

# Kerr named Spring Lake chief



Spring Lake Police Chief Robert Dawson [left], who is retiring from the police department on Jan. 31, recently congratulated Spring Lake Sgt. Ed Kerr, who will be sworn-in as the new police chief by the Spring Lake Council on Tuesday night. The two have been working closely together recently to ensure a smooth transition.

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## Sgt. Ed Kerr is selected to be the next police chief in the borough, replacing Chief Robert Dawson, who is retiring

*By Caren Caterina*

SPRING LAKE — There's a new chief in town.

On Monday night, Spring Lake Mayor Jennifer Naughton, announced that Spring Lake Police Sgt. Edward Kerr will be appointed as the borough's new police chief.

"We did make a decision," said Mayor Naughton, on Monday night.

Sgt. Kerr, 37, will take the place of Chief Robert Dawson, 47, who has been with the Spring Lake Police Department since 1981.

Chief Dawson, who resides in Spring Lake with his family, is expected to take a position with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office in an administrative capacity following his retirement from Spring Lake on Jan. 31.

Mayor Naughton said choosing a new chief was "the most difficult decision I have made as mayor."

"The council had three strong candidates," she said.

Though she did not release the names of the other two candidates, she did state that they were also from within the police department.

"And the process was a fair one," she said, though it was a "difficult decision."

"But ultimately, we chose Ed," she said.

Sgt. Kerr will be appointed as police chief during this Tuesday night's council meeting at borough hall.

"There will be a swearing-in," she said, as the council's "first order of business" Tuesday night.

The Jan. 25 meeting will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

Spring Lake Borough Hall is located at 423 Warren Ave.

According to Mayor Naughton, Sgt. Kerr will become chief effective Feb. 1.

"I think not only the mayor and council, but, all the residents of our town have a long and strong relationship with the Spring Lake Police Department," said Mayor Naughton.

"And, I think this appointment will strengthen that relationship," said Mayor Naughton.

"We are fortunate to have such good candidates from within the department," said the mayor.

Borough Administrator Bryan Dempsey said there was a committee, comprised of Mayor Naughton, Councilman Robert Drasheff and himself, with the assistance of Chief Dawson, which developed a set of questions to ask all the candidates.

Each of the three candidates was given a verbal interview in front of full mayor and council last week, said Mr. Dempsey.

Mr. Dempsey said some of the questions the three candidates were asked revolved around why they were the best qualified to be chief of police, what they would focus on during their two first months as chief of police, what their opinion is on consolidating police services, as well as suggestions for interlocal agreements with neighboring towns.

There were approximately 15 questions, with each of the questions asked by Mayor Naughton, said Mr. Dempsey.

Sgt. Kerr said he was advised of the results on Monday, regarding the chief position