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Balancing the books with no property tax

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

KINGSTON TWP. - The cost of a new Public Works Facility and municipal building will have no effect on tax rates in Kingston Township next year.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the township's \$1.7 million preliminary budget Nov. 12, with taxes remaining the same as this year. This is the highest budget in the township's history. Last year's budget was \$1.69 million.

"The budget...is lean, but it still provides for all contractual relationships, operating and capital expenditures and future growth," wrote Jeff Box, township manager, in the budget's preface. "The increase in revenues and expenditures in the (past nine years) is substantial and significant. We have improved service, added employees and we have reduced taxes twice."

There will be no local property tax, earned income tax is one percent and real estate transfer tax is one half of one percent.

The budget estimates the general fund to begin and finish the year with a \$415,000 balance.

In other business, a traffic engineering study will be performed on Pioneer Ave. at Mt. Airy Rd., West Center St. and Davis St. to determine if stop signs are needed to maintain a safe roadway. Also, a study will be done to determine if the speed limit should be lowered from 35 mph to 30 mph on Pioneer Ave. Box said the township gets constant complaints about speeding on the road. He said James Balavage, police chief, recommended the study.

Land behind Pizza Perfect, Inc. on Carverton Rd. across from the municipal building, was rezoned from business and residential to only neighborhood commercial.

The board authorized the township take bids for property on Shaver St. Box said the township

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POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

GETTING A CLOSE LOOK

Representatives from the Pittston National Guard unit brought some equipment to last week's Veterans' Day program at Dallas Middle School. As a Guard member stood in the turret of a HumVee, students looked in. From left, David Glicini, Todd Kerestes, Brett Sprau, Donny Murray. More photos on page 8.

Fire & ambulance association tells Idetown to leave

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. - Representatives from the Idetown Fire Company told the board they received a letter Oct. 17 from the Back Mountain Fire and Ambulance Association stating they were no longer welcome in the association.

Shirley Wentzel, Idetown Fire Co., said Idetown was not being dispatched to fires near their fire hall. Fire companies cannot answer a fire unless they are invited because otherwise they are not covered by a mutual aid agreement signed by all the municipalities in the association.

Doug Ide, supervisor, told Wentzel that he would recommend that Idetown be simultaneously dispatched with Lehman Township's fire company whenever a call was near Idetown's

"We're all volunteers; we have to work together."

Jack Dodson
President,
Back Mt. Fire and Ambulance

station. "That's the way we need to go," said Ide. Wentzel and three other Idetown fire volunteers accepted the recommendation.

Jack Dodson, president of the association, said Tuesday that Idetown was suspended after a unanimous vote by 10 to 12 association members. Dissatisfaction with the Idetown company grew out of disparaging comments and accusations some Idetown personnel made against the Harveys

See IDETOWN, pg 8

County 911 plan moves ahead here

Back Mountain fire and ambulance companies will be dispatched by the county next year if negotiations between the local companies and Luzerne County go as smoothly as they started.

Jack Dodson, president of the Back Mountain Fire and Ambulance Association, said a meeting with county officials Nov. 12 was a good start. "If everything goes the way the county said it would, it will work out very well," he said.

The next step is for county emergency services personnel to meet with each fire and ambulance company, police department and municipality to work out standard operating procedures. Those meetings will take place over the next few weeks. The county 911 system is expected to go into service in late spring, 1998.

Piano teacher brings world of wisdom to her students

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. - Regina Klein Waldorf has taught all over New York state and in most of the schools in Wilkes-Barre, but she said, "The kids I have now are very good." The retired teacher, a Back Mountain resident for a good part of her life, gives piano lessons to eight Back Mountain youngsters.

Waldorf left the Back Mountain at age 21 to begin her teaching career in New York. She taught in throughout the New York City public school system. She also worked as a social worker in New York City. Waldorf says she originally



POST PHOTO/JENNIFER JUDGE

Regina Klein Waldorf turned pages for one of her students, Clair Gammege.

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Intersection plan waits on U.S. Post Office approval

By JESSICA MORGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS BOROUGH - The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) plan to renovate the intersection at the center of Dallas won't be certain until PennDOT gains cooperation from the U.S. Postal Service.

