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Village picks new money man

Ex-Walkill supervisor hired

By **TRISTRAM KORTEN**
Staff Writer

MONTICELLO — The Village Board yesterday hired a new village manager with experience in government finances — former Walkill Town Supervisor William F. Cummings III.

Cummings, 38, will begin his new job Oct. 17, at an annual salary of \$47,000. He now lives in Walkill with his wife, Debbie, and their two children, but plans to move to Monticello within 30 days. His family will stay in Walkill for the time being so that his 11-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son can finish the school year.

His wife is a New York City police officer stationed in the Bronx.

Cummings fills a post vacated when the board voted 3-2 to dismiss former Village Manager James Malloy in July. Mayor Robert Friedland said at the time that Malloy's firing was a "personnel problem." Malloy had been manager since July 1992.

Cummings will leave a job as business manager for the military club system at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He said he earns \$50,000 a year.

The pay cut was small, Cummings said, but the job he is about to start is a significant career step.

He was Walkill's supervisor for two years, and lost the 1993 Democratic primary to Peter Panse. Panse was defeated in last November's election by Republican Howard Mills III.

As supervisor, Cummings oversaw a major growth spurt in the Orange County town, starting with construction of the sprawling Galleria at Crystal Run and ending with approval of a generating plant that has been the source of bitter opposition by nearby residents and environmentalists.

Friedland said he was pleased with Cummings' experience dealing with economic growth.

"I hope he has the expertise to make it happen here," the mayor said.

Friedland added that he and the Village Board also were impressed by Cummings' handling of town finances. Walkill had a \$5 million deficit that Cummings said he inherited. When he left, there was a surplus.

Monticello has about \$4 million in bonds that it must repay and a spending gap of about \$753,000.

The new village manager said he would talk with the board about economic goals for Monticello — luring industry, retail operations or small businesses — then aggressively pursue them.



PHILIP KAMRASS/The Record

Monticello's new village manager, William Cummings, left, answers questions at an impromptu news conference yesterday in Village Hall. With him are Mayor Robert Friedland, center, and Trustee Gary Paul Sommers.