

# Kingston Twp. takeover of Pioneer Ave. a 'dead issue'

By SCOTT A. DAVIS  
Post Staff

After three years of negotiations, Kingston Township has been sent back to the drawing board on plans to gain control of Pioneer Avenue from the state Department of Transportation.

Because of the large number of Kingston Township residents who use Pioneer Avenue, the township "feels it might be in the interest of serving those citizens if we assume control of the roadway," said Kingston Township Manager Jeffrey Box recently.

In May of this year, Box described the negotiations as being "at a stand still." On Monday, Box characterized the negotiations as

a "dead issue."

According to Box, the township has not heard from PennDOT and must assume negotiations have been ended.

"There has been no communication from PennDOT. We have not received any word in regards to the negotiations," Box explained.

Box said the township will now revert back to the original plan. "PennDOT must improve the roads," Box said. "At that time, Kingston Township will again consider assuming control."

The changing of control of Pioneer Avenue from PennDOT to the township involves a state program which returns or turns over control of state highways and road-

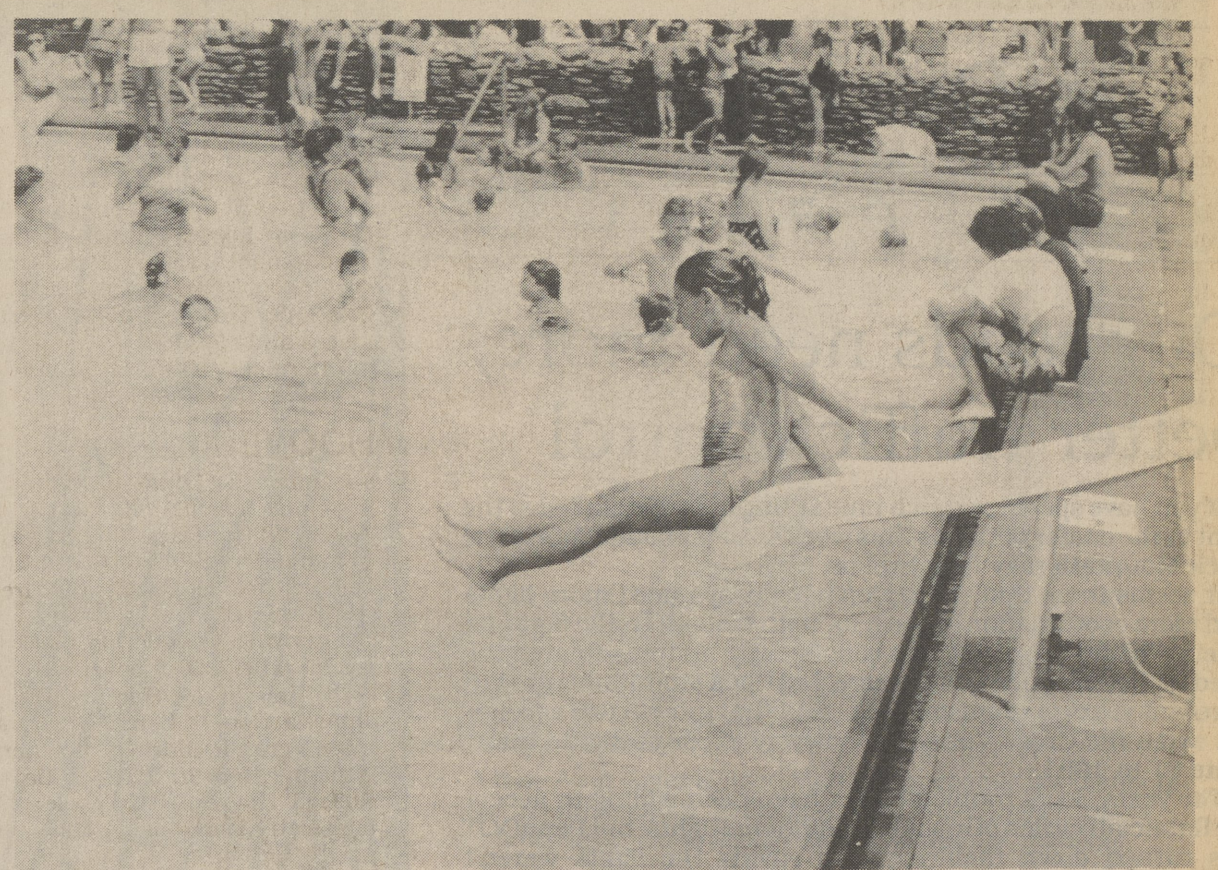
ways to the local municipalities.

