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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

VOL. 76, NO. 46. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1965

Anti-Borough Forces Open Campaign At Harveys Lake Planning Joint Opposition Meeting, Friday, Nov. 26

Purcell Heads Group To File Exceptions In Court, Along With Township Lawyers

by Leighton Scott

It was less like a protest meeting than a neighborhood gathering — of around 70 people who knew each other and flatly deplored the idea of a Harveys Lake Borough.

It was quiet and brief (about an hour and a quarter), a shared last-ditch stand of what were principally Lake old-timers and businessmen who were certain that a borough would mean doubling of taxes with little increase in service.

Surprised at the deep-seated and possibly irrevocable progress of the borough proponents, it called for a leader almost before the meeting began, Tuesday night. It found that leader in William Purcell, a determined and clear-thinking young businessman and resident of Harveys Lake, who recently added the former Harrows' Laketon Economy Market to his gasoline sales enterprises.

Directing the meeting were Lake Township Board of Supervisors, Sharon Whitesell and Atty. Louis Crisman the speakers, attended by Lehman Township Board of Supervisors.

Good-humored Desperation

It was an odd amalgam of good humor and desperation, like people trapped together in a subway car during a power failure — gentle wise-cracking; a sober realization that the other side may have already won the ballgame; an ultimate belief that, in a showdown, the status quo would somehow prevail.

Said a woman's voice in the crowd: "Can't the supervisors' wives say something that will make a difference?" Answer: "They do at home."

Said a voice that would be heard more than once before the battle was over, revealingly: The borough men have already pegged down a majority of year-rounders' signatures in the Lake Township section of the total watershed.

Said a voice in the crowd, of the second protesters' meeting, slated for 8 p.m. Friday, November 26, at Lake Township school: "Ask the ones who voted for the borough to be there to learn the truth."

The next meeting was the result of suggestion by Crisman that there was a two-fold approach to fighting the 1100-signature petition for formation of a borough by those who claimed to be the requisite "freeholders residing," circulated by volunteers and members of the Harveys Lake Executive Association, and now filed with the court for scrutiny and decision by the middle of December.

1/ File exceptions to show that there is NOT a majority of resident property-owners in favor of the borough (still in question around the Lehman Township lakefront.—Ed.)

2/ File exceptions to show that majority of freeholders or not, a borough would not be in the best interests of tax-payers (many of whom do not own their own residences and thus could not petition or refuse to).

Too Late?

It seemed almost too late for effective opposition.

The borough men had been at work for the better part of a year, with steady legal advice, lots of adamant and steadfast volunteer help (some of whom have been accused of "promising the moon" to prospective petitioners and virtually camping on doorsteps until petition was signed).

They had the blessing of the Pennsylvania Economy League, independent consulting agency dedicated to improvement in municipal government. They also had a good deal of support emanating from various sources in Wilkes-Barre.

Against this were people who recoiled at the idea of (e.g., Lake Twp.) a rise in millage from 4.1 to 9 or 10, and who further recoiled at the idea of what they felt were a lot of summer residents who came out once in a while to tell the establishment how to run Harveys Lake, which is a bit of an overstated case.

With a characteristic combination of impressive Harveys Lake background (five generations) and lack of understanding of the legal boundaries of forming a borough, one woman told of her daughter who owns property here but lives out of state and who is "against the borough."

Hitch is that the daughter, not residing at the Lake, does not have the status of "freeholder residing" in the affected area of Lake and Lehman townships.

From comments at the meeting it was evident that many people were unsure of the area affected, the status of citizen involved, and how the whole thing would be resolved, despite all the newspaper coverage.

People And Questions

"Mr. Chairman, what is a freeholder?" asked constable Jasper Koehler, getting the ball rolling at the outset of the meeting. It was

Will Boro Be Foiled By Lehman Township?

Will formation of a borough at Harveys Lake from sections of Lake and Lehman Townships be foiled by failure to get a requisite majority of resident freeholders' signatures in Lehman Township?

Officials in a position to know have told the Dallas Post that they are certain that there is not a majority of borough proponents in the small mile-long segment of Lehman Township involved.

