

Former manager waives hearing on felony charges

By: **KARA FITZPATRICK** (Sat, Mar/10/2007)

NORTHAMPTON - Former Northampton manager Bruce Townsend, facing six felony charges related to the misappropriation of more than \$67,000 in municipal funds, waived his preliminary hearing Friday at District Court in New Britain.

Townsend's case now goes to Bucks County court.

According to the Bucks County District Attorney's Office, an arraignment date has not been set.

The district attorney's criminal complaint filed in February accused Townsend of making \$58,306 worth of unauthorized purchases on three township credit cards. The complaint also charged that he took \$4,904 in petty cash and transferred \$4,134 of sick time to vacation time.

Each third-degree felony Townsend faces is punishable by seven years in jail and/or a \$15,000 fine, Warrington District Judge Philip Daly said at an arraignment last month. Daly released Townsend on his own recognizance.

The Courier Times was unsuccessful Friday in reaching Townsend's attorney, William L. Goldman Jr.

Townsend's resignation was accepted in November after he told the supervisors he was being investigated on theft charges involving \$13,000 in municipal funds.

But the amount of the alleged theft was later found to be much greater. From December 2001 to November 2006, Townsend allegedly made a total of 341 unauthorized transactions on the cards for meals, videos, catalog items, lodging, travel and more, according to court documents.

The supervisors have hired Bob Pellegrino, Newtown Township's manager, to replace Townsend. Pellegrino will start May 1.

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