

KT budget has no tax increase

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

The Kingston Township supervisors adopted the township's proposed 1992 budget at their meeting December 11. The total proposed budget for 1992 is \$1,097,019, a 1.8% increase over 1991's budget, and leaves a \$95,000 cash balance at the end of the year.

The township's taxes will remain the same, with a 5 mill real estate tax, and 1% earned income tax, and a 1/2% real estate transfer tax.

The supervisors also had the second and final reading of an ordinance by which the township will take over a 300-foot-long unpaved dead-end extension of Valley View Drive.

The supervisors abandoned the road early in 1991 because they believed that John and Marilee Manganiello, who live along the road, wanted it that way because they could pave the road if they wished, according to township manager Jeff Box. Box said it was unlikely the that township would pave the road.

At the first reading of the ordinance, on November 13, the Manganiellos complained that they had spent \$6,000 on maintenance and legal fees because of the road. The Manganiellos denied that they wanted to road abandoned, and appealed the abandonment to a Board of View, which can award damages to property owners along an abandoned road if they determine that the value of the property is devalued by the abandonment of the road.

At the December 11 meeting, Robert Popeck, who lives on a property at the corner of Valley View Drive and the dead-end extension, asked the supervisors if there were any plans to widen the road which might infringe on his property. The supervisors replied that there were none.

The supervisors also addressed several items related to development.

Solicitor Benjamin Jones III was authorized to investigate a contempt of court proceeding against the developer of Cranes Landing Subdivision for failure to complete the requirements of a court ordered stipulation dated July 8, 1991. According to zoning officer Benjamin Gorey, the developer has to construct a storm water catch basin.

The supervisors approved the following requests:

From the developer of Sunrise Estates Phase II subdivision for a reduction in the Letter of Credit from \$60,000 to \$15,000 for the township to takeover the roads in the subdivision.

From the developer of the Harkhurst subdivision for a reduction in the Letter of Credit from \$55,000 to \$15,000.

Announcements
• The 1992 reorganization meeting for the supervisors will be January 6 at 7:30 p.m. The public caucus meeting will be moved to Tuesday, January 7 at 7:30 p.m. The regular supervisors board meeting will remain at 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each



Gertrude Hawk opens Dallas store

Annmary Petros stands next to a shelf of chocolate at the new Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Shop in the Country Club Shopping Center in Dallas. Petros is the manager of the store, which opened Saturday, December 14. The 1,500 square-foot store features Gertrude Hawk's complete line of chocolate and candy, including the new "Sugar Free!" line. The Dallas shop will be the 18th Gertrude Hawk store. Gertrude Hawk was established by the company's namesake in 1939, and is still a family-owned, Pennsylvania-based business. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)



Telling a story

Third-grade students from Carole Hayden's class at the Dallas Elementary recently made film strips with paper and tin cans of stories which they had read. The students showed the film strips to first grade students and read story lines which they had written. Floyd Mattie, 9, at right is reading "The Haunting of the Third Grade" to Jeremy Mahle, 7. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

L-L deaf child's case hits cover of national magazines

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Mark Dutton's story appears on cover of Deaf Life

A year-long battle between the family of 12-year-old Mark Dutton and the Lake-Lehman School District over where Mark, who is deaf, should be educated has become a national issue.

The family's effort to have Mark placed in the Scranton State School for the Deaf has been featured in the fall 1991 issue of *The Endeavor*, a magazine published by the American Society for Deaf Children and appears on the cover of the December issue of *Deaf Life*.

According to Attorney Antonette Szarek, legal counsel for the Dutton family, a motion for an injunction to allow Mark to attend Scranton State School for the Deaf was filed in federal court in Scranton November 19.

Citing many legal precedents in which the courts have granted such an injunction, Szarek explained that Mark should be able to attend the Scranton school while his education, and ultimately his preparation for the future, are battled out in court.

"Intermediate Unit 18's program at Dana Street Elementary School where Mark is currently enrolled has no deaf employees, deaf volunteers or other possible deaf role models. Little attention is being paid to deaf history, deaf sports or deaf culture," Szarek explained.

"And Mark has difficulty communicating with his teachers because they do not know American Sign Language (ASL), which is Mark's native language," Szarek continued. "They are basically attempting to communicate with him using individual ASL signs, but in the wrong context. ASL is a

language with its own grammar, syntax and idioms. The few staff at Dana Street who know one or two ASL signs are trying to kitbash and retrofit ASL to fit standard English. It doesn't work at all."

Andrew Faust, attorney for Lake-Lehman School District, said that the district had filed a reply to the injunction December 4. "The Multi-Disciplinary Team found that, contrary to seeing Mark Dutton suffering irreparable harm at Dana Street School, he is actually thriving in its atmosphere," Faust said.

Faust added that the staff at Dana Street is using signed English, another deaf language, combined with some ASL signs. Mark would not be instructed totally in ASL at Scranton State School for the Deaf, but in signed English, Faust contends. In addition, the instructional program which Mark successfully followed in Bucks County, where the family lived previously, is Mark's present instructional plan at Dana Street School.

Faust discounted claims that the school district is fighting to keep Mark in its program in order to preserve lucrative state grants. He said that it would be cheaper to send Mark to Scranton State School for the Deaf than to keep him in the I.U. 18 program at Dana Street School.

"The public education system is not designed to teach children in all of their native languages," Faust

continued. "If that were the case, schools would be required to teach children in Spanish, French or whatever foreign language their students speak. Mark needs to have his native language expanded, so that he will be able to function better in the mainstream."

An initial decision in favor of keeping Mark in the I.U. 18 program was overturned by a panel of two attorneys and an educator, who agreed with the Dutton family that Mark should attend the Scranton State School for the Deaf.

Dennis McLaughlin, special education advisor for the Pennsylvania State Department of Education, in a report on the Dutton family's complaints, dated December 5 1991, wrote that the instructional program developed by SSSD is the most appropriate for Mark.

"It provides for interaction with and growth among deaf peers, provides for deaf role models, and gives an appreciation of deaf history and deaf culture while attending to the child's academic, aural and oral needs," McLaughlin's report states.

Noting that Mark, the son of deaf parents, will probably choose as an adult to function mainly as part of the deaf community, McLaughlin's report concludes, "If the aim of education is to prepare the student to function independently as an adult, the deaf child must be taught to understand, appreciate and accept what he is. Deafness must be understood and treated as the complex problem it is. The deaf child must not be thought of only in terms of what he is now, but more importantly, what he will be 10 years, 20 years, 50 years from now."

No tax increase for Lehman Twp.

The Lehman Township supervisors held their second and final reading of the proposed 1992 budget at their meeting Monday, December 16.

The budget calls for total expenditures of \$438,819, approximately a 5% increase over last year. Taxes will remain the same, with a 14

mill property tax, a 1% earned income tax, half of which goes to the school district, and a per capita tax of \$5.

The supervisors also approved two requests for zoning changes: A request from Jackie Kowalewski, to change approximately 14

acres of mostly wooded land off of Norstedt Street from residential to conservation zoning so she can keep a horse.

A request from Naugle Sand and Gravel to rezone a landlocked piece of ground adjacent to their mining operation from agricultural to heavy industrial use.



Lake-Lehman 6th grade chorus sings for winter concert

Members of the Lake-Lehman Elementary sixth grade chorus prepare to to on stage for the annual winter concert December 11. The group was directed by Jonathan Pineno. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

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