They say that a failure to get a majority here would foil the whole effort, and that there would be no recourse for the borough proponents but to start the whole petition over again for the Lake Township sector alone.

Idea is that, though the year-round majority in Lake Township might favor borough formation, their petition is for formation of a municipality comprised of sectors of BOTH townships.

explained that a freeholder was a property-owner for life, but that only "resident" freeholders had a right to petition.

There was question posed from the floor to the effect that some signatures on the borough petition were not by property-owners. Crisman said that the supervisors did not have a copy of it, but that affidavits had been taken of each canvasser.

Purcell, speaking for the first time and well prior to his nomination as opposition committee head, asked: What would be the best way to fight the petition? Crisman then suggested that the citizens and township supervisors "file exceptions."

Purcell asked if a property-owner who was only a summer resident would be considered a legal "resident" for petition? Crisman replied that you can't have a residence in two places, thus excluding summer residents. Purcell suggested the opposition committee be formed immediately.

Koehler asked if the partition of the township would effect a rise in taxes in the rest of the township? The consensus was that it would.

George Halowich asked if it would be possible for a person who had already signed the borough petition to take his name off? Answer: File exceptions. The meeting pushed on the subject of retracting signatures from the borough petition. Someone shouted: "Everybody's afraid to say why they signed it!"

Further questions brought out that the early opposition petition circulated by Supervisor Walter Hoover showed a counter-opinion but did not have legal weight. Also a witness, Richard Rank, was called forward by Lake Supervisor-elect Alger Shafer, and Rank attested that his signature on the borough petition was founded without proper information, that he was required to advise his wife by mail from Alaska whether or not to sign. He also said that his canvasser had indicated that the borough would get Lakeside Drive widened (It is a state highway).

Mrs. Edward Crake, vehement spokesman for the women in attendance, asked if the issue would be settled by one judge or the court en banc? Atty. Crisman was of the opinion that it would be by the court en banc.

A list was circulated to form a Lake Township citizen's committee, and signers were Mr. and Mrs. William Purcell, Richard Rank, John Van Campen, Mrs. Joseph Desiderio, Mrs. Louella Gosart, Mrs. Edward Crake, and Mrs. Bernice Koehler. A committee from Lehman is to be named.

Two Collide

Two cars collided on the highway in Dallas in front of Davis' Market at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, no injuries to occupants. Alan Covert, Star Route, Shickshinny, struck rear of car driven by Eula Meyers, Sunset Street, RD 4 Dallas, latter being towed from scene. Borough police investigated.

Whitesell Speaks At UGI Meeting On HBA Program



Howard Whitesell, president of the Home Builders Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, outlines the organization's Fall and Winter program at a meeting hosted by the Luzerne Electric Division of U. G. I. of which Richard Demmy, extreme right, is executive vice-

Playground Sewage May Hasten Move By Three Municipalities

Guard Rails Promised For Carverton Road

The seriousness of the sewage overflow at Shavertown Grade School, necessitating closing of a portion of the playground, will probably bring the sewage disposal problem to the point of action.

A letter from Raymond Schiwall, Sanitary Engineer of Luzerne County, to the Kingston Township Board of Supervisors led the board to take action on Wednesday evening. The group will meet with representatives of the sanitation unit in the near future.

It was suggested by Mr. Schiwall that State and Federal funds are available for the next two years for sewage treatment for communities needing financial assistance. He stated that without a proper sewage collection system the situation is more or less hopeless and must be directed to home owners and business enterprises.

A Feasibility Report prepared five years ago by Roy F. Weston, Inc., for Kingston Township, and Dallas Borough, and instigated at that time by the late Austin Line and William Krimmel, supervisors of their respective communities, cites faulty on lot sewage facilities throughout the Toby Creek watershed, and will be studied.

Roy Ziegler, chairman of the Kingston Township Board suggested that officials of the other two interested townships be called in for a joint consultation. Supervisors Shaver and Funke agreed.

