Harveys Lake zoners hear appeal on Garrity land case

The temporary replacement Monday of a member of the Harveys Lake Zoning Hearing Board, questioned by a member of borough council attending the zoning meeting, was perfectly legal, according to Ben Orfaly, chairman of the zoning hearing board.

Joseph Ruotolo, former zoning

hearing board member, was named Harveys Lake Planning Commission board as Kopko's replacement. by Orfaly to temporarily replace board member Francis Kopko, who, though present, had ruled himself ineligible to participate in voting on the major issue brought before the board.

With the board hearing appeal for him to vote. testimony on the decision of the Orfaly then placed Ruotolo on the

to permit developer Thomas Garrity to subdivide a large parcel of property, Kopko asked to be excused from voting on the grounds that, as he had property that would be affected by the decision, it would not be proper

Rachel VanHorn.

William Sherksnas, the third member of the board, was not present. Asked about the basis for the

replacement, Orfaly said Tuesday that he as chairman is empowered to name a replacement for a member who disqualifies himself and that Ruotolo, as a former board member. was a good choice.

However, the board decided not to rule on the matter Monday but rather to study it further before rendering a decision. Next meeting for the zoning hearing board is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 30.

Orfaly said that Ruotolo will con-The October meeting will be at the home of Mrs. George Hess. Mrs. Alva the Garrity matter. Kopko will

not voting on the question, and will vote only on other matters brought before the board.

Various borough property owners whose land is affected by the planning commission's decision this past summer, represented by Attorney Blythe Evans, questioned the commission's decision that Garrity held title to the land and could subdivide it.

The zoning hearing board, according to Orfaly, is now charged with hearing the appeal by the property owners and is empowered to either uphold the decision or overturn it insofar as zoning is concerned. The board, he continued, cannot pass judgement on the matter of Garrity's

title to the land, however. Garrity was represented by At-

The property owners currently have a case pending in Luzerne 'County Court of Common Pleas regarding Garrity's title. Kopko, said Orfaly, is a party to the legal action.

matter only and will leave the board after it has been settled.

of borough council questioned the

This is reportedly the first instance of such a replacement on the board.

logic of the replacement procedure is prevention of tie votes that might come about if only two members were present. Two members form a legal quorum. However, with Sherksnas' absence, there were still only two

Ward speaks on problems of children

The Colwell Class of Dallas United Methodist Church met recently at the home of Mrs. Ralph Dixon, Elmcrest, Dallas.

Mary Ward, home and school visitor for Dallas

ment committee members Children." were Mrs. Harriet Miller The class donated \$200 to and Mrs. Martha Elston. the church. Mrs. Louise Colwell Members attending were Mrs. Denise Dickinson, presided over the business

meeting which was

"Problems of School

church.

DAMA receives \$14,000

Members of the refresh-Mrs. Martha Reese, Mrs.

Marilyn Akers, and Mrs.

tinue as a replacement for Kopko during the time it takes to deal with

Ruotolo will vote on the Garrity Following the meeting, a member procedure. According to another source, the

members



