

NEWS ITEM - The Cross Valley Expressway, linking the Back Mountain with Interstate 8, opens to traffic November 8.



Safe trick-or-treaters

A group of trick-or-treaters who visited the Franklin Township Fire Hall for the fire company's "Trick or Treat Safely" Halloween party included, front row from left: Amy Vodzak, Julia Kvashay, Megan Vodzak and Ana Burrell; back row from left: Kristen Vodzak, Jason Vldzak, Karl Kvashay, Donna Kvashay, Aileah Kvashay, Heather Vodzak and Susan Vodzak. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

Comm Center

(continued from page 1)

half," said Sabol. "I don't want to start a fight with them. I'd rather see them stay and sit down with us."

Sabol also disputes the charge that the Back Mountain Communications Center gives poor service.

"All of our calls are handled by priority," said Sabol. "We've never had a written complaint from them."

The Back Mountain Communications Center approved its budget at a meeting on October 14. Harveys Lake's representatives, Police Chief Lionel Bulford and Mayor Joseph Boyle, were not in attendance.

Three funding options were discussed at the meeting. One would base the amount each municipality pays on the assessed valuation of the property in the municipality. Under that proposal Harveys Lake would pay \$14,793 - \$6,709 less than the \$21,502 the borough paid in 1990.

Another would base each municipality's payment on its population. Under that proposal, Harveys Lake would pay \$13,752.30 - \$7750 less than what was paid in 1990.

The option chosen by the Communications Center Board was one which simply had each municipality pay the same percentage of the total budget as it had the year before. Under this option, Harveys Lake's requested payment increased by \$4,309.

The principal reason given by the officials for choosing the percentage increase option for funding was that the other two would add huge amounts to the payments from Lehman and Jackson townships, which have large populations, but few emergency calls.

"It wouldn't break it, but it would make it tough for us," said Sabol of the possibility of Harveys Lake

pulling out of the Communications Center.

Sabol pointed out that Harveys Lake signed a contract with the Communications Center in 1988 that stipulates that the borough give six months notice before pulling out. If the borough pulls out, Sabol said they would still have to pay for half a year.

"If we have to stay with them for six months, then we'll stay with them for six months," said Boyle, who added that the borough's solicitor would have to check the contract to find out what the borough's responsibility is.

"It isn't definite," said Boyle. "I'd be a lying fool if I told you it was. As of today, the feedback I get from council is they'd like to do it. Jeppers, we're talking about a four-year savings of \$100,000."

Boyle said that he's unable to make the regular Communications Center meetings because he travels so much for work.

An extra step would be added to 911 calls

Sabol points out that the Luzerne County Communications Center handles more than 200 police, fire and ambulance services, and wonders how Harveys Lake would get the same level of service that they get from the Back Mountain Communications Center, which serves six municipalities.

One service that the county communications center does not offer yet is 911.

If Harveys Lake abandons the Back Mountain Communications Center, and borough residents dial 911, dispatchers who receive the call at the Back Mountain Center will have to call the County Communications Center to pass the

information on, according to Sabol. Macekura projects that the county communications center will not have 911 for another three or four years.

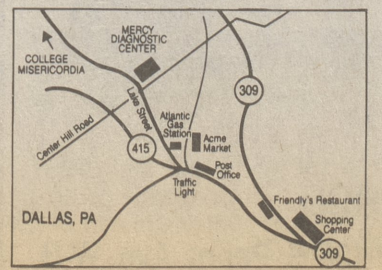
The next meeting of the Back Mountain Communications Center Board is November 12 at 7 p.m. in the Dallas Borough building, and Mayor Boyle says that he will be at this meeting, and he expects to be joined by some councilmen.

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Kingston Twp. begins budget plans

Proposal calls for 1.8% hike in spending

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

Anyone who came to Kingston Township's first-ever open budget work session on October 30 expecting spine tingling drama was disappointed.

The meeting was dull. Which isn't to say that it wasn't important.

About ten people sat through the two-and-a-half-hour session at which supervisors discussed the township's budget line by line.

Before the budget discussions started however, the supervisors voted to authorize solicitor Benjamin Jones III to draft an amendment to the township's zoning ordinance which would allow mobile homes outside mobile home parks.

