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SERVING THE BACK MOUNTAIN SINCE 1889

Dallas Borough okays Shaskas subdivision

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

Shaskas subdivision approved

Members of the council signed final approval for the Shaskas subdivision since there is nothing the borough can do to stop the development as it is legal according to borough codes.

No action on Hearthstone Pub

Dallas Borough councilmen agreed to defer further action on the former Hearthstone Pub building until the October 18 council meeting following Borough solicitor John S. Fine that he had contacted owner Jim Post who said he is waiting for a clear title to the property before he will do any work to bring the building up to standard. The decision was made by the officials at their adjourned meeting October 4 at the municipal building.

Lake Street will get speed signs

Borough manager Robert Brown reported that the state had approved speed signs for Lake Street but the state wants council to be responsible for enforcing the speed limits.

Molski, Spencer to Water Commission

John Molski was named principal delegate and Bob Spencer alternate delegate to the Back Mountain Water Commission for Dallas Borough.

Part-time patrolman removed

Part time policeman William Hagenbaugh's removal from the list was approved by the council and the secretary instructed to send Hagenbaugh a letter notifying him of the action and requesting that he return his I.D. card.

New stop sign to be installed

A motion was made and approved that a new four-way stop sign be installed at Norton and Spring Streets.

Regular meeting will be October 18

The regular meeting of the council will be October 18, at the borough municipal meeting.

Deer Meadow rezoning is read and voted

The rezoning ordinance for Deer Meadows was read at length by the borough solicitor and after presentation, members voted the same as they had at a prior council meeting. Brobst, Carroll, Tupper, Eyet, Shaffer, yes; and Machell, no.

Truck bid awarded

The council members approved unanimously that Bradco Supply Company be awarded the bid for the borough's new 1989 Ford dump truck in the amount of \$18,000 with trade in.

Committee heads will begin preparation of expenses for the 1989 budget.



Come and get 'em

Joe Darling, Hilderbrant Road, Dallas, sits with the family harvest. Norman Darling and his sons harvested these pumpkins Saturday. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Oil company may be fined for gas spill in Creek

A local service station owned by Pern Fern Oil Co., Route 309 in Shavertown, may face a penalty for a gasoline spill from the station's underground tanks which leaked into Toby's Creek last Friday and killed an undetermined number of fish.

DER spokesperson Mark Carmon said Sunday that tests on gasoline tanks at the Texaco station revealed that the leak was caused by over-filled tanks. Gasoline spilled out a large drainage pipe and extended into a one-quarter mile area of Toby's Creek.

Fire personnel and representatives from DER spent much of last Friday blotting up gasoline from the creek. Work using absorption material to stop the gasoline flow into the creek continued over the weekend.

"The service station will be responsible for removal of any soil contaminated by the spill and will be monitored by DER," said Carmon.

Carmon said the Pern Fern Oil Co. station will probably face a fine for the environmental hazard from DER and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. The gasoline spill does not pose a public health problem as long as the contaminated soil is removed promptly.

The owner of the station could not be reached for comment.

Jackson sewer project begins

by SARA J. LUNDBERG Managing Editor

The Jackson Township Municipal Authority answered residents concerns at their monthly meeting Monday night after announcing the selection of a contractor for their \$3 million state-mandated sewer project. The main question on taxpayer's minds at the meeting seemed to be the project cost and whether

or not the sewer system would benefit the area as a whole.

"I expect the total cost to residents to be approximately \$300-350 a year," said Richard Kinder, who is chairman of the authority.

According to Kinder, this cost reflects the present yearly DAMA sewage treatment fee of \$151 a year, and the balance of the \$350 approximate annual cost would include debt service costs to repay a \$983,000 state PENNVEST loan.

The authority was awarded the low interest PENNVEST loan to help finance the project which was ordered by the state more than five years ago. The loan has a 20 year term and a 1 percent interest rate. A \$2 million federal grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will also be utilized towards the financing of the project.

