

Bond issue

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have been paid off in 2003, according to business manager Ray Bowersox.

However, the refunding portion of the new bond issue would be financed at a lower rate, varying between 3.9% and 5.08% to be paid off in 2003.

The new money portion would be financed at a rate varying between 3.9% and 5.25% and would be paid off in July 2005.

By financing the proposed \$1.5 million with the refunded bond issue, the district would be saving between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in issuance costs, according to O'Neill, because the district would be paying only once for legal expenses and printing costs.

Also, the district would benefit because the new money from the bond issue could be used to make the first year's interest payments, according to Bowersox. That would lower the current proposed tax increase by about 5 mills, from 28 to 23 mills.

O'Neill added that counsel would charge the district \$25,000

in legal fees for the deal, saying "a study was done on the average of bond counsel fees for this area and the average was \$24,800," adding that they reduced the original estimate from \$30,000.

The total amount of fees for the bond issue is estimated at \$72,900, according to Solusti, while the total present value savings would be \$86,714.

Business manager Ray Bowersox said emphatically, "If you want to pull the 28 mills down, this is the way to do it."

However, board member Rose Howard interjected, "But this savings in the debt service is only for this year. What happens over the next 19 years?"

Bowersox responded that it would cost about an additional 2.5 to 3 mills per year to finance this issue.

"We're robbing Peter to pay Paul," one member of the audience proclaimed. Board member Dave Kaufman said, "What we have to do is decide if we actually

need the \$1.5 million for improvements. Can we pare down this figure?"

Kopcha said she feels some projects listed in the proposed capital expenditure plan aren't necessary, like curbing and additional paving at the senior high school. "There are ways to get around the projected \$175,000 paving costs," she said. "Maybe only allow the senior students to drive as was done in the past." She continued, "I think electric bleachers for \$65,000 to \$75,000 is a joke. A lot of this stuff, you're putting bad money into good."

Tom Williams had a different opinion, "Borrow the whole amount now, but make commitments to do only what is necessary and then use whatever is left to retire the bond issue."

Kaufman reiterated, "Will future boards really adhere to the spending commitment? I think we should drive the project cost down to a more prudent figure."

Bowersox had a few final words on the wisdom of borrowing the

money: "The planned projects could not be replaced with expensive substitutions such as new additions. The board would have to vote to put each project on the list out to bid and then vote to award each bid. Also, we plan to put some projects out to bid in different ways to see what would be most cost effective. If money is left over, it can be used to pay off the issue."

At the close of the meeting, Superintendent Dr. William Price said he would meet with Bowersox and assistant business manager Kathleen Williams and come back to the board with a recommendation which they will have to vote on.

In another effort to avert a fiscal crisis, board president Ed Kern read a letter the board intends to send to president of the Lake-Lehman Education Association, Roseanne Ragnacci, requesting the teachers to consider a freeze on salaries for the 1996-97 school year in an effort to reduce the tentative 28-mill tax hike.

PennDOT

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sent to the office for design engineers to work on.

While studying at Penn State's Lehman campus, Pat wasn't thinking about road construction. She earned an associate's degree in telecommunications, graduating in 1985.

When PennDOT held a recruiting fair at the campus, she completed an application, and after an interview was accepted for a six-month temporary position as an inspector trainee.

Four months later, Pat was able to move into a permanent inspector's position when it became available, and six years later was promoted to supervisor.

"I love it," she said, smiling. "It's interesting to work on the different jobs with different people. You also get your own hard hat and designer fluorescent orange vest."

Her least favorite task is dealing with the mountains of paperwork required for each job.

"Every time the contractor does something we must document it twice," she said. "If we don't, future designers won't know whether or not the work has been done to specs or that we made minor changes to the original plans. Sometimes we do twice as much paperwork as the contractor does physical work - it's a necessary evil."



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE
Pat Maguchak checked out a pole for a traffic signal on Route 309 and Franklin Street installed by Brenda Trudil and Guido Galli of Kuharchik Construction.

During the winter Pat is reassigned to other work with PennDOT, although she said she was too busy with flood repairs last winter to work on anything else.

Being a woman in what was once considered a man's field doesn't faze her.

"I have never encountered any difficulty being a woman," she said. "It was a pleasant surprise - I expected a little. I have never had

any problems with harassment or disregard for authority, although some of these guys are twice my age."

