

Sources: Probe targets manager

By: **BEN FINLEY** and **KARA FITZPATRICK** (Sat, Nov/04/2006)

Bruce Townsend, the manager of Northampton for the last 26 years, is being investigated by the Bucks County District Attorney's Office for allegedly misappropriating \$13,000 in township funds for personal use, according to sources close to the investigation.

Townsend, who oversees a township budget of \$60 million, is on administrative leave, according to George Komelasky, chairman of the township's board of supervisors. Komelasky and other supervisors would not comment about Townsend, except to say they're holding a special meeting at 9 a.m. Monday to discuss his future employment in the township.

The Courier Times was unsuccessful in reaching Townsend for comment after going to his home Thursday night and Friday and calling him Friday. The District Attorney's Office refused to comment, saying it couldn't confirm any case unless charges have been filed.

Three sources with first-hand knowledge confirmed the investigation is occurring.

Townsend became Northampton's manager at age 27 in 1980. The population was just 26,000 then. It's more than 40,000 now.

Over the years, various supervisors have referred to Townsend as "Mr. Township" or a "public service fanatic" or a "municipal encyclopedia."

Ever present at supervisors meetings, he could talk shop with the most astute people on the issues of zoning, code enforcement and tax millage.

The 53-year-old has won accolades, including the President's Leadership Award of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

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