Kinder said the authority can See Sewer, pg 3

Citizens group, officials share concerns over region's growth

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

Municipal officials from eight Back Mountain communities and officials from two school districts expressed similar concerns on the rapid development in the Back Mountain as those of Back Mountain residents at a dinner meeting held at Penn State, Wilkes-Barre last Thursday.

Approximately 60 officials joined with members of the Back Mountain Citizens Council for the dinner and afterwards shared their concerns and objectives with one another.

Dr. James Ryan, university executive, told those in the room that the last three years' growth is only the 'tip of the iceberg'.

"My guess is that in the next three years we will see development increase five to six-fold. Completion of the bypass will also aid in increased development like you have never seen," Ryan told the officials.

"Penn State University is a land grant institution. We have a responsibility to help communities deal with issues and bring citizens together to assist in resolving these issues.

"The Back Mountain Citizens Council never intended to be an adversarial group but a group to work with municipal officials and school boards," Ryan stated. "Many communities are affected by the rapid development; we hope to address and discuss growth. The most successful method of doing this is partnership of public officials and the community," Ryan concluded.

Former Kingston Township manager Fred Potzer recommended that officials take a look at other counties where there has been rapid growth.

"Growth can be positive if there is unified planning, development regulations, environmental resources. We're entering an economic renaissance," he said.

He told the audience that an average of 37,000 to 39,000 cars daily travel the Cross Valley Expressway and that influx of traffic will increase, he said.

"There have been 150 new homes built in Kingston Township alone in the past three years and 450 more new ones on the drawing board," Potzer said. "This will have an impact on police, fire companies, and

highways. In Dallas Township the growth is similar."

Potzer said the growth will spread to other communities and the problems have to be addressed collectively. He mentioned storm water management and said that ground water from 19 communities runs into Toby's Creek. Potzer felt that there should be regulations concerning use and protection of the watershed.

He cited the positive things the Back Mountain communities have done together, such as expansion of DAMA to include Jackson Township, Harveys Lake and Lehman Township; cooperation of Back Mountain police departments; a four-municipality communications center which serves nine service units; and a six-municipality purchasing plan.

"Now we need to go further, we need to work together with the Back Mountain Citizens Council formed after two meetings. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to get input from municipal leaders, not to work against one another but to work together. We hope to bring in professionals and other leaders for seminars and other aids. We can't put our heads in the sand, development won't go away. The Back Mountain will continue to grow and we hope for a sharing of ideas and officials taking part in programs as they develop.

"We're not experiencing natural growth but accelerated growth. We have had 50 percent increase in population in seven years. Big companies see the Back Mountain area as the 'No. 1' place to buy or build," Potzer concluded.

Citizens Council member Nancy Eckert added that the council wanted to work with the municipalities, to combine their resources and to develop some area-wide compatible zoning regulations, long term transportation facilities and adequate recreation areas.

Howard Grossman, executive director of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania and a resident of the Back Mountain, explained that growth is spreading in Monroe, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties and is having an impact on communities in all areas.

"The goal is not to stop development but to manage it. There are many resources available such as the Department of Community Affairs, County Community Office, and

others at the regional and state level.

"There should be a close connection between the schools and municipalities," Grossman said. "Most of the growth is in housing and the Route 309 corridor. The Back Mountain is becoming a bedroom community and we need to strengthen

See Citizens, pg 3

Recommendations made by the Back Mountain Citizens Council

The Back Mountain Citizens Council stated the following objectives:

- Recommend the most appropriate planning affecting growth and development
•Create model codes and ordinances to control development
•Assist local officials to reach a balance of growth and environmental protection
•Educate citizens and officials on planning and zoning
•Create a central databank of updated statistics in Back Mountain
•Develop a list of sources for available funding to assist local municipalities in financing the cost of better planning
•Keep citizens updated and informed of pertinent issues
•Hold an annual conference to discuss progress in resolving area's needs

Shavertown Water Co. to fix Hassold Well

BY SARA J. LUNDBERG Managing Editor

Shavertown Water Company is the recipient of one of the first state grants awarded by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Board (PENNVEST). Last week PENNVEST awarded the Shavertown Water Co. a \$50,000 grant, as well as a \$197,599 low interest loan for the purpose of clean water applications.

