Plumstead police chief inquires about merger, and that is all

Rich Pietras

After it was reported this week that Plumstead police Chief Duane Hasenauer requested information about the proposed formation of a Central Bucks Regional Police Department, Hasenauer confirmed the news of his inquiry on Friday.

And added that is all he wanted for now.

"I saw what was going on and had some questions. That was it," Hasenauer said. "I was not directed by the board or the (township) manager...They would be the ones making the decisions anyway. I have no power there."

Tuesday night, Doylestown Township police Chief Stephen J. White gave residents gathered in the township municipal building and those watching on television an overview of the planned force, which will combine police departments in Doylestown Township, Doylestown, New Britain and Warwick.

At that meeting, Frank Dunlap, a former Doylestown Township police lieutenant, asked Doylestown Township police Chief Stephen J. White if any other municipalities had expressed interest in becoming part of the regional force.

Although White identified Hasenauer, the Plumstead chief said he not even through the information he was provided yet and nothing has been discussed at the township level.

However, with nine separate police departments in the Central Bucks School District, Hasenauer said he believed with a few chiefs retiring, or planning to retire, the move made sense.

According to a state Department of Community & Economic Development study of the merger of the four departments, more than $378,000 will be saved in the first year of regionalization.

There are 15 officers in the Plumstead Police Department, including Hasenauer.

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