

DAMA

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Valley Sanitary Authority's treatment plant in the next two years, he and the five other DAMA employees would still be needed to operate the pump station and maintain the 85 miles of sewer lines, which are still being added to. Jobs were not the reason the authority became involved in trash collection, according to Bagley.

Medico also said that one of the issues that will come up in litigation is that Ben Jones, solicitor for both Kingston Township and DAMA, may have a conflict of interest in representing both organizations.

Jones said Monday that he feels there is no conflict of interest in his serving on both posts. He would not comment on the upcoming litigation, saying he felt it would be unethical to do so.

Attorney Gifford R. Cappellini said he will file a class action suit on behalf of Back Mountain residents against DAMA and officials from the municipalities involved.

"An unelected and unrepresentative authority, known as the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, has decided to give an exclusive contract where other contracts are already in existence between residents and their garbage haulers," said Cappellini.

Soccer

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Chuck Malpass of Shavertown is one of those introduced to the sport by his children

"I've never played soccer. He started playing," said Malpass, referring to his son Charlie, "and they needed someone to help so I helped. When I first started I knew nothing. You learn by watching."

Malpass has been coaching for seven years. In that time he's seen Charlie change his sports preference.

"My son, at first he liked baseball better, but now its soccer over baseball," said Malpass.

"I know why I like it better—there's more action," said Charlie, 14, who is in his seventh year of playing soccer. His sister, Gussie, 12, is in her sixth.

Teachers

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In so doing, the teacher's union hopes to increase salaries by some 50% over the next five years. This means the current average teacher salary of \$38,646 would be raised to over \$60,000 in the 1995-96 school year.

At present, the teacher's committee is seeking to increase the 1990-91 top end salary from \$43,675 to \$65,000 within five years.

Based on current step progression through the 1990-91 salary schedule, this means approximately 91% of the district's 139 teaching staff would be receiving salaries of \$65,000 in the 1995-96 school year.

Through its contract proposals, the District is seeking to enhance the educational process for students and raise the quality and level of accountability regarding the types of college courses teachers take to receive additional compensation on the salary schedule.



A PACKED HOUSE - More than 200 people jammed the Kingston Township Municipal Building August 14 to protest the township's ratifying of an agreement with the Dallas Area Municipal Authority, giving the authority the responsibility to collect garbage and recyclable materials. The protests were to no avail, the supervisors ratified the agreement on a vote of three to one.

Kingston Twp. votes program over protests

Protests from 200 people opposed to DAMA's garbage and recycling plan did not stop the Kingston Township supervisors from voting three to one to ratify the agreement between DAMA and the township at their meeting August 14.

After 40 minutes of vocal complaints from the overflowing meeting room, the supervisors packed up and left. However, Township Manager Jeffrey Box did promise to contact Dallas Borough and Dallas Township to form a committee to address residents' complaints, which centered on the requirement that all homes be served by Danella Environmental Technologies, with whom DAMA contracted for garbage services.

Box said that the committee would be formed after Dallas Borough and Dallas Township held votes on August 20 to ratify the service agreement with DAMA. Members of the crowd promised to show up en masse at those meetings.

Township supervisors Herbert Hill, Benjamin Franklin and Daniel Wisnieski voted to ratify the agreement, and William Tippet voted against it. Supervisor Donald

Gavigan was on vacation in Florida and the Bahamas and could not attend the meeting - but said Monday he would have voted for the agreement.

"I had no idea that this thing was going to come up at this time," said Gavigan, who had to schedule the time off in the spring to coordinate it with his wife's vacation time.

"Anyone who voted against it, I feel would be betraying the trust of the people," said Gavigan. "It took us almost a year to put this in place. If we don't comply and don't have everything in line by September 1, we'll be fined. Those fines can go as high as \$1,000 a day. That can break a township."

During the meeting, the supervisors were presented with a letter and petitions gathered by the newly formed Back Mountain Citizens, Residents and Taxpayers Association. According to Donna Fowler, about 1,000 people have signed the petition in opposition to DAMA's waste collection plan.

