

County trash plan draws fire, creates confusion

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A recent ordinance adopted by Luzerne County requiring all trash collected in the county to be taken to the Keystone Landfill has left county officials satisfied, municipal leaders confused and trash haulers angry.

The county sent letters last month to municipalities saying that any hauler collecting trash in the county would soon have to begin taking the waste to the Keystone Landfill. The county said that it has "...legal jurisdiction over the disposal of municipal waste stream..." through state regulations.

County officials are pleased with the ordinance and say that there are many benefits that will occur once all municipalities and haulers comply with the ordinance.

"We negotiated a good price with the tipping fees," said Adrian F. Merolli, executive director of the Luzerne County Planning Commission. "This will also help us keep a handle on the haulers."

Merolli said that there are some municipalities in the county that already regulate where the trash has to go, "...and this is just an extension for them," said Merolli. **Municipalities want questions answered**

Despite the county's pleasure, many municipal officials are a bit confused about the ordinance. They say that the ordinance is vague in some areas and want their questions answered before they adopt a similar rule in their municipalities.

Some of the concerns surfaced at the most recent meeting of the Lehman Township Supervisors.

Supervisor Douglas Ide thought that the negotiated price with the Keystone Landfill was expensive.

"Before you could have a person in a pickup truck going around picking up garbage. But this will help keep hauling in line."

Adrian Merolli
Executive Director
Luzerne County Planning Commission

"If our haulers go somewhere else now and pay a cheaper tipping fee then how much will they raise prices if they have to go to Keystone?" asked Ide.

He also questioned who would have enforcement power over the issue. "We don't have a township hauler," said Ide. "It is all done through private haulers and we aren't sure who they all are."

Supervisor David Sutton said that the county's ordinance says that it is up to the township to find the haulers and direct the trucks to go to Keystone. "I want to know how we are supposed to get hold of these haulers and tell them," he said.

Sutton also asked if the county set a specific date by which municipalities must implement the ordinance. There is no date specified in the county ordinance but Merolli said that municipalities should begin as soon as possible.

"We will give them time to look over the ordinance and get it adopted," said Merolli. "But if they act too slowly I will be getting in contact with them. I hope they don't think we are going to let this thing slide because I'm not going to go away," he added.

Kingston Township Manager Jeffrey Box said that he also had questions about the ordinance and has sent it to the township solicitor for review. "I don't have a problem with them designating a landfill," said Box. He added that there are things that need to be considered

and that is why it was sent to the solicitor.

Many municipalities are having their solicitors review the ordinance, according to Merolli.

Hauler unhappy with the agreement

Some of the region's trash haulers say that the county is painting too rosy a picture of the forced use of the Keystone Landfill.

A spokesman for Searles Sanitation says that the county could cause problems by not giving the haulers a choice.

"It is the same old political arena," said the spokesman. "They (the county) were told 25 years ago how to handle this situation but now they are trying to do what they can and they don't care who they step on."

He said that fees from private haulers may increase with the ordinance. He said that even though the tipping fees at Keystone may be cheaper than some landfills, the mileage to the site is longer and with the bigger trucks the mileage is expensive.

Delvechio Sanitation is another hauler that is not pleased with the ordinance. "This is another case of the business man being dictated to," said a company spokesman. "If we don't do it the government will yell, if the prices go up the customers yell, and we are caught in the middle."

Most of the haulers in the Back Mountain are contracted for privately. The only municipal hauler



HAULERS AFFECTED - A new ordinance in Luzerne County will force all trash haulers to use the Keystone Landfill in Taylor. Municipal officials and haulers are unsure how to respond to the measure, which the county says each community must accept. Danella Environmental Technology is one of several private haulers who serve the Back Mountain and may be affected by the law.

is J.P. Miscaro Co. who services Harveys Lake.

A spokesman at Miscaro said that the company was aware of the ordinance but did not want to comment on the situation. That was the same feeling from the J&J disposal company where there was no comment.

No one could say if they would

definitely be raising prices but most companies said that if the costs were lower then prices to customers would go down.

Merolli said that some haulers have voiced concerns over the issue but added that the county has a better view of the hauling situation now. "Before you could have a person in a pickup truck going

around picking up garbage," said Merolli. "But this will help keep the hauling in line."

Merolli said that there are many benefits to the ordinance and one of the biggest is the tipping fee agreement with Keystone. According to the agreement, the tipping fees will start out at \$46.95 per ton and will rise to \$69.80 per ton over a 10-year period.

Dallas Township police officers to get hazardous material training

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Dallas Township roadworkers will pick up leaves Nov. 12 through Nov. 16, weather permitting. Supervisor Frank Wagner announced at the township supervisors meeting Oct. 16. The leaves must be bagged and will be picked up curbside, according to Wagner.

Police Chief Carl Miers told the supervisors that the Pennsylvania State Police will allow local officers to attend their class for hazardous material training at no charge. Miers reminded the supervisors that the training is compulsory. The supervisors agreed and requested that the chief write ac-

cepting the offer.

In other business, zoning officer Leonard Kozick told the supervisors that a woman from Shaver Avenue came had complained about the noise at Offset Paperback, but he informed her that the noise level had been tested and that it was not above the legal level.

Because the roads in the Wedgewood Estate near the 15th hole of Irem Temple Country Club are not up to specifications, the supervisors ordered that no more permits are to be issued for building or selling lots until the specifications are met.

Following the supervisors meeting, planning and zoning members

met to act on petitions presented.

A petition by Elias Miller for a variance on his lot 171 feet by 900 feet where he has lived from about 1939. Miller explained he wanted to sell the piece of land where he has had a garage business and the said piece of land will meet the zoning requirements, but he wants to keep the parcel on which his

home is located. Miller requested the variance for that parcel because it was less than 100 feet, which is the township requirement.

Since none of his neighbors opposed the variance, the plan-

ning and zoning boards granted the variance with written conditions that the rear area behind the garage will not be used for junk parts or as open air storage.

In other business, a 17 foot

addition from Husain to D'Anca for a roadway on Goodleigh Farms was approved, but the preliminary application for a sub-division for lots 2, 3 and 4 on Goodleigh Farms was not approved.

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