

Borough revises zoning fees

By ANN POEPPERLING
Post Correspondent

DALLAS BOROUGH - It may cost a little less to build a new house in Dallas Borough due to an amended fee schedule passed at the Jan. 16 council meeting.

New residential zoning permits will now cost \$140.00 per 1,000 square feet of construction. For example, a house with measurements of 50' by 30' would have a total permit fee of \$210.00. There is a cap of \$600.00 for the fee on residential construction.

In the past a zoning permit for a new house cost \$2.00 per \$1,000.00 of estimated construction cost. Therefore, it may have cost more to build a small house using good quality expensive materials than to build a larger house using cheaper items.

A zoning permit for residential additions and accessory uses will now also cost \$140.00 per 1,000 square feet of construction, with a minimum fee of \$10.00. That fee was also changed from \$2.00 per \$1,000.00 of estimated construction cost.

The changes were necessary, explained borough manager Milton Lutsey, "in order to make it easier to calculate the fee and to make it a more equitable system." Before, the cost of a building permit could have been significantly reduced by an individual doing his own labor or having received building materials for free. Now the determination is made by a more objective system, based on square footage.

Permits for new or improved commercial buildings will now cost \$4.00 per \$1,000.00 cost of construction with a \$2,000 cap, up from \$3.00 per \$1,000.00 cost of construction.

Also, fees for permits to appeal zoning hearing board decisions were raised from \$150.00 to \$300.00. "While the intent is not to make money," explained Lutsey, "we don't want to lose money either," adding that they must consider the cost of paying the zoning board and solicitor, as well as the cost of newspaper advertisements.

In other new business, council member Theodore Wright reported on a meeting he recently attended with Lutsey and Senator Charles J. Lemmond regarding the pro-

posed traffic lights at Orloski's, Offset Paperback and Pickett's

There may be help on the way from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). When Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency asked for a preliminary damage cost estimate for the first snowstorm, Lutsey gave them a figure of \$9,691.00. "And that doesn't include the damage on the snowplow truck," continued Lutsey, who says repairs to the rear wheels, drum, steering box and hydraulic cylinder on the plow cost \$1,000.00 easily, resulting in a total cost of about \$11,000.00 spent on the first snowstorm.

Property committee chairman Don Cooper reported that council is currently collecting data to re-quest bids for a new truck.

In other business, residents of Sterling and Machel Avenue petitioned the council with 25 signatures requesting that recreational motor vehicles be banned in the area, complaining that motorcycles and snowmobiles are being driven on private property, creating a nuisance to residents. Charge.