The unguarded drop-off area on Carverton Road near the Frances Slocum Dam site will be corrected shortly advised Richard Staub, Truckville, who said he had contacted Rep. Fred Shupnik on the matter. There have been a number of complaints on this built up sector left without protective barricades for months.

Dan Shaver announced that Shaver Avenue would be paved before the weekend and Vine Street, with the township building lot also expected to be completed before winter.

Dr. Mellman To Speak On New Building Plan

Dr. Robert Mellman, superintendent of Dallas School District, will speak on "Our Proposed Building Program" at a meeting of Dallas Jr. High School PTA on Monday evening.

This particular subject concerns every PTA member and tax payer in this area and an invitation is extended to the public to attend.

Dr. Mellman will be introduced by William Price, vice president and program chairman of the organization. Mrs. John Rogers will preside.

Mrs. Joseph Balavage is chairman of the Tea honoring the teachers and held at this time in commemoration of Education Week. 9th grade mothers will assist.

Coin-boxes Robbed

Thieves broke into three vending machines and a kiddie ride coin-box at Dallas Shopping Center's Speed Wash sometime between 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and 7:30 a.m. yesterday, taking 50 to 75 cents from the machines inside and an undetermined amount outside.

Ruth Disque, manager of the 24-hour laundromat which has seen a number of such robberies in its history, discovered it at 7:30 a.m. yesterday, and Borough and State police investigated.

Bearing Glad Tidings Already --Season's Greetings



Signs of Christmas already!

Bearing glad tidings of great joy are the "three wise men" again: Andrew Perranto, Street Superintendent, and Jim Davies and Kyle

Cundiff, men of the department.

They are stringing the traditional Christmas lights on Main Street, and Andy seems to be smiling a holiday ho-ho-ho to the Dallas Post

camera.

Borough Council has announced that the lights will be turned on the night before Thanksgiving, November 24.

Back Mountain Area Ambulance Logbook

Dallas Community

Dallas Community ambulance took Fred Maier, Haddonfield Hills, to Mercy Hospital on Sunday. Don Shafer, Robert Besecker, Jim Davies, and Jim Faerber attending.

Lake Township

Lake ambulance took Lawrence Wilson from Ruggles to Mercy Hospital on Friday. John Stenger and Jim McCaffrey attending.

Michael Walsh was taken from Morgus Convalescent Home to Vets Hospital, McCaffrey and Lee Zimmerman as crew.

Lehman Township

Lehman ambulance took Andrew Kleban, Route 118, to Nesbitt Hospital on Saturday. Lee Wentzel and Lanceford Sutton attending.

Franklin-Northmoreland

Franklin-Northmoreland ambulance took two Swoyerville boys, David Mihulka and Joseph Mihulka, from accident scene in Vernon, 2:15 a.m. Sunday, after their car flipped, knocked out guard rails and landed against a utility pole, to Nesbitt Hospital, Stanley Weaver and Karl Besteder attending.

Parking Lot Crash

At 3:30 p.m. Monday, car driven by Evan A. London, Centermoreland, struck that of Warren Stanton, RD 3 Dallas, in the Acme parking lot, Borough police investigating.

Post Office Closed

The Dallas Post Office will be closed on Thursday, November 25, (Thanksgiving Day) it was announced by Postmaster Ed Buckley. There will be no City or Rural Delivery. Mail will be collected from the City Delivery boxes for dispatch to Wilkes-Barre Post Office at 5:30 p.m.

Prepares For Vietnam

AF 1/c Clyde Major, with the Air Force for five and one-half years, will take survival training in Nevada, with further combat training in Florida, before heading for Vietnam in March. His wife and two small children, coming in from Offutt AFB, Nebraska recently, are staying for the present with Mrs. Major's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Newberry on Main Street, Dallas.

Dependants are not permitted to accompany young men in survival training.

Dance At Kunkle Now Rock 'n Roll

Dances at Kunkle Community Center will resume on Thanksgiving Day, continuing the following Saturday and every Saturday thereafter, 8:30 p.m.

One big change: For the first time since the days of the Roaring Twenties, the dances will not be of "square dance" format. They will be rock'n roll, featuring the five Tonadinos.