The daughter of the late Dolores and George Maguschak, Pat is a Wilkes-Barre native who grew up in Exeter and Kingston. She recently moved to Orange with her two cockatoos, parakeet and cat, M.C. (Mouse Catcher), whom she keeps separated from the birds.

"It's very satisfying to see a finished project which you were a part of creating."

Peg Maguschak
PennDOT supervisor

"My parents were proud of me. So is my brother, George," she said.

Pat suggests that high school and college students interested in doing this type of work take as many basic civil engineering courses as possible and apply for summer work with PennDOT, which hires college students majoring in engineering or related fields, or an engineering firm. Pat gets two students every summer.

"It's a good job," she said. "In this area you'll earn a fair wage. It's very satisfying to see a finished project which you were a part of creating."

She also commends area motorists for their attitudes. "What has made this job go so smoothly has been the cooperation from the drivers, the property owners and the businesspeople," she said. "I commend them for their patience, especially when encountering new traffic patterns or unexpected delays."

DARE

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ship seal in the upper right corner. "Kingston Township was formed in 1790 and is one of the county's oldest municipalities."

He also read the three best essays which his students completed for a class assignment, which earned Caitlin Bessmer, Katje Brown and Brian Dempsey stuffed lions named DARE-n, the course's mascot.

In addition to listing why drugs and violence are wrong, Caitlin wrote, "I would like to thank Officer Ziegler. You are a great teacher." She and Katje hugged Ziegler when they received their lions.

"Now you're part of the DARE family."

Frank Ziegler
Kingston Twp. DARE officer

Developed in 1983 by the Los Angeles police department, DARE teaches kids how to say "no" to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gangs and violence without losing face. Ziegler believes ages 11 and 12 are a critical time for children because they are heavily influenced by television, movies and peer pressure.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Fifth-graders Jill Krakosky, Katje Brown and Laura Raczkowski showed off the T-shirts they received for passing a DARE course at the Westmoreland School.

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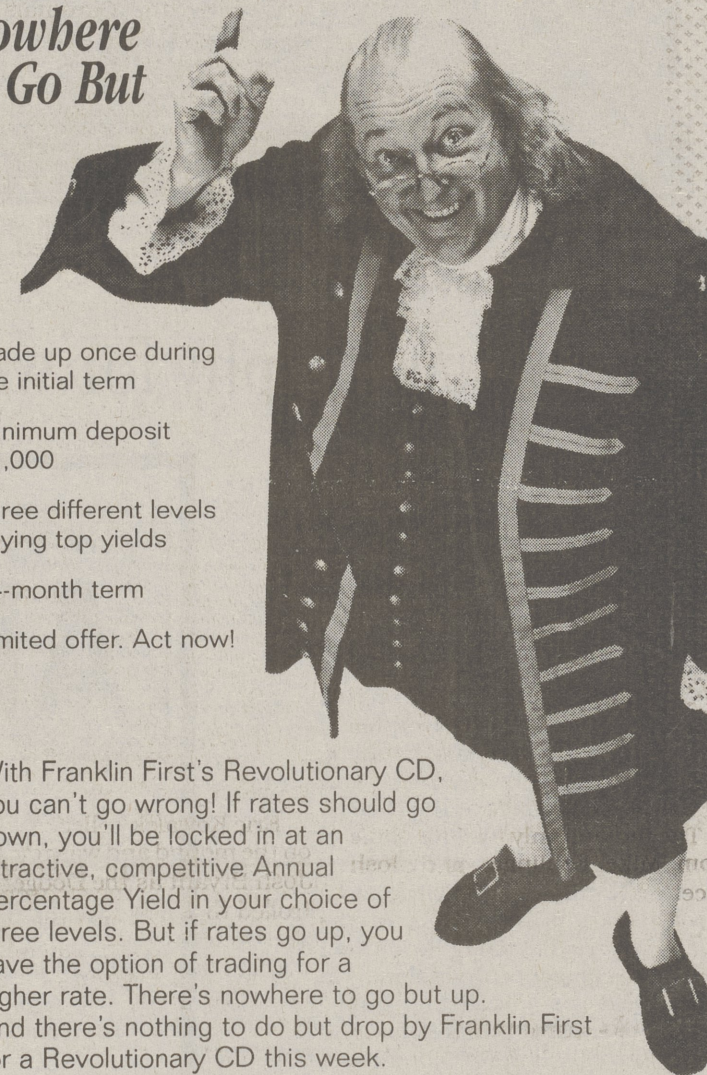
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