

Vandalism

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Coyle acknowledged, but explained that new ownership wanted to upgrade the system.

Council members were reluctant to grant the company's request because while the company offered to restore the portions of pavement it damaged, it did not appear willing to repave the entire width of the street.

Coyle said his plan was to install the main near the center of the roadway, which would mean tearing up and repaving a two-foot wide path about 1,200 feet long, from Route 415 to just past Dallas Family Practice. Council member Harold Brobst asked if the line could be installed along the side of the road, but Coyle said too much rock ledge would make that option difficult.

When the council voted to table the request, Coyle explained that the project would probably have to be put off until next year. He asked that the council notify him in advance of future road work, since his company plans to replace several water lines over the next five years.

A recently-paved road may slow another resident's conversion to gas heat, as council members agreed that they did not want Franklin Street damaged to make the installation.

Keith Adams, 72 Franklin Street, asked permission for Pennsylvania Gas & Water to cut the street in order to install a gas line to his home.

The borough notified PG&W and other utilities in April what roads it planned to pave, and also sends notices to residents when possible. Borough manager Milton Lutsey recommended that Adams' request be denied. "I know he's not going to like that answer. To cut that new pavement seems to be a shame," Lutsey said.

After some discussion, the council agreed that the gas line could be installed if the pavement cutting was limited to a three-foot square, from which the line could be pushed under the street to the home.

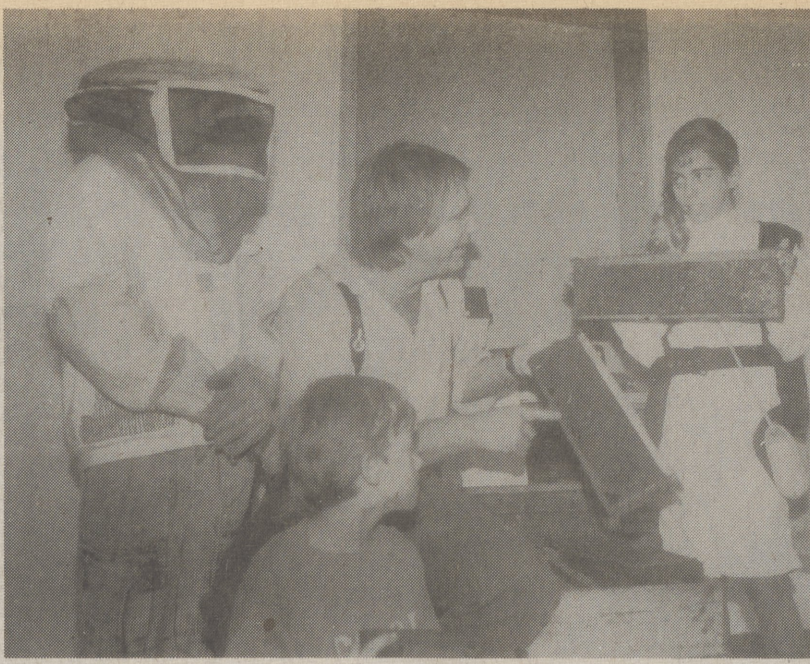
At the conclusion of the meeting, council president Donald Cooper paid tribute to Charlot M. Denmon, the Dallas Post reporter who had covered Dallas Borough meetings for 20 years. "During my tenure on council, Mrs. Denmon was a tremendous help," he said. "She was truly a credit to her profession. I miss her and I'm thankful for all she did for me and for this town."

In other business, the council appointed William Peiffer to chair police committee, and added councilman Jerry Machell to that committee.

Scheduled an executive session for October 24, to discuss the 1992 budget.

Resolved to refund \$44.45 to Molly Durkin, Newberry Estate, for a tax overpayment.

Reminded residents that leaves will be picked up until snowfall. Leaves should be placed at curbside in 33 gallon bags, which will be left after being emptied.