As an incentive for the municipalities to accept control of the roads, the state offers an annual payment for roadway maintenance.

The township wants to gain control of Pioneer Avenue "to provide better service for the community," Box said.

Pioneer Avenue has been described by Box as deteriorated, with poor drainage, and slow winter storm response time by PennDOT. PennDOT could not be reached for comment.

"As far as negotiations are concerned," Box concluded, "we have received no information one way or the other from PennDOT. It seems to be a dead issue."



## Heat relief

Youngsters from around the area had fun while keeping cool this weekend at the pool at Moon Lake Park in Lake Silkworth. (Photo by Ron Bartizek)

## Enforcement

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The third source of funding comes from a tax hidden in gasoline purchases. "These hidden taxes go to PennDOT," Messerle explained. "We have a working agreement with PennDOT to collect a certain amount of this tax, since a certain percentage of gasoline purchases goes toward motor boats." This tax is called the Marine Fuels Tax.

Messerle said the commission's law enforcement ability is limited by two factors. "For one thing," he said, "revenue will not support (expansion)."

### Deputies receive only a stipend of \$36 a day

Messerle said the second limitation is bureaucratic. "Although the commission is an independent agency outside the Governor's administration, the Governor makes out our checks," he said.

Messerle explained that the administration has an official

### Part-time deputies must complete 60 hours of police training

number of employees which the commission cannot exceed. "Even if we wanted to (expand), we can not without the Governor's approval."

Since the commission must work with limited manpower, the commission has set up a complex mutual aid agreement between the regional offices. "If demands change in one region, officers can be pulled from another region to assist," Messerle said.

Messerle pointed out that if a situation arose that a Waterways Conservation Officer cannot respond to a complaint or emergency, there are alternative authorities to dispatch.

"DER, the Game Commission, some park police, and every state and municipal police officer have authority to enforce all boat codes," Messerle said.

Messerle also said the officers work hard to fulfill their jobs even though there is such a shortage of manpower. These officers must complete intensive training programs prior to employment, and continue training the entire time of their employment.

To become a full-time Waterways Conservation Officer, an individual must pass a Civil Service Exam and be placed on a waiting list. Once hired, the full-time officers must complete four months of training at the H.R. Stackhouse School near State College.

At Stackhouse, the officers are trained in all aspects of law enforcement, fisheries information and education, engineering, and all other phases of the commission's operations. The officers also train annually in the use of firearms and first aid.

Part-time deputy applicants must apply for the job, then undergo an extensive background check. The applicants must be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) prior to employment.

Within the first year of employment, deputies must attend Stackhouse for 60 hours of training in all powers as a police officer.

Within three years, deputies must return to Stackhouse to learn what the commission does and why. They also learn more about law enforcement in regards to boating under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

To make up for shortages in manpower, the commission changes the patrol patterns seasonally. "March 1 through Memorial Day, officers concentrate on trout stocking and trout fishing law enforcement," Messerle said. "Memorial Day through the week after Labor Day, officers concentrate on boat law enforcement," he continued. "Late fall to January, officers concentrate on training."

"We also continue to enforce fish and boat laws year round," Messerle concluded.

## Dallas man drowns after falling in creek

Thomas James Atkinson, 34, 229 Valley View Trailer Park, Dallas, was found dead in Toby's Creek along South Main Street, Kingston Township early Monday morning.