Sponsoring the dances, as usual, are the Harry Smith Fire Company and the Kunkle Community Association, alternately. Closing hour is 11:30 p.m.

Reflecting on the change, old-time firemen told the Dallas Post, a little wistfully but with optimism: "Kids don't want to farmer dance anymore. They want to rock 'n roll."

It was the beginning of an era in the Back Mountain, as closing the doors several weeks ago was the end of one. The Farmer Dance had been famous over three counties since 1927.

97 At Oak Hill Plead Against Land-use Change

Fear Trailer Court Along Idetown Road If More Permitted

A delegation of Oak Hill people, fearing property devaluation, presented a petition of 97 signatures to the November township meeting, in effect protesting an outcropping of trailers on neighboring land. Land is owned by Police Chief Joseph Ide.

They were told by the Board of Supervisors on Saturday that a new zoning ordinance now in formulation by the Zoning Board would have a direct bearing on the matter.

A township official told the Dallas Post this week that the new zoning plan would prohibit "trailer parks" in what are zoned as "residential" areas.

Wording of the petition did not refer to the trailer matter itself, but merely requested the supervisors to allow no change in the "use of the land", specifically from residential to commercial.

Supervisors also emphasized that any recommendations of the Zoning Board must be discussed in a public meeting upon proper advertisement, and the Supervisors will have a final vote.

Group of visitors said they wanted to attend the meeting of the Zoning Board the following day, but did not know when or where it would be. Secretary Michael Godek then called several members of the Zoning Board, one of whom was reached and who told him that the meeting was at a member's home, but that he did not think the public needed to be in attendance. Middle ground was reached when it was decided to send one of the petitioners, John Roehn, to the meeting.

The specific reference to trailers on the Ide property, object of everyone's concern, was not made until the Dallas Post suggested that threat of commercialization be made a little more concrete.

Later, an official cleared the matter up completely. Three trailers were put on the 7-acre Ide tract (which is classified as one lot) the third trailer is slated to be moved to a different location, still in the neighborhood. One of the trailers is rented; two are homes of members of the owner's family. Question arises as to whether, technically, more than one trailer is allowed on this one lot.

Also complicating the matter is that, legal or not under old zoning law under the tenuous presumption that trailers are "commercial" entities in a "residential" area, the landowners have nevertheless not procured proper septic tank permits on the second and third trailers.

Mr. Roehn attended the Zoning Board meeting on Sunday, but it is reported that nothing was resolved on the trailer matter. Board worked on "junkyard" legislation that day. Supervisor William Samuel, of Lake Silkworth, recommended that Mr. Roehn go to the meeting.

The new supervisor, Clinton Smith, of Oak Hill, asked if the Zoning Board were a creation of the Board of Supervisors? Answer was "yes". Smith then moved that the Board order them to hold zoning board meetings in the firehall, with the idea of facilitating public attendance.

Mr. Samuel's attendance at the meeting would be sufficient, and that it was too short a notice to have the zoners change their meeting place, at least this time.

All supervisors were in agreement that a public meeting should be held on the matter some time.

Anti-Poverty Jobs

It was reported that the Board of Supervisors has not yet heard from the government in response to application for an allotment to hire underprivileged local youth to do up to 30 hours of work apiece on road and conservation projects to be financed 90 per cent federally and ten per cent local under the Economic Opportunity Act (Anti-Poverty). Wage is \$1.25 an hour. Lehman has asked for 10 jobs; also participating are Jackson, Hunlock, Ross, Fairmount, and other townships.

Police report listed five burglaries at Lake Silkworth last month, no arrests, and one ambulance call. Other Lehman police work listed one accident, one arrest, and 42 calls.

Roadmaster presented an extensive report.

NOTICE

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday the DALLAS POST will be published Monday, November 22 and be in the mail, Tuesday morning, November 23.

All correspondents, ministers, publicity chairmen and organizations are asked to have their news in the office no later than Saturday or Sunday morning. The full Post staff will be here Saturday and Sunday to help you!