Having a buzzing good time

The Westmoreland Elementary School held its first enrichment program for the school year on October 15. During the day-long program, Cliff Wright-Sunflower, a bee-keeper from Bath, Pennsylvania taught the elementary students that bees are critical to plant life on the planet, because they help spread plant pollen so plants can reproduce. The children also made bees wax candles. Shown from left are: standing, Ted Stark, 9, of Trucksville, wearing a bee-keeper's veil, Cliff Sunflower, and Brenda Karavitch, 10, of Trucksville, with a honeycomb. Jared Swire is kneeling with a smoker, which helps keep the bees from stinging.

County turns down Lake Twp. supermarket

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

A year-long quest by a Tamaqua couple to build a supermarket in Lake Township was grounded by the Luzerne County Commissioners October 16 as they rejected a request for a zoning change on the advice of the Luzerne County Planning Commission.

Norma and Joseph Mazaika had been searching for over a year for the right location to build the market. The spot they finally got an option to purchase contingent on the zoning change was at the intersection of Route 118 and a dirt road called Macri Road.

The Mazaika's requested the area be rezoned from agricultural to a community business district, a request the planning commission recommended against and the commissioners denied.

"The need is there. There are no supermarkets, the main supermarkets are in Dallas, Nanticoke and Benton," said Norma Mazaika, who

would have managed the market.

In doing her market research, Mazaika said that she found there were about 8,000 people living within a five-mile radius of the area, and the nearest supermarkets were about 10 miles away in Dallas.

"The area surrounding this area is zoned entirely agricultural," said Adrian Merolli, director of the Luzerne County Planning Commission. "It would be a classic case of spot-type zoning. We have tried to place commercial zones clustered at the Pikes Creek area."

"The other issue became public safety," said Merolli. "The property is 400 feet below the crest of the hill and the access to 118 would be very difficult. It was too dangerous."

"The success rate in the Court of Common Pleas is not a very great percentage," said the Mazaika's attorney, Angelo Terrana, "and I'm not trying to get my clients hopes up."

Dallas Borough zoners to hear request for business in Machell Avenue home

The Dallas Borough Zoning Board will hear three requests for variances at its meeting October 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the borough building.

Carol Carroll, 368 Machell Avenue, has requested a variance to operate a business from her home under Section 6.10 of the borough's zoning code.

Earl Samuels, Memorial Highway, has asked for a variance to build an addition on an existing structure, which is located in a B-1 commercial district.

John J. Oliver, 75 Huntsville Road, has asked for a variance to build an addition to his home.

Layoffs

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lum. He said those changes were made for educational reasons, and the changes were approved by the state's Department of Education when it approved the school's course booklet.

"I think at some point, keeping on adding ancillary programs and taking away from major subject areas had a negative impact," said Wycallis, who also noted that in the past several years, Dallas's achievement test scores had been decreasing.

Wycallis would later list some art, music, home economics, and health as ancillary programs.

Programs cut from the present school year include the in-school suspension program, a reduction in ninth grade physical education classes, and fewer health classes for grades seven through 10. Also cut was an administrative intern program which gave teachers an opportunity to work in administrative jobs.

Wycallis testified that cuts were made in programs such as physical education and health where the district provided more instruction than the Department of Education required.

"I think that the bottom line is for the past five years the district has been operating with additional staff - more than we needed. Programs were expanded to use those staff people."

"In some areas, we probably far exceeded our need in staff people. Don't get me wrong, there has been an impact, but it has been a minimal impact," said Wycallis.

"Did the budget have anything to do with the furloughs?" asked Attorney Herring.

"The budget as part of my motive - no - because I'm very aware that it's not right to furlough for budgetary reasons," replied Wycallis.

Route 309

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ton Road.

• Installing a traffic light at Franklin Street in Shavertown.

PennDOT's Bonacci said that a traffic study had shown that there wasn't enough traffic on Franklin Street to warrant a traffic light.

"That's not fair, they all go to Center Street," said Herbert Hill, a Kingston Township supervisor.

Sabol was concerned because the extra traffic which might use Franklin Street if a signal were installed, uses Center Street instead, creating problems for the nearby fire department in an emergency.

Sabol also expressed concern about the difficulty emergency crews have in reaching an accident on northbound Route 309 near the rock cut, where vehicles might become sandwiched between the median barrier and the rock wall.

