

Borough

(continued from page 1)

received letters commending her performance.

Council members John Oliver and Patricia Peiffer said it was a question of finance; the borough was doing away with the clerk's position due to the cost. "It came down to an issue of dollars and cents," Oliver said. William Peiffer, Council President, said it was a question of practicality. "It seems one full-time person can handle the office."

When told the clerk's position was done away with for budgetary reasons, Buttorff was surprised. "You mean they put me through that public humiliation — and it was because of budget?" she asked incredulously. "I thought it was because they thought I was a lousy clerk." Buttorff said she tried her best, but admitted there were things she couldn't do because she was never trained to do them. One of these was to prepare the Treasurer's Report, which she was asked to do following the recent resignation of borough Treasurer Nancy Nelen, even though it was not one of her duties as clerk.

Two advertisements for a new borough manager appeared in local newspapers. The first ad, which ran the first week in September, was for a part-time manager/secretary. William Peiffer said its wording, which was according to ordinance, was confusing: "The response was more for the secretarial end of it," he said. The second ad in early to mid-October was simply for a Borough Manager and did not specify any details. Peiffer kept a closer eye on applicants the second time around by having responses sent directly to the Dallas Borough Council, attention: Council President, instead of to the borough office like the first batch, and requested by memo that replies be delivered unopened directly to his home. They were to be addressed to the President merely "as a contact point," Peiffer said.

The first hour of last week's meeting consisted of an executive session in which candidates for the position of borough manager were examined. Buttorff waited outside while three hopefuls were interviewed one after the other by the borough council.

When the public was finally allowed to enter the council chamber, the first order of business was to announce a decision. Martha Weber, Vice-President and Chairman of the Personnel Committee recommended the borough hire Joseph Moskowitz as borough manager, subject to a six-month probationary period and

New manager on the job

DALLAS BOROUGH - Joseph Moskowitz, the new full-time Dallas Borough manager and secretary, replaces Milton Lutsey, the part-time borough manager who resigned in August. Although he started working for the borough on November 2, it is not definite that Moskowitz — or anyone else — will be hired permanently in the position. "It hasn't totally been decided," William Peiffer said; "It's something we've been looking into, but that decision has not been finalized." Moskowitz's salary will be determined at the genuine budget meeting, when the final decision about keeping him on will be made. Until then, he will be paid on a full-time basis. "If my memory serves me correctly, it's \$26,000 per year," Peiffer said when asked what Moskowitz was being paid in the meantime.

Moskovitz, for his part, expressed enthusiasm for his new job. "My understanding is that I'll be serving not only as borough manager but as secretary," he said, adding that his duties would be administrative in nature and up to the Mayor and Council to decide on. Moskowitz said he is aware "the borough council still has to dot its i's and cross its t's," but said, "I have full confidence in the borough council that they will establish proper remuneration." Moskowitz, who will be commuting from the Scranton area, is excited about working in "a beautiful community like Dallas," and said, "I've been looking for a position of this nature, and in Northeastern Pennsylvania it's hard to find one." He also said he has had experience with grant writing and administration, and went on to say, "My intention is to provide to Dallas Borough efficient and effective management practices."

Although he has never worked as a borough manager before, Moskowitz states his previous experience includes working for the City of Scranton, the County of Lackawanna, and the Commonwealth Dept. of Revenue. Most recently he worked as a project administrator for the National Institute for Economic Renewal in Mayfield from March 1999 to May 2000, when he was a victim of downsizing. His supervisor there, Phil Gallagher, said Moskowitz was a top-notch employee. "You're lucky down there — he's a good man. I enjoyed working with him," Gallagher said. "You're getting a quality individual with good skills for the administrative field."

by Elizabeth Skrapits

"You mean they put me through that public humiliation — and it was because of budget?"

Sally Buttorff
Terminated borough clerk

with salary to be negotiated later. Councilman John Oliver seconded the motion, and with one abstention by Councilman Dennis Garvey, the other council members voted yes. Moskowitz was in.

The second order of business was to announce another decision. Councilman Patricia Peiffer made a motion to terminate Sally Buttorff as borough clerk, effective immediately. Councilman Kathy Kupstas seconded the motion. Weber and Garvey voted no, but the other council members voted yes. Buttorff was out.

Buttorff then got to her feet and addressed each council member by name. She told them it had been a pleasure working with them, handed over her keys, made a few parting comments and left in a hurry and very upset. When she had gone, Kupstas made a motion to eliminate the clerk's position entirely and instead hire a full-time borough manager. Patricia Peiffer seconded the motion, and all voted in favor except Weber and Garvey.

Garvey turned to Matthew Reinert, the borough solicitor who recently replaced Theodore Krohn in that capacity when Krohn resigned, and asked if he had known Buttorff was going to be fired. Reinert replied he had been informed the situation might come up. "I was asked if the position of borough clerk was at will and could be terminated," he admitted, but did not disclose who had asked him.

There followed a hasty change of subject: some desultory talk about paving and drainage and a grant application; Oliver said of the latter he would "drop it squarely in Mr. Moskowitz's lap," since it was one of the reasons he was being hired, after all. It was also agreed to hold the budget meeting at a later date so Moskowitz could be present, and on that note, the meeting was adjourned.

It was ultimately decided to hold another budget meeting — during which the budget really would be discussed — on November 21.



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

A dozen trees on a steep hill behind the former Kingston Twp. municipal building were cut down last week. The township said the trees posed a danger to people and cars in the parking lot below.

Trail

(continued from page 1)

there is no such language in the easement agreement. The township granted permission to the association to use their land for an access route to the trail.

"Kingston Township supports the trail. The township granted the easement in the first place, but it (the trail association) has an encroachment problem," said Box. In reference to the trees, Box insists the township is simply protecting the public, vehicles, and the building itself from harm caused by six obviously split and diseased trees and six other par-

ticularly large trees that were top-heavy and could have fallen in a storm. This happened three years ago and damaged some cars that were in the parking lot, Box said.

"Our only motivation was to protect our tenants and the public. We are not getting any logging revenue," Box says. "My only regret is not taking pictures beforehand. We do not indiscriminately take down trees."

Ben Jones, attorney for the township, knows of no agreement concerning the use of abutting properties. "The paramount issue

is the safety of the public rather than any consideration to an association," he said.

Judy Rimple thinks its time for the township and the trail association to talk. "We need to sit down at the table with them," she said.

Plans for replanting the hillside are in the works says Box but the township is waiting for a good rain to assess any runoff problems. Albrecht says ASTA will ask Kingston Township to repair the damage. "No other property owner has caused us this grief," he said.

Rec park plan to be presented Nov. 16

The board of directors of Back Mountain Recreation, Inc. will hold a public meeting Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Dallas Middle School. BMT Recreation, Inc. will introduce the conceptual plan for the Back Mountain Sports and Recreation Complex, and provide the public with the opportunity to make suggestions and ask questions. No reservations are necessary.

DHS Grad 2001 Avon Fundraiser

The DHS Grad 2001 committee once again will be offering AVON products as a fall fundraiser for the all-night drug and alcohol free party being planned for the Dallas Graduating Class of 2001. Catalogs will be available at the high school during flex periods each Friday, and during the upcoming drama production the weekend of Nov. 18. Orders for these great holiday gifts will be accepted through Nov. 27.

Back Mt. Senior Citizens to tour Heinz Rehab

The Back Mountain Senior Citizens will visit the John Heinz Rehab Center on Mundy St. on Thursday, Nov. 16 for a tour of the facility and a luncheon. Members will meet in the St. Therese's Church parking lot on Davis St. and Pioneer Ave. at 12:15 p.m.



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