kelly and Lt. Russel Conway.

Teeple's has cases pending in court and cases under investigation and should be allowed to clear his docket before taking office as supervisor, Kahn added.

"I'm concerned with our manual in that it just prohibits political activity," Mrs. Schaeffer continued. "It's too broad. Voting is a political activity and, certainly, we want our police officers to vote."

"I think an officer should be able to sign a petition, but circulating one is another matter. I also think our manual should provide for a leave of absence."

Mrs. Schaeffer said she also would be in favor of written reprimands against Teeple's and Hoelt.

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