

DAMA Votes to Re-assess All End-Of-Line Frontage

Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) voted to reassess all end-of-the-line properties for sewerline front footage. The "Case Four Assessment Rule," states that anyone at the end of a sewer line will be charged full front footage, not to exceed 75 feet, for their assessment.

Several of the 400 property owners involved have objected to paying the front

footage assessment because they only had a few feet of sewer line in front of their property. These objections have been thoroughly investigated by DAMA, and after much study, it has been decided to reassess and rebill those involved in the "Case Four Assessment."

R. Spencer Martin, chairman of the authority, said that anyone who has al-

ready paid their assessment will be refunded the proper amount automatically and those who have not yet paid their assessment will be rebilled.

At their regular meeting Thursday night, members of DAMA also voted to refuse non-Back Mountain septic tank trucks from emptying their loads into the system after July 1. After this date, only trucks from the three municipalities serviced by DAMA—Dallas Borough, Dallas and Kingstown Township, can use the facility. The DAMA system is the only system which will accept solid waste in the Lackawanna and Luzerne County area, and it cannot continue to handle the tremendous amount brought to the plant.

A representative from Elmcreech Woods requested that that development be put on the Number One Expansion for sewers. Mr. Martin replied that to include this area would mean a whole new application for Federal and State funds, and this would put DAMA on the bottom of the list of those to be funded. DAMA Extension One is about 79th on the current list, and it is hoped funds will be available next year for grants. Mr. Martin stated that he could not jeopardize DAMA's position for funds in this area, but he would do everything he could to help Elmcreech Woods.

Solicitor Merton Jones requested \$515 to file court liens against 105 delinquent property owners. These owners were notified Jan. 31 about their delinquent sewer rental bills. Liens will be filed this week.

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American Asphalt, Citizens Squabble on Zone Request

Concern for pollution, safety, property devaluation and overall infringement on the basic rights to peace and tranquility brought 75 irate taxpayers to a Jackson Township Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing Monday night.

The group claims that the American Asphalt and Paving Company's plans for the recently-acquired Forrest Hablett property will deprive them of these rights and others.

Atty. John Aponick, engaged by the township, set the stage for the hearing. He said the purpose of the session was to allow American Asphalt Company, represented by Atty. Ben Jones III, vice president Bernard Banks Jr. and John Banks, president, to formally submit their request and to hear pertinent and relevant claims by taxpayers in either support or disapproval of the matter. All prior grievances, dissatisfactions and irrelevant innuendos were prohibited.

American Asphalt's original request was for an exception as permitted by Section 2.05 of the Zoning Ordinance of Jackson Township, which provides for the excavation of sand, gravel, coal or other materials. Mr. Banks submitted that they would comply with all the provisions of this section, including the erection of a six foot weaved wire fence around the face of the quarry and any drop off in excess of two feet within a distance of 200 feet of the excavation.

At several points during the meeting Atty. Jones and Bernie Banks alluded to the fact that the 26 acres of land had been previously mined in violation of the zoning ordinance and without any action taken against its former owners. As the meeting progressed they created a credibility gap by attempting to obtain a blanket M-1 mining district classification.

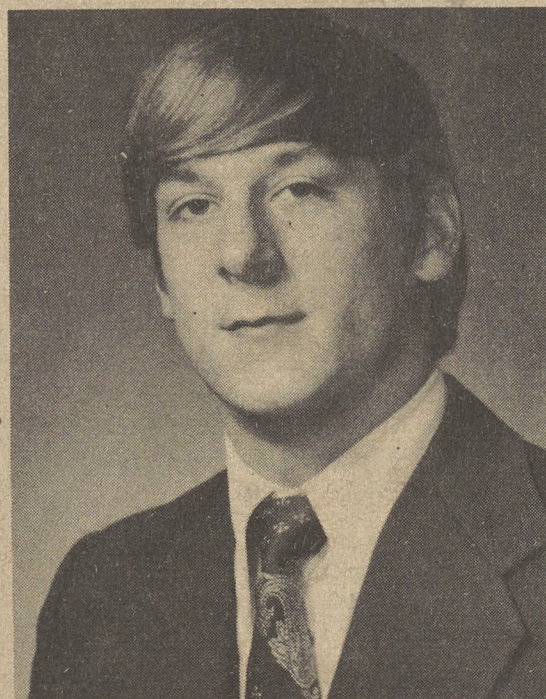
Atty. Aponick clarified that although

the terms "exception" and "variance" were used interchangeably, they are not synonymous, but separate and distinct. An exception is a temporary grant, duration not to exceed 12 months, for something already provided for in the zoning code. A variance is an allowance of something strictly prohibited by the code. He also explained that in a hearing of this nature it is incumbent upon the zoning board to justify that granting this request would be adverse or detrimental to the public interest.