While jogging Monday about 5:30 a.m. Gerald Kapral of Kingston Township saw a body lying face down in the water and called the Kingston Township police to

investigate.

Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol, Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Division and the Luzerne County Coroner's office are investigating the death which was placed sometime between 11 and 11:30 p.m., Sunday.

Authorities believe that while riding his bike, Atkinson rode off

the edge of the roadway where it narrows, went down a bank and struck a rock when he went into the creek. After an examination by County Coroner Dr. George Hudock, the stated manner of death was by drowning.

An investigation is continuing but authorities do not believe foul play was involved.

## Peiffer, Cooper fill Dallas Borough Council gaps

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

Donald Cooper and Patricia Peiffer, two Republican nominees on the November ballot, were appointed members of the Dallas Borough Council, Tuesday, July 18, to fill vacancies left by the resignation of William Berti and Craig Tupper.

Both new members were sworn into office by Mayor Paul LaBar. Ms. Peiffer will serve six months of the remaining two and a half years of Tupper's term in office. Tupper submitted his resignation at Tuesday's meeting, because he is taking residence in Orchard View Terrace, Dallas Township, making him ineligible to serve in the borough.

Names of new candidates for Tupper's vacancy will appear on the November ballot because Ms. Peiffer will begin her own four year term of office then. Both the Republican and Democrat parties may nominate a candidate on the ballot for the remaining two year term of Tupper's seat and the winner will take office in January.

Don Cooper, who was appointed to fill Berti's seat which expires in

December, has already won a seat in the primaries and will continue in the seat to which he was appointed.

Mrs. James (Margaret) Davis, Davenport Street, Dallas, was appointed a part time clerk to business manager Katherine Strosneider for 15 hours weekly at \$4.00 per hour.

PennDOT turned down the council's request to install guardrails in the area of the highway near the Y of Routes 309 and 415 but notified council they will outline the curbing and put special markings on the highway to alert motorists of the dangerous intersection ahead. PennDOT claims the markings will be more effective than guardrails.

The council will hold a special meeting with zoning board Atty. Mark Opel to discuss the feasibility of updating the borough's zoning ordinances.

A request to install an air conditioning system in the police offices and the council meeting room was tabled until a future meeting, since most of the council members appeared reluctant to support the proposal.

Business manager Strosneider told the council that R.N. Fitch & Sons has offered to install a split conditioner unit that delivers 13,100 and 5,500 BTU's at the same time at a cost of \$3,200. She explained that the police department offices are very hot and that there is more than \$6,000 in the building improvement fund. The cooling system will be discussed at a future meeting.

PennDOT also notified council that a stop sign will be installed to replace the yield sign at the intersection of Main Street and Pioneer Avenue, and that 35 mph speed limit signs on both roads must be placed for better vision by motorists. Replacement of the signs is the responsibility of the borough.

Council also approved advertising for a part time policeman and also to write to Civil Service requesting that another Civil Service test be given.

PennDOT approved the Elizabeth Street sewer project and Borough Engineer Leo Corbett will meet with council to discuss advertising for estimates for Joseph, Elizabeth and Sunset Streets storm sewers.

## DAMA

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have cost approximately \$1.5 million dollars to complete.

Bagley said DER has failed to explain why the rejected proposal was environmentally unsound.

Bagley said he could not give details of the connection proposal because it is still in the planning stages. He also said he would need more specific information before commenting on how a connection of the two authorities would affect customers.

"We are looking at the end of August to come up with something," Bagley said. "What has to be done is look at (the connection) as an alternative," he said.

Bagley said DAMA must consider several factors in developing a new proposal, such as cost and if the connection could actually be accomplished.

"We will compare the proposal to our existing, approved proposal," Bagley explained. The approved proposal involves upgrading the existing plant to remove Ammonia Nitrogen, a harmful nutrient, from the water.

"DER has said it is more costly to upgrade than to connect to the Wyoming Valley Sewer Authority," Bagley said.

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