

L-L board holds school taxes at 91 mills

by Tom Mooney

Taxpayers in the Lake-Lehman School District can breathe easier—at least for 1981-82. The school board last week voted to keep local property taxes at their present rate of 91 mills. Total amount of the year's budget is \$6,125,312.

A brief flap erupted when board member Ed Mark charged the board with passing an unnecessary two-mill increase last year in order to create a surplus which the district then invested.

While Mark continued to criticize the board for producing budgets with 'duplication, overlapping, and fat,' chairman Angelo DeCesaris said that there must be some leeway in a budget because of income uncertainties. Member Gilbert Tough criticized Mark, saying that he had failed to attend work sessions where the budget was produced.

In other business, DeCesaris appointed Mark as a 'committee of one' to give further study to the possibility of replacing the regional system of election school directors with some form of at-large election. Alternatives available to the board consist of retaining the three-region system, converting to wholly at-large election, and combining the two in some way.

Solicitor Atty. Peter Savage said that the board itself, if interested, could submit to the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas a plan that would combine regional and at-large elections or, alternatively, citizens could petition the court. The number of citizens petitioning, though, would have to equal 25 percent of the number who voted for the school director with the highest vote total in the last election. Mark himself had raised the question of converting to at-large election at the

May meeting.

Atty. Savage said that 'if it is opposed or challenged, the process can drag on for quite a period of time.' He added that he did not think such a project would work because 'The trend throughout the state is back to regions.'

Even though bids for school bus tires and garbage collection were submitted, the board refused to accept them. The bus tire question was tabled for additional research, while the board refused to consider the

three garbage bids after member Donald Jones said he had never heard of the low bidder-Sekar Enterprises. DeCesaris said he did not know what the board would do about awarding a garbage pickup contract or when it would deal with the matter again.

The board also revised the school calendar to reduce it from 181 to 180 days and make June 4 rather than June 7, 1982, the last day of school. It authorized the

professional employees to organize a credit union for all district employees and their families. It announced that the elementary student-teacher ratio would be 25-1 at Ross Elementary and 26-1 at the Lake Noxen Elementary and Lehman Jackson Elementary.

A special meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 30, at 8 p.m. in the high school building, while the regular July meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14, at 8 p.m. in the Lake-Noxen Elementary School.



RICHER BY \$500-David Shoemaker, Chase Road, Shavertown, is \$500 richer today by virtue of opening a 16 oz. bottle of Pepsi Cola and discovering the prize notice under the bottle cap. Shoemaker purchased his Pepsi Cola at Case Beverage, Kingston. \$500 is the grand prize in the Pepsi contest in effect since March. The contest is being continued through Sept. 30. Above, Amy and Diana are shown with their dad and mother, Mr. and Mrs. David Shoemaker. (Mark Moran Photo)

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