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Appointment questioned

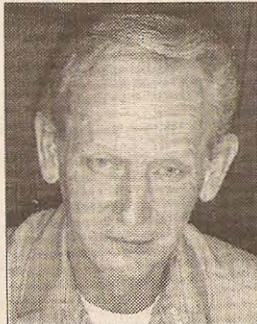
Combination Panchyshyn job under fire

By **ALAN WECHSLER**
Staff Writer

MONTICELLO — The steps taken by the Village Board to make George Panchyshyn interim village manager have raised a few eyebrows.

Board members changed the residency requirement.

They will make him head of the water department soon, along with his village manager responsibilities.



Panchyshyn

They announced a

\$70,000 savings when it was all done.

He started the manager's job yesterday.

Some wonder, though, if Panchyshyn can handle both jobs and whether supervision of the Public Works Department, which Panchyshyn now heads, will suffer. And some question whether the village needs a full-time manager at all.

According to statute, the village manager needs to reside in the village. Panchyshyn lives in the Town of Thompson. Last Friday, the Village Board held a special meeting to pass a resolution allowing him to stay in Thompson.

Panchyshyn was head of the Public Works Department. The village eliminated that position, allowing Panchyshyn to be manager and director of water,

while giving away his other public works duties to several other managers.

Panchyshyn accepted the new position for only a \$2,500 raise. He will be earning \$57,100 a year.

That means as long as Panchyshyn is manager, the village saves \$70,000 in salary and benefits by not hiring a new one, officials said.

"... and we end up with a person who is very qualified for the job," said Trustee Gary Sommers.

At a recent meeting, resident John Barbarite stood up and asked why the village needed a manager at all and questioned whether Panchyshyn would be able to perform his Public Works duties fairly, since the village manager supervises the public works managers.

"He can't supervise himself," said Barbarite, a Democrat who ran unsuccessfully for a board seat last November. "He's now in an incompatible position."

Panchyshyn, whose father and grandfather lived in the village, said he would have other village employees approve water department purchasing orders if his two jobs became controversial.

As far as the extra work, Panchyshyn says he is willing to deal with it.

"If I have to work 14 hours a day instead of 10, I'll do it. As long as we can save," he said. "If it'll help the village, let's get it done."

Panchyshyn, 54, has worked for the village for 30 years. He replaces David Berner, who resigned as village manager last week. He was also the interim manager for 5½ months after a former manager left last year.

Panchyshyn intends to retire in August of 1997.