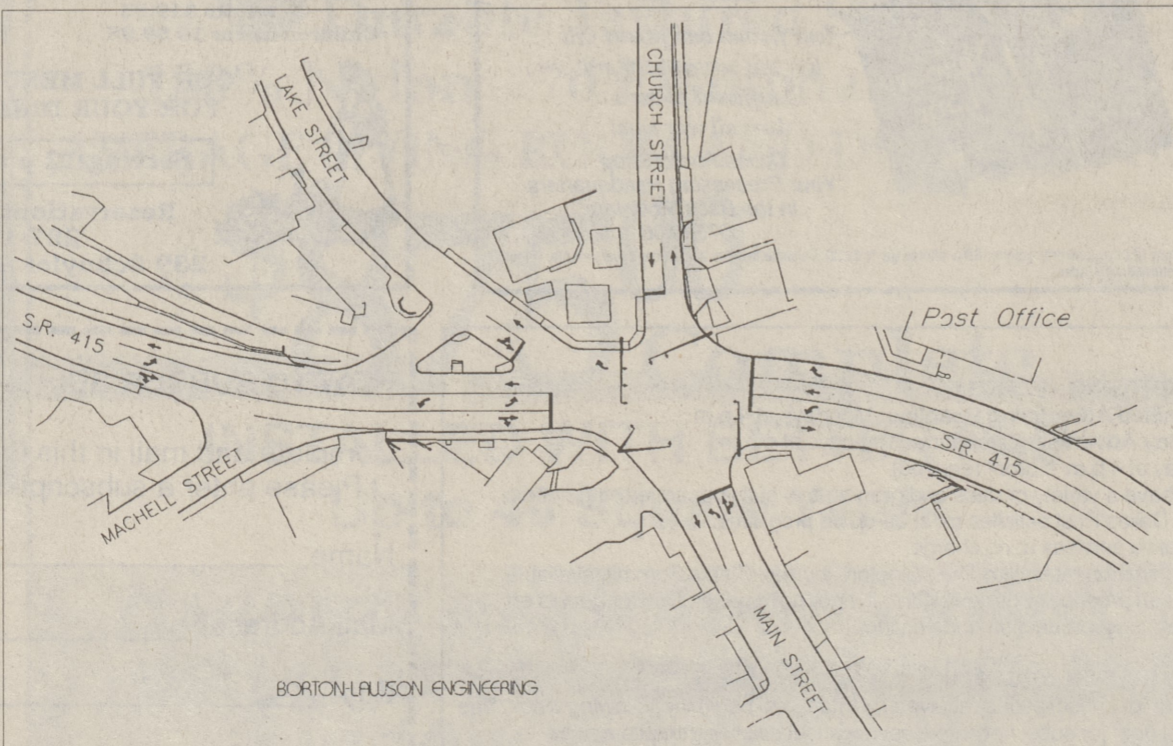
In order for the plan to go forward, the Dallas Post Office, at the corner of Church Street and Rt. 415, will have to give up enough property to make a turning lane. By taking property in front of the post office that currently is used as a sidewalk, an extra right lane on to Church Street would help alleviate the traffic jam that frequently has cars backed up to the Dallas Shopping Center.

Steve Shimko, a PennDOT official, said discussions with post office personnel have been ongoing but in order for the project to proceed, PennDOT needs the cooperation of the federal government. "We need the government, which owns the property in front of the post office, to buy into the project," Shimko said. "We are hoping that in our negotiations with them that we will be able to come up with changes that will satisfy all parties involved."

The major change that concerns post office officials is the possibility of losing parking

"This intersection has not been functioning at a high level of service."

Steve Shimko
PennDOT spokesman



This is PennDOT's original plan for Dallas center. It doesn't include a light at Machell Ave., which is now being proposed.

spaces. With the entrance of the post office probably moving to Foster Street, parking could be added or lost depending upon the final plan. Postmaster Raymond Cecconi is adopting a "wait and see" attitude about the project.

"We realize the changes are

sorely needed," said Cecconi, "It's between PennDOT and The Postal Service to do what needs to be done. Although it may inconvenience our customers for a little while, I'm sure things can be worked out. I'm just waiting to see what happens."

Cecconi said the post office submitted plans that would incorporate adding more parking places in front at the Foster Street entrance but he's not certain what the final outcome

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■ Playin' around

Dallas High School presents a murder-mystery-comedy. Pg 3

■ 1st time champs

Lake-Lehman won its first district title. Photos, story. Pg 9.

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