

Former township manager charged with unauthorized purchases

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WASHINGTON, Pa. (AP) - Former Northampton Township manager Bruce Townsend allegedly made \$58,306 worth of unauthorized purchases on three township credit cards, took \$4,904 in petty cash and transferred \$4,134 of sick time to vacation time, according to a criminal complaint by the Bucks County District Attorney's Office.

Townsend, 55, resigned after more than 25 years as manager in November after telling township supervisors he was being investigated on theft charges.

Townsend was arraigned Thursday on six felony counts of theft of township money. Released on his own recognizance, he declined to comment. Townsend's attorney, William L. Goldman Jr., said Townsend was cooperating with authorities. He declined to comment further.

Warrington District Judge Philip Daly scheduled a March 9 preliminary hearing for Townsend.

According to the complaint, Townsend admitted to an investigating officer that he made numerous unauthorized purchases, but District Attorney Diane Gibbons said Townsend did not divulge the extent of the theft at that time.