The letter demanded to know why the municipality or DAMA had not applied for state grants to pay for recycling equipment.

"The equipment can be leased to

private haulers," said Jack Fowler, who acted as one of the primary spokespersons for the vocal crowd during the meeting. "You're taking taxpayers and putting them out of business. These are Back Mountain residents. We're talking about a freedom you're trying to take away from us - the freedom of choice."

"Why didn't you include Back Mountain haulers in this?" asked Donna Fowler, of Shavertown. "You could have used more than one. Being that these were Back Mountain haulers, why were they not contacted?"

At an earlier meeting of opponents to the DAMA garbage contract, Fred Seales Jr. of Dallas, owner of Seales Sanitation, told residents who wished to use his service to pay DAMA only for the amount of time that DAMA had picked up.

As the August 14 meeting ended, Barbara Shatrowskas, of Mount Olivet Road in the township, said that protesters should find three Democratic write-in candidates to run against the unopposed incumbents in November's general election. "Jim McNulty did it in Scranton," she said.

Problems

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The cost is higher in South Abington Township because Danella does the billing, instead of DAMA, as in the Back Mountain.

South Abington was mandated by the state to begin a recycling by September, but started early on January 1.

"The only outcry we had was after it started and we received the first bill," said Chris Boettcher, the township's recycling coordinator. "It was from residents, not from haulers."

One important difference between the South Abington and DAMA contracts is that South Abington Township has the right to grant exemptions for people who can prove that they don't produce any garbage that has to be collected.

"We have 101 exemptions on file," said Boettcher. "Most of these people are either single or an elderly couple, and of those most are burning and composting. These people are being monitored to make sure they're not doing anything like burying it in the backyard. It was written in from the start because we figured there were going to be situations - say the house is for sale."

According to Rick Solomon, owner of Solomon Industries, a garbage and recyclables hauler based in Wilkes-Barre, exemption provisions are not unusual in garbage programs. He gave Hanover Township as an example.

The Dallas Area Municipal Authority's contract with Danella Environmental Technologies does not contain provisions for making exemptions.

"Out of 1,950 customers we had a total of three people who complained that they lost the right to choose their own hauler," Boettcher said. She referred the protesters to the township solicitor who explained that the township did have the right to contract waste collection.

Before the township started the program, residents were free to choose any garbage hauler they wished, but most paid for that right with extra cash.

"People would ask us who does your garbage and we told them to ask their neighbors or look in the yellow pages. They would call us and complain about the rates and we would say we had nothing to do with them. I've been here 12 years - in those 12 years as the governing and running of the township goes, that was the biggest complaint," said Boettcher.

"Most of the people in the township were paying approximately \$240 a year. I myself was paying \$240 a year. It almost doubled in one year's time. In our experience it was a cost savings for a good 87 percent of our customers," Boettcher said.



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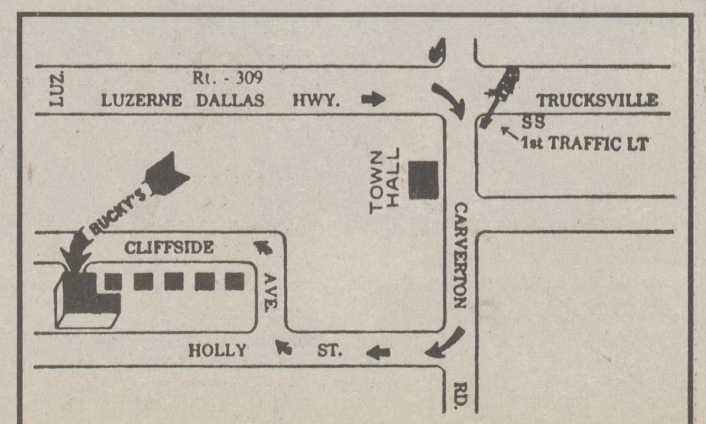
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