After much discussion Mr. Banks outlined American Asphalt's present intention regarding the property. It will be excavated, to remove for sale, sand, gravel, peat moss, top soil and landfill. The depression in the ground will be filled with the sludge waste of their adjacent mining operation and this material may be excavated and sold as a marketable commodity should the demand arise.

Atty. Cohen, Gerry Bernstein and John Filip were among the many taxpayers who strenuously voiced their objections to this exception request. Water, air and noise pollution, incompatibility with area profile and character, wildlife conservation, were added to the many reasons stated in substantiation of claims that issuance of this exception would create adverse conditions for the general public.

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Timothy Lee Sawyer

Timothy L. Sawyer To Enter Annapolis

Timothy Lee Sawyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sawyer, Crestview Drive, Shrine Acres, Dallas, has been appointed as midshipman to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis by Hon. Daniel J. Flood.

Timothy, a 1974 graduate of Dallas Senior High School, is a member of the Dallas High School chapter of the National Honor Society. He has also contributed to Dallas High School athletic program participating in football, wrestling, and baseball.

Fire, Ambulance Co. Form Dallas Merger

The Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company and the Dallas Ambulance Association have merged and will be known as the Dallas Fire and Ambulance Inc.

The merger was announced by Fire Chief Don Shaffer after the fire company and ambulance association held an advertised meeting June 23, at which time the merger became official.

Chief Shaffer said that the same men are members of both organizations, so the merger should present no problems. He also noted that there will be no change in policy for either organization.

The notification of change has been sent to Harrisburg. Upon receipt of a reply, in approximately two weeks, there will be an election of officers.

The Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company was officially chartered in 1927 and the Ambulance Association was founded in 1954. The groups service Dallas Borough and most of Dallas Township and often are called to assist other parts of the Back Mountain area.



by Gary Van Scoy

Pocono 500 queens hand out programs for Sunday's big race. Other photos on Page 18.

Dallas Council Wary Of Mosquito Program

Dallas Borough Council is trying to find out what kinds of chemicals the Northeastern Pennsylvania Vector Control Association's mosquito control division uses to combat mosquitos before council decides to take advantage of the free service.

Vector control has sent letters to all townships and municipalities instructing

them to apply in writing for the service before the end of June. No explanation of spraying techniques, water treatment procedures, chemicals used, or the amount of training the control crews have received was given in the letter.

Many area governing bodies have jumped at the opportunity to avail themselves of a free service which will cut down on the mosquito population without the slightest consideration of what the chemicals will do to birds, game, beneficial insects or the balance of microorganisms in water which ultimately provide food for fish.

"I heard this program did more damage than it is worth," Council president Jerry Machell said at last week's borough council meeting. "We simply have to have more information before we can get into anything like this."

Borough secretary Ralph Garris was instructed to write a letter to the Vector Control Association asking for a detailed report on the procedures and chemicals used in the service.

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Luzerne Firm 'Puts One Over' On Sewer Hookup Regulator

A Luzerne Borough business man "put one over" on sewer authority chairman Rudi Leandri several weeks ago and caused a change in sewer authority regulations on the type of pipe allowable for hookup to the new sewer system.

"A couple of weeks ago, on Sunday, a merchant on Main Street called me up and asked me to make an inspection of his sanitary pipe. He pleaded with me to make the inspection.

"I went down and looked at the job. I told him it was a wonderful job—the work was neatly done and I thought he used the proper materials. He used PVC Schedule 40 pipe.

"I found out later that our specifications say that PVC Schedule 40 pipe can be used only in residential hookups. Commercial and industrial buildings must use cast iron.

"I went back to the guy and told him I was aware that he had put one over on me and the guy said 'yes, and you had better not order me to dig it up or I'll take you to court—and I'll win, too.'"

Solicitor Arthur Piccone said he would indeed win.

Mr. Leandri said he then looked up exactly what kinds of materials could be

put through the Schedule 40 pipe and found it suitable for just about everything except possibly naphtha and ether. He also checked with Dallas Borough officials and found they had approved Schedule 40 pipe for commercial and industrial establishments. He suggested Luzerne do the same.

PVC Schedule 40 is a heavy duty plastic pipe that is more expensive than cast iron and won't crack or rust out.

One citizen stated Mr. Leandri was trying to get himself bailed out of a mistake. He said several other Luzerne residents who had put in improper pipe had had to tear it out.

"I made an honest mistake because I'm too soft hearted," Mr. Leandri said. The authority approved the change unanimously. One authority member said, "Rudi, we don't want you to make any more inspections."

In other business, the authority agreed to have Wyoming Sand and Stone submit an estimate for a storm drain system for Chapel, Charles, Main and Tenner Streets which would flow into Toby's Creek.

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