



## Dumping

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rock. The proximity to the water, though, would be a concern to the department's soils and waterways section.

"This is a really tough time of year," for that section, Carmon said. "Each of them has about 120 cases to handle right now." He said Mike Sames, a soils and waterways inspector, would try to get to the site soon.

"It sounds like it is a violation," said Sames, during a telephone interview later in the day on June 21. He said the placement of any material at or below the normal water line is prohibited. Sames said there also may be wetland areas on the shoreline at that point, which is less than 100 feet from an old dam at the lake outlet.

*"It looks like they extended the shoreline out."*

**Jim DeGeorge**  
Harveys Lake Zoning Officer

A photo taken the first week in June, above, shows waste material piled near the shore of Harveys Lake. On June 18, a photo taken at the same location, below, shows the material has been leveled and covered with wood chips.



He said DEP will likely require that all the material be removed. "Normally, you have to get a permit," to do anything in or near the water at Harveys Lake, Carmon said. "We try to cooperate

with local authorities," Carmon said, and suggested that DEP would testify for the borough if needed. Moretti did not respond to a message left at his workplace.

## Savage

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board members are not involved in the hiring process. "The only shred of our reputation we have left is that our directors are not in on these decisions," said Whipple. "Now we are right back to where we were in 1986 with nine people running the district."

While agreeing to accept proposals for the position of solicitor, the board also voted to approve a minimum standard rate increase for the firm of Campbell, Durrant & Beatty, PC. Bruce Campbell, one of the firm's partners, represented Lake-Lehman as its chief negotiator during the recent collective bargaining process. The lawyer's fee increased from \$135 to \$150 per hour.

This move prompted Robert Allardyce to suggest the board seek a solicitor who would be available to assume Campbell's responsibilities. "Since we are accepting proposals for a new solicitor, why don't we look for someone who can represent us in negotiations with the teachers?" he asked. "I don't have a problem with Campbell personally, although I think he gave in a little too quickly on some issues, but it doesn't make sense for the district to fly an attorney from Pittsburgh and pay for his hotel stay and meals when someone local can do the job."

*"This is unbelievable, first you humiliate him and then you ask him to stay on."*

**Karen Whipple**  
School director

"There are some people on the board who want Peter out and I'm not going to mention names because I don't want to be sued,"

Savage. "But what I don't understand is how the people who lined up to support him last year can turn their backs this time."

Following the discussion, Rossi asked the current solicitor to remain until a replacement is named, or the board decides to retain Savage. "This is unbelievable, first you humiliate him and then you ask him to stay on," said Whipple.

Savage did not provide an immediate response saying instead, "I will need some time to think about it." He could not be reached for further comment.

The controversy has left Whipple, whose term expires in November, with a sense of frustration. "This is a classic example of hypocrisy and it is so sad," she said. "Peter lives in the district, he has a kid who went to school here and his heart here but he is being held out as a scapegoat."

## Budget

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The current fiscal period ends June 30 but actual figures on the year end will not be available for several months. "Payroll runs through August and we have other bills which are still outstanding," said Williams. "We still owe West Side Tech and the LIU (Luzerne Intermediate Unit) in addition to several other bills that we pay each of the 12 months. All of these must be subtracted from the fund balance."

Williams estimates there will be \$1.5 million available after all those obligations have been met, the same amount that was budgeted for the current year. "We have a lot of expenditures but if we are lucky we will come in under budget by approximately \$300,000," she said.

Robert Allardyce, the lone school board member who voted against approving the new budget, disagreed with

*"It's going to be very tight."*

**Kathleen Williams**  
Business Manager

those estimates. "Who wants to bet me that we will have \$2,000,000 left at the end of all of this?" he asked. "The people in this district are over taxed and I make a motion that we reduce the millage. Let's start with 5 or 10 mills and see how it goes."

Allardyce suggested the district is collecting taxes it does not need. "There isn't a sign out front that says 'Invest your money in Lake-Lehman' - we aren't running a bank here," he said. "This money belongs to the people and if there is a surplus it should be given back to the people."

In 1998, a gross mill pro-

duced \$39,596 while Lake-Lehman actually collected \$34,000 - \$35,000 per mill. Using those figures to calculate the local revenue for the 1999-2000 fiscal period yields local revenue amounting to just over \$9,000,000.

This total is in line with the projected revenue that must be collected to meet the district's expenditures for that period. "It's going to be very tight," said Williams.

Charles Boytin was sworn in as a board member before the meeting, filling the post left vacant when Rose Howard resigned last month.

Also, Dave McLaughlin-Smith was promoted from assistant principal to principal of the Lake-Noxen and Ross elementary schools, and was appointed director of curriculum for the district. His salary will be \$61,000.

## Dallas Class of '74 changes reunion plan

The Dallas Class of 1974, 25th class reunion being held Saturday, July 3, at Foucher at Joe's Grotto at Harveys Lake from 6:30-9:30 will still be held. Any questions call Debbie Gulla Spobeck at 639-5515 or Sue Haddle Lauer at 655-6942.

## Concert features Star Wars music

The NE PA Philharmonic will be performing at Kirby Park on July 4, at 8 p.m. The concert features music from the blockbuster movie *Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace* as well as the timeless and traditional favorites. The annual fireworks display will follow the concert. These events are free and open to the public.

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