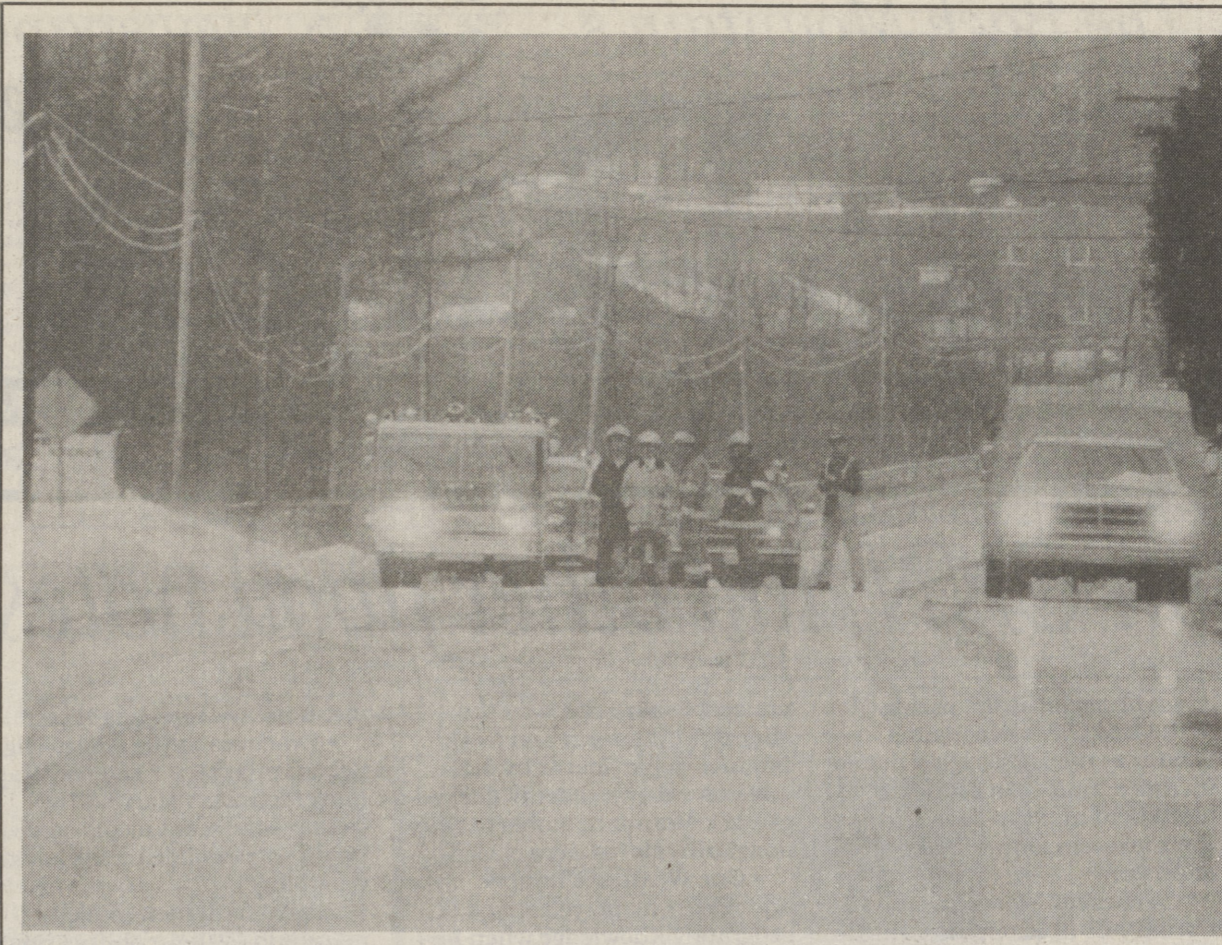
The purpose of the meeting was to make Lemmond aware of the council's feelings that a traffic light (which was planned as far back as 1992) should be installed at Pickett's Charge, as well as a light at Offset Paperback, which should be considered before installing a traffic light at Orloski's.

According to Lutsey, Lemmond promised to get in touch with a PennDOT district engineer, to check on the status of the proposed traffic lights at Pickett's Charge and Offset Paperback.

Road committee chairperson Martha Weber publicly thanked the road crew for a job well done during the recent snowstorms.

The road crew has a tough job explained Lutsey, because although Dallas Borough is small geographically, "we have about 20 miles of road which is not easy to keep clear - there are turns, hills and intersections to deal with - it's not all highway."

According to Lutsey, "our winter allotment is just about used up." However, he says, "we can take money from other areas," referring to certain road and pavement projects planned which may not get done this year.



Gas leak closes highway

Emergency crews monitored a natural gas leak along Route 415 Friday morning near Noon's service station. The fumes reached into Elmcrest and down the highway to the Meadows Nursing Center. A PG&W main had broken below the roadway, and it took about eight hours to repair that damage. Customers in Elmcrest were shut off until repairs were completed. Originally, it was thought the leak came from a transcontinental gas pipeline which runs nearby.

POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property deeds were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of Dec. 29, 1995 - Jan. 11, 1996:

Robert M. Krostag, to Michael Dombroski, et ux, 17E Grandview Est., Dallas Borough, \$165,000.
David Carleton, et ux, to Gerald T. John, et ux, 1.708 ac. Pheasant Run, Dallas Twp., \$375,000.
Walter Eisenberger, et ux, to Allen W. Erwine, Jr., et ux, 641L Meadows Condominium, Dallas Twp., \$222,500.
Richard Rupert, et ux, to John Rohland, et ux, 2 parcels, Dallas Twp., \$23,900.
JRH Ins. to John E. Halbing III, et ux, 8 Northwoods Sub., Dallas Twp., \$33,000.
Stanley M. Pearlman, to David C. Wright, Circle Dr., Lot 48, Dallas Twp., \$124,000.
Frank T. Depoe, to David F. Kocher, 0.999 ac., Fairmount Twp., \$29,000.
Linda J. Stauffer, to Walter C. O'Hara, et ux, 6 ac. Fairmount Twp., \$40,000.
Jane Rice, et al to Wayde D. Post, et al, Dudley Ave., Maple Brook, Harveys Lake Bor., \$33,000.
Frederick R. Bellonno, to Luzerne County, Hunlock Twp., \$5,000.
Gertrude A. Sherman, to Donna L. Marinus, Hunlock Twp., \$170,000.
Anne T. Spaciano, executor to Victor Spaciano, 3 parcels, Kingston Twp., \$50,000.
Robert E. Becker, to Jerome Kane, et ux, 618 Clearview Ave., Kingston Twp., \$14,000.
Anthony Cherkanskas, per sheriff, to Sec'y of Veteran's Affairs, 97 Carverton Road, Kingston Twp., \$3,574.
Joel Cooper, to Patrick J. Devitt, 6 Carverton Road, Kingston Twp., \$85,000.
Daniel A. Dembowski, to Carl D. Whipell, et ux, Lake Twp., \$30,000.
Edwin H. Britt, et ux, to Marie G. Griffith, et vir., Ross Twp., \$65,000.

Police investigate locker thefts

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS TOWNSHIP - Police are investigating several thefts from lockers at the senior high school.

According to patrolman Jeff Dennis, a 16-year-old student removed a new class ring worth \$269 and \$35 in cash from a female student's locker. The girl had just purchased the class ring.

The boy later admitted to police that he had taken the items and took police to his home, where he returned them. Police also recovered a calculator, one of two reportedly missing from the girl's locker. The boy denied taking the calculators, saying someone else must have entered the girl's locker after he did.

"Luckily the girl reported the theft immediately," said principal Frank Galicki. "Her locker wasn't completely closed and the boy was able to get into it."

Most students have their own lockers, which come with built-in

combination locks, Galicki said. Students may add a second lock if they wish to.

"I wouldn't say we have had numerous thefts," he said. "I would say we have had a few, but I can't say whether or not they were related."

The boy will be suspended from school for 10 days because his offense is what Galicki described as a level four, the most serious offense.

In addition to the January 15 theft, he received a report of items missing from a student's locker around Christmas, he added.

Since the arrest three more students have reported money, jewelry, new jackets, sneakers and boots missing from their lockers, police said.

More arrests are pending. Police are asking Dallas High School students who have had items taken from their lockers or anyone with information on the thefts to call Patrolman Jeff Dennis at 675-5251.

DISTRICT COURT BRIEFS

CHARGED WITH D.U.I.

Kingston Township resident Robert Luke, 22, waived his right to a preliminary hearing Jan. 18 before District Justice James Tupper on charges of driving while under the influence.

He was arrested Oct. 7 by Kingston Township officer James Ibbotson after police observed him driving erratically and at a high rate of speed on Route 309 and running a red light as he turned onto Carverton Road.

After failing field sobriety tests, Luke took a blood test which showed his blood alcohol level to be .188, nearly twice the legal limit of .10.

Ibbotson was assisted by officer Charles Rauschkolb and

Dallas Borough patrolman Michael Prokopchak.

ASSAULT CHARGE SENT TO COUNTY COURT

Charges of simple assault and harassment against Dallas Township resident Valgardur Omar Hallsson, 47, were sent to Luzerne County court after a preliminary hearing Jan. 17 before District Justice James Tupper.

The charges stemmed from an incident Dec. 22, in which Hallsson allegedly punched and hit his girlfriend, Hronn Geirlausdottir, tore her clothing and threw her out into the snow. Hallsson is free on \$10,000 bail.

Kidnap

(continued from page 1)

taken into possession at the Dallas Township police department evidence room. They are a .22 cal. Baretta and a 9 mm. Taurus.

Dallas Township patrolmen Elliot Ide and Robert Jolley and Lehman Township patrolman Ben Bigus investigated the incident.

Goldsmith is free on a total of

\$100,000 bail, placed through bail bondsman Frontier Insurance of Scranton. He must report to the bondsman every week, remain in Luzerne County and stay away from his wife.

His preliminary hearing before Tupper has been set for Jan. 31 at 10:30 a.m.

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