The money will be used to clean up the Hassold Well. The well was discovered to have cancer-causing contaminants, and closed down last December.

Company vice president Jean Eason said it plans to build an aeration tower at the well. The aeration process involves pumping water up into a tower and aerating the volatile organic chemicals (VOC's) throughout the system. The VOC's are vaporized and dispersed into the atmosphere, resulting in clean water at the well. After treatment the well will be put back into service.

Eason said it will cost about \$200,000 for the treatment system. The company will proceed with the project as soon as the PENNVEST funds are available. A 90 day treatment period is expected.

"The PENNVEST aid has helped to make the clean-up of the Hassold well possible. Without the help the clean-up would have been much more expensive for the company, and it would have taken a longer period of time before the treatment process began," said Eason.

The loan will be repayed through consumer billing over a twenty year period. Shavertown Water Company serves 900 customers in the Back Mountain area.

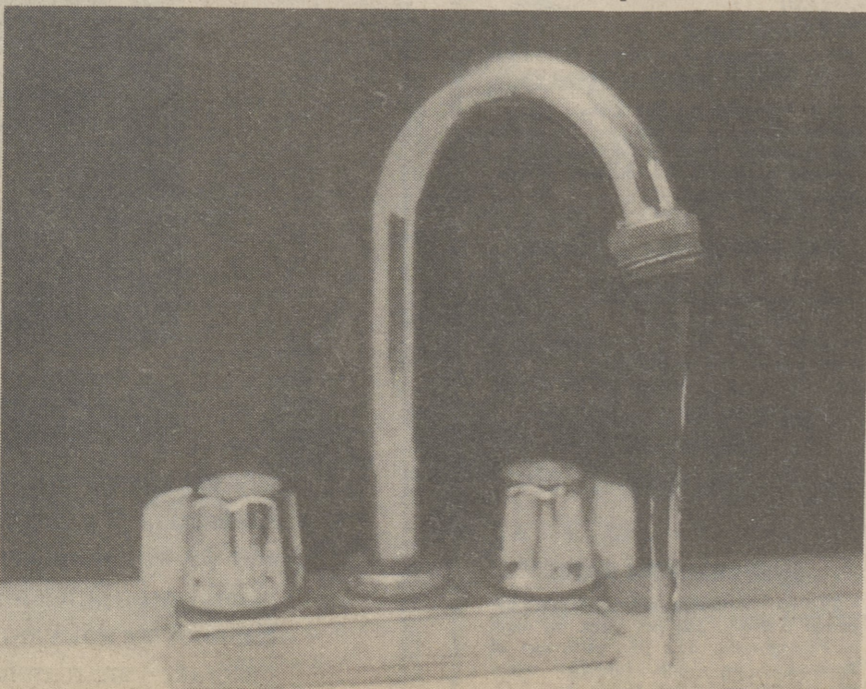
DER representative Mark Carmon said that any private company or municipality may apply for a PENNVEST loan. The applications are reviewed by the regional DER office and then forwarded to the state PENNVEST office. The criteria

for the aid is set by PENNVEST legislation and competition is tough, said Carmon.

Rod Snyder, a spokesperson from the Governor's budget office said that criteria for PENNVEST aid is based on environmental impact, public health safety and economic development.

Governor Casey signed the legislation authorizing the PENNVEST legislation on March 1, 1988. PENNVEST will provide \$2.5 billion during the next 25 years for upgrading water and sewage systems throughout Pennsylvania, according to Snyder.

Snyder said the DER will test the treated water at the Shavertown Water Company's well before it is opened to the public.



CLEANER WATER - Residents of the Back Mountain hope their water quality will improve when planned improvements are completed.

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