The township's present zoning ordinances, which only permit mobile homes in mobile home parks, have been challenged by Collette Heck.

Heck owns a property on Rice Street which has both a house and mobile home on it.

Heck's challenge however, is to the township's ordinance in general. Even if the ordinance were to be changed, her property is still in violation of several zoning and building code violations, according to township manager Jeffrey Box.

Supervisor Benjamin Franklin was alone in voting against drafting the proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance. Franklin earlier made a motion to reject Heck's proposed curative amendment - but the motion received no second.

"If that's what you're going to do, the court will draft your ordinance," said Jones of Franklin's motion. "She raised the issue generally. Any homeowner in the township could have raised it.

If the ordinance is changed, mobile homes will be treated as any small home would be, and will still be required to meet the township's zoning and building code ordinances.

Herbert Hill, chairman of the supervisors said that Heck's amendment would be brought up at the next meeting, which will be held November 13 at 8 p.m.

Back to the budget

The 55 page budget, prepared

by township Manager Jeffrey Box calls for a \$90,000 cash balance at the end of the year.

Box said however, that the township's revenues are running ahead of expenditures. For 1991, 79% of the township's budgeted revenues have been collected, while only 73% of the budgeted expenditures have been made. Box said that he could carry over a surplus of between \$100,000 and \$140,000 into 1992.

The total proposed budget for 1992 is \$1,097,019, including a \$95,000 cash balance at the end of the year.

That is an increase of \$19,416, or 1.8 percent, from 1991.

In the 1992 plan, Box proposed that the township begin paving its dirt roads to eliminate the cost of applying calcium to them (budgeted for \$5,500 in 1992). The calcium is put on the dirt roads to harden them and reduce dust. Box also said that the road department would be able to plow paved roads of snow better than they are able to plow dirt roads.

The budget also proposes that dry fire hydrants be installed throughout the township at a cost of \$60,000, at least \$50,000 of which would come from a grant from the state's Office of Community Development. Dry fire hydrants allow fire departments to draw water from lakes and streams without having their hoses clogged with material from the water bed.

Hydrant locations in Kingston Township would include Frances Slocum Lake, and along Toby's Creek.

The budget tentatively calls for resurfacing of parts of Highland Avenue, parts of Terrace Avenue, Vonderheid Street, Zinn Street, and Stafford Street.

Another budget meeting will be held November 7 at 7 p.m. The budget will be read the first time on November 13, and a second time on December 11. On December 15, it will be submitted to the state's Department of Community Affairs.

Odds and ends

Other news from Kingston Township:

The annual pickup of bagged leaves has been scheduled for November 11 through November 15. Residents are advised to have leaves bagged and placed at the curbside for pickup. The pickup is limited to bagged leaves only. Township crews will be conducting the pick up between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Chamberlain asks the cooperation of residents in refraining from sweeping leaves into gutters and roadways. The leaves block storm drains and this poses a serious maintenance problem to the Road Department. A township ordinance also prohibits this practice.

Residents are also reminded that burning of leaves requires a township burning permit. Also, no burning of leaves in gutters along township roadways will be permitted because of the damage to the asphalt.

If anyone has questions about the fall leaf pick up, please call the township office at 696-3809.

The 1991 street surfacing program has been completed. The township annually resurfaces eight to 10 streets at a cost of between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

In 1991, ten streets were resurfaced. Kenilworth, Wellington, Hillcrest, Youngblood, Cedar and Harris Hill Road were resurfaced by the township road crew. An outside contractor paved Harford, Hillside and Davis Streets and Bunker Hill Road.

Kingston Township Police Chief Paul M. Sabol reminds residents that the Winter Parking Ordinance is in effect as of November 1 through March 31, 1992. Under this ordinance residents are prohibited from parking vehicles on township streets between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. each day.

The ordinance is designed to keep the township streets open so the road department can plow the streets when there is a snow storm.

Mrs. Casey's visit to area postponed

Pennsylvania first lady Ellen Casey's visit to the Back Mountain Memorial Library has been postponed.

Mrs. Casey had been scheduled to visit the library November 6, but will now arrive at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 12. She is planning to read to children and attend a reception celebrating the library's "Chefs and Artists" cookbook.

Following her visit to the library, Mrs. Casey will travel to Lake-Lehman High School.

Road Superintendent Robert

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