

Dallas

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by Anthony Barbose's resignation.

Morgantini seconded the motion, which passed 8-0.

Before a vote was taken, Solicitor Ben Jones III explained the legality of the motion. He said the Pennsylvania Laws and Rules book states that "The board of directors has power (to appoint) after the 30-day period has expired, before any petition has been filed with the Court of Common Pleas."

"How do we know if we haven't had any petitions?" asked board member Maureen Matiska.

In fact, Ernest Ashbridge, who had been ousted from the ballot in the May primary, had filed a petition on Dec. 1, a day before the court announced it was accepting them.

Jones said petitions had been filed with the court administrator, but that they weren't yet at the Court of Common Pleas.

Thursday, Jones said that any petitions filed before the court's official notice are irrelevant. The court couldn't officially accept petitions until after the notice.

Jones further contends that the notice itself says any petitions filed won't actually be considered by the court before Dec. 16. Until then a court administrator accepts petitions as well as objections to petitions, but the judges take no action.

Outgoing board members Ashbridge and John Litz said last month that they would accept the appointment if it were offered. Board members said the group was split over who to put in the open position, Gochol, Ashbridge, or Litz.

Jones said Judge Joseph Augello has scheduled a Dec. 16 hearing to settle the matter. Jones said he must submit a legal brief supporting the School Board's position "as soon as possible, probably early next week."

"The School Board does not seek to throw out any present or future petitions," Jones said. "The School Board's position is that the vacancy has been filled and therefore the court doesn't have to go through this process."

During the reorganization part of the meeting, David Usavage was elected president and Natitus, vice president. Bigus was elected assistant secretary. Natitus and Morgantini were elected as West Side Vot-Tech representatives.

Usavage was also elected as Intermediate Unit representative.



POST PHOTOS/RON BARTIZEK

Taking a break from the kitchen duties, from left: Charles D. Lemmond Jr., Barbara Lemmond, Miriam Naylor-Wilksa (Shawn Murphy's mother), Shawn Murphy, John Murphy. In photo below, Barbara Lemmond gives marching orders to the large group of volunteers who prepare and serve the dinner.

Passing along a 30-year holiday tradition

The founders of the Naylor-Lemmond Community Thanksgiving Dinner oversaw the 30th edition of the free event on Thanksgiving day.

Shawn and John Murphy, and State Senator Charles D. Lemmond Jr. and his wife Barbara started the dinner to honor the memories of Benjamin E. Naylor, Ms. Murphy's grandfather, and Ruth and Charles Lemmond, the senator's parents. Organizations that assist in subsidizing the dinner include the Commission on Economic Opportunity, St. Stephen's Church and the Luzerne County Transportation Department.

The dinner, held at First United Methodist Church in Wilkes-Barre, will now be conducted by the Urban Ministries of the United Methodist Church.



Police make good use of grants

By RONALD BARTIZEK Post Staff

**KINGSTON TWP.** — A now-expiring federal program that helped municipalities hire additional police officers in the 1990s was put to good use in the township.

Police Chief James Balavage said Tuesday the officer hired under the COPSFAST program in 1995 is still on the force.

The federal government paid 75 percent of the officer's salary

the first year, 50 percent the next and 25 percent the third. After the third year, the township was required to either hire the officer or pay back all the grant funds, approximately \$75,000.

"We kept our part of the bargain," Balavage said. "We needed the extra officer anyhow."

Balavage said the additional manpower has helped the township conduct a DARE program, which educates children on the danger of illicit drug

use, and hire a traffic enforcement officer.

The Kingston Township force consists of Balavage, a