

Jackson

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in Harrisburg. Although the judge agreed with the township, he expressed concern over the 14-year period it took the township to bring the issue to court.

The board of supervisors and the planning commission are gearing up for the initial stages of the new comprehensive plan. With grants and funds in place and the planner approved, the planning commission is looking forward to starting on the comprehensive plan for Jackson Township at this month's meeting, February 18. The new plan will cost \$19,250 and is expected to take 12 months to complete. This will be the first update in 22 years for Jackson Township.

"The planning commission members do a terrific job," said John J. Wilkes, Jr., supervisor. "They are the hardest working and most dedicated group of individuals I've ever come across."

The board has appointed a new solicitor to the planning commission, Larry Keiser, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre, effective Friday, February 8, subject to receiving the necessary paperwork by that date. Letters were sent to the solicitors of all the township departments requesting copies of attorney licenses and proof of liability insurance. M. John Haley, Esq., former planning commission solicitor, failed to provide all paperwork.

In the ongoing effort to update local ordinances and "be proactive rather than reactive," the Adult Entertainment Ordinance, Jackson Township Ordinance #2 of 2002, was passed. The ordinance would prevent hard-core adult entertainment establishments from setting up business in the township. The solicitor was also authorized by the board of supervisors to review and draft a salvage and junk ordinance, review and update the sewage enforcement ordinance, and review and draft a Crime Watch Policy. Solicitor Malak will be donating his time to the review of the Crime Watch Policy.

The township supervisors will hold a special hearing regarding amendments to the zoning ordinance involving the cellular telephone tower regulations provid-

ing Jackson Township residents with the opportunity to address any concerns in a public setting. "We encourage anyone who has any questions or concerns, comments or problems with the cell tower regulations or ordinance to come to the February 19 meeting," Wilkes said. The hearing will be held in the municipal building at 7 p.m. on February 19.

The new township zoning officer, Andrew M. Sholtis, has his work cut out for him it seems. The former deputy zoning officer was sworn in by Supervisor John J. Wilkes, Jr. at the Monday evening meeting. The former zoning officer John Krupa retired in January.

In other business:

- The board passed Jackson Township Resolution #2 of 2002, the Police Body Armor Policy resolution. "We received a grant from the state for the vests," explained Supervisor Al Fox. "One of the requirements was that it would be mandatory that police officers wear the vests at all times that they are on duty."

- Police Officers Sean Wozniak and Ken Kugler have successfully completed their probationary period and have been elevated to regular part-time. With the resignation of Officer Richard Szot in January and another officer several months ago, the township is advertising for part-time police officers.

- Michael Bagley has been appointed as an alternate sewer enforcement officer. "We had situations in the past where the S.E.O. has been unavailable and needed immediately. We're just trying to make the service to the public a little bit better," explained Wilkes.

- Crime Watch coordinators John Link and Ed Chesnovitch ask that all residents come to the Crime Watch meeting, February 28 at 7 p.m. and bring their neighbors. There will be a video presentation by the district attorney's office and refreshments will be served.

The next meeting of the Jackson Township Board of Supervisors will be held March 4 at 7 p.m. at the municipal building.

Westmoreland

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can be erected for vehicles, supplies or equipment.

- Only professional and business clients, not including retail businesses, lease the space.

Businesses that can lease the space include law offices, architects, doctors, engineering firms, opticians, accountants, consultants, planning groups, advertising firms and financial groups.

Ciravolo plans to remove the existing parking lot in front of the school, and landscape it, and according to the preliminary design, would use the adjacent lot for parking. A township ordinance says the property must have one parking space for every 300 square feet of space used. The lot can hold up to 119 vehicles — more than the ordinance requires.

Residents from the surrounding neighborhood raised concerns about an increase in traffic flow along Lehigh Street, and the possibility of the construc-

tion of a communications tower.

Ciravolo said he guaranteed no free standing phone towers would be erected on the property, and Brian Clark, Ciravolo's architect, said the roof would not be able to hold the weight of a phone tower either.

"I was contacted by Verizon to put communication towers on the top of the building," said Ciravolo. "There would be very minimal traffic (going in and out of the property), and nothing would probably be going on at night."

Nancy Eckert, of Lewith and Freedman Real Estate, said the property only attracted one other bid in over a year and a half, but it was too low, and the school district rejected it.

Attorney Joseph Kluger of Hourigan, Kluger and Quinn, represented Ciravolo at the hearing.

"The whole reason I am interested in this property is its loca-



Two modular buildings outside the former Westmoreland school will have to be removed under terms of a zoning variance.

tion," said Ciravolo. "It's quiet, and I would keep it quiet."

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A special thanks to the more than 60 volunteers (teachers, administrators, staff and the community-at-large) who volunteered their time at the all-night lock-in for the DHS Graduating Class of 2001.