Ben Franklin, another Kingston Township supervisor, suggested an acceleration lane off of Hillside Road to Route 309 southbound, and keeping trucks to the right on Route 309 northbound.

Dallas Borough Police Chief John Fowler suggested restricted driveway access to 309.

"I think our shopping center in Shavertown where they restricted the flow, our accidents are way down," said Sabol after Fowler's suggestion.

Don Cooper, president of the Dallas Borough Council, suggested a signal at Center Hill Road to slow down traffic.

Frank Wagner had several suggestions including:

• Adding median barriers from Mister Donut to

However, Fred Templin, who retired as supervisor of curriculum and instruction last spring said he was surprised by the furloughs when he learned of them in July after returning from vacation.

"I thought the retirements would be enough to meet the budget," said Templin.

"In your opinion, why were those programs cut?" asked Herring.

"Financial restraints I imagine," replied Templin.

Jones suggested that Templin would have had to imagine, because he wasn't very involved in planning the curriculum.

"Is it not fair to say that during the months of March, April and May, were you not preoccupied with your imminent retirement?" asked Jones, to which Templin replied "yes."

Templin also testified that he held animosity toward the school board because his last pay raise was less than what others received.

Throughout the testimony, the two sides used very different terminology. Wycallis spoke of "program curtailment" - Attorney Herring of "staff cuts."

Herring attempted to link a survey published in The Dallas Post on June 12 to the a budgetary motive for the district furloughing the teachers.

Jones referred to the survey as a "coupon," and pointed out that the board never officially voted to approve it.

The survey asked residents which of two proposals they would support, raising tax millage in the district by "22 mills (17%) to keep all existing educational and co-curricular programs?"

Or raising tax millage "by 15 mills (11%) as was proposed in the tentative budget."

Wycallis said that the questions are exactly as he provided them to

the Post, with the addition of the percentages.

He denied however writing the sentence in the introduction to the questions which states: "The tentative budget calls for a 15 mill tax increase to 156 mills, which would require some cutbacks in personnel and programs."

Wycallis testified that the district had a reserve of \$266,501 in the final budget, which has grown to nearly half a million dollars since the start of the school year.

"The budgetary reserve has sufficient funds to put those programs back if deemed necessary," said Wycallis.

"Why didn't you?" asked Herring.

"The board decided to curtail those programs," said Wycallis.

"Do you feel the cuts were educationally sound?" asked Herring. "Under the circumstances, yes," replied Wycallis.

"What circumstances are those?"

Wycallis replied that the programs exceeded state regulations.

Attorney Robert Panowicz acted as hearing officer for the school board. When the hearing is complete, Panowicz, under the direction of the school directors, will prepare a "finding of facts and conclusions of law" document, which will either uphold the teacher's furloughs, or find them unlawful. At a public meeting the board will vote to adopt the document. Panowicz said that the process would take about a month.

If the school board upholds the furloughs, then the teachers may appeal to Luzerne County Court, while Ferko, whose hours were reduced, may appeal to the Secretary of Education.

The hearing was expected to be completed Tuesday evening, October 22.

Franklin Street.

• Adding a right turn lane at 309 and Hildebrandt and Upper Demunds Road.

• Eliminating the possibility of making a left turn from 309 to Country Club Road.

The group decided to wait a month after the anticipated opening of the final leg of the Cross Valley Expressway in November to hold its next meeting so they would be able to gauge how traffic has changed.

"If you could do a truck count now and a truck count a month after the Cross Valley opens then we'd have something to talk about," said Ed Schechter.

The next meeting of the Transportation Association will be December 4, at 7 p.m. at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

Community representatives at the meeting included:

Supervisors Herbert Hill and Benjamin Franklin from Kingston Township; councilman Don Cooper from Dallas Borough; supervisor Frank Wagner from Dallas Township; Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol; Dallas Borough Police Chief John Fowler; Adrian Merolli, director of the Luzerne County Planning Commission; Jim Brozena, Luzerne County Engineer; Al Babetski, Lehman Township Emergency Management Coordinator; Ed Schechter, chairman of the Back Mountain Citizens Council's transportation committee; and Back Mountain Citizens Council Members, Jaquie Williams and Ruth Valick.

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