

Roberts

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as I could and get into every building, be it the elementary, middle or high school. As superintendent, you rarely get the opportunity to do that," Roberts said.

"I've got to be able to put my arms around kids' shoulders and find out where they need to go, what's bothering them."

In addition to the lack of teacher and student interaction in the job, Roberts said the stringent requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation makes each passing year more difficult.

The Lake-Lehman elementary schools were cited this year for a drop in attendance that Roberts said was only hundredths of a percent difference from the previous year.

Roberts said at the same time, the school's academic performance in math and reading are well above the NCLB requirements.

"Our elementary schools are all in 60 or 70 percent proficient or advanced (well above the required 35 and 45 percent requirements) — yet because we're looking at 7 hundredths of a percent, we get cited. That's how screwy this annual yearly progress is," he said.

"If you have 100 percent attendance and next year you fall to 99.9 you get cited — that's ludicrous, absolutely ludicrous!"

In no way, though, does Roberts regret his decision to take the superintendent position, adding that he learned a lot, grew a lot and gained a valuable global view of how a school district operates every

"When I came over and worked with the kids on the graduation ceremony, I knew where my place was."

Bob Roberts
Lake-Lehman Superintendent

day.

"This to me is not a demotion, it's not a step back, it's a step to a position where I am most comfortable and most importantly, that I enjoy."

The district began advertising for a new superintendent in July and will continue taking applications until September. Until then, Roberts has an office in the middle/high school building where he is wearing both principal and superintendent hats.

"Although it may sound stupid," he explained with a smile, "there are a couple of things I am looking forward to. I'm looking forward to meeting the buses in the morning and seeing the kids get off. I'm looking forward to being available at lunch time to sit with the kids and just chat with them."

While it may take a while for him to get to know all the new faces in the building, he said he's sure he'll be on first-name basis within two months.

"I've told the board members this and I tell everybody this — I was, I am and I always will be a teacher."



Lake Silkworth Lions installs officers

The Lake Silkworth Area Lions Club recently held the installation of their officers for 2003-2004. PDG Lion Robert Milligan installed the new officers.

From left, seated: Lion Lillian Piatt, Lion Tamer; Lion Mary Ellen Kolodziej, President; and Lion Janet Swanter, Secretary.

Standing: PDG Lion Robert Milligan; Lion Wayne Pettit, Treasurer and Lion Kelvin Swanger, First Vice-President. Projects for the upcoming year are the Annual Raffle, Christmas Food Baskets and Children's Christmas Party, Adopt-a-Highway, Student Awards and Fire and Ambulance Company Awards.

Cell tower

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companies to the tower.

Wagner said the recreational area is mostly wooded with trails, but also has a baseball field, basketball hoops, volleyball court and some playground equipment. Fitzsimmons said the area he is interested in is past the ball field. A building would not be needed, nor running water. Instead, Fitzsimmons said, only outdoor equipment cabinets would be required.

"I need to go look at this. We're just not going to rush and grab some money. I think we have to look at it," said Melnick after the meeting.

Wagner said the ballfields are no longer used by Back Mountain baseball teams, but that Back Mountain soccer still utilizes some field space. He said over the years the township has tried to do a variety of things with the park, but that vandalism has been a problem.

"We're just not going to rush and grab some money. I think we have to look at it."

Michael Melnick
Township Solicitor

After the meeting, he said putting a tower in the area would be one way to generate money for the township that could in turn be used for the park; "(otherwise) the budget's pretty tight," he said.

In other business, the board authorized the following donations for the year: \$4,000 to the Back Mountain Memorial Library and \$1,000 to both the Luzerne County SPCA and the Visiting Nurse Association of Luzerne County.

Township says it can help only so much with runoff

By TARA BENNINGER
Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. — While there were several items on the agenda, citizens of Kingston Township had two issues on their minds at August 28 meeting of supervisors, water and fire.

Despite the board's decision to table all discussion and voting on amendments to the open burning ordinance, Rosaria Shaver addressed the board. She said arguments against burning didn't have anything to do with Kingston Township. "What does this have to do with us?" she asked. "This is not California; we could never have forest fires here."

Benjamin Jones, Kingston Township Solicitor, informed the crowd of citizens that the board voted to table the discussion while he looked into a possible conflict with the current code.

Although not listed on the agenda, much time was dedicated to water runoff issues. Three watersheds caused major problems in the Meadowcrest section after recent heavy rainstorms.

The three drainage areas reach from Dug Road nearly to Hillside Road, and flow into one another, compounding the problem. "They basically run down the mountainside," said Township Manager Eddie O'Neill this week.

O'Neill said the township has already taken steps to alleviate the problem, such as cleaning out gutters and drains that were blocked. "Hopefully we won't see what we saw two weeks ago," he said.

While the township will do its best to solve the problem, O'Neill cautioned that their options are limited, given the topography. He also said many of the properties affected had not been properly sloped and

"Hopefully we won't see what we saw two weeks ago."

Eddie O'Neill
Township Manager

landscaped when they were built, and waterways and drainage paths haven't always been maintained by their owners.

"When you get two 50-year storms within a week of each other, there's not much you can do," O'Neill said. One big step would be to install storm drainage along Dug Road, but that will take state involvement.

The board also voted to hire J.P. Morgan on a one-year contract to collect taxes assessed and levied by the township.

This decision was not easily arrived at. Vice-Chairman J. Carl Goodwin informed the board that he believed the township would "benefit from the checks and balances that Berkheimer has in place."

Supervisor Chris Yankovich responded that, "even with all Berkheimer's checks and balances, mistakes happen." Supervisor John Versari agreed, saying, "bigger isn't always better." Versari was also resistant to hiring the same tax collector as the Dallas School District, because it would be, he said, "too easy to cover something up."

The debate continued until Goodwin abruptly moved to close the discussion. Versari, wishing to make one more comment, was stopped when Goodwin interjected, "The motion is not open to discussion." When it came to the vote, Goodwin and Neil Allen voted against J.P. Morgan.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be September 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Bus stop

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signments the first couple weeks of the new school year.

He said one of the district's assigned bus stops last year had children crossing Route 415 near the Meadows Nursing Center. By the end of the first two weeks of school, the district changed the stop to a safer location.

Jolley suggested that perhaps a smaller bus could better navigate the narrow Hill Road. "It's not State Route 309, but as the development starts to fill in, there's going to be more traffic," he added.

Griffiths said, however, with

"I don't let my kids go out on that road to play, or to go to a friend's house, so I'm not going to let them walk to the bus stop."

Al Kornak
Ondish Hills

the situation investigated and the decision made, the parents have no further recourse.

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