

# Clerk gets extra work, but no extra pay

By BARBARA GREF  
Staff Writer

MONTICELLO — The Monticello village clerk's unpaid appointment as acting village manager has raised a few eyebrows, but not her salary.

Monticello Mayor Robert Friedland said a handful of people have questioned the lack of extra pay granted to Edith Schop when she was appointed acting village manager last week. Schop said a number of people have also raised the issue with her. She declined to comment on it.

Schop, 53, makes \$27,000 a year as village clerk and will continue to perform clerk's duties as well as those of acting village manager. Schop was appointed last

week after the board dismissed James J. Malloy from the job. Malloy had been earning \$47,000.

"It's puzzling," said village resident Bernard Jacobs. "It's almost beyond me to understand what's going on in government these days. Usually if you give somebody an extra position, you give them the few extra dollars that goes along with it."

The board's decision to withhold the extra pay marks a departure from past practices:

● In 1992 when Village Manager Robert Norris resigned, Mayor John Diuguid took the title of acting village manager as well as Norris's \$48,400 annual pay. Diuguid filled in for about two months.

● In 1988, Norris served as acting village manager before his permanent appointment. Norris had been village treasurer at a salary of \$30,000 and the board authorized \$4,000 in additional pay, Norris said he recalls getting about \$1,500 of it for the two months he was acting manager.

The village has had four village managers since 1985. Schop is the first woman to serve in either an acting or permanent position.

The mayor said he believes Schop should be paid extra. He said he plans to bring it up with the board at a later date. He wouldn't say when. Trustee Gary Sommers said that if Schop is to serve an extended period, beyond six weeks or so, he would

also like to see additional pay granted.

Somers said the board didn't haggle over paying an interim manager in order to save time.

For efficiency, trustees also agreed to act as liaisons to different departments: Friedland will check in with the water department and justice court; Sommers will deal with public works; Evelyn Vandermark will handle the sewer department; Michael Levinson is to deal with general administration; Gloria Cahalan is responsible for police and fire departments.

Cahalan said she suggested that the position be filled without extra compensation in order to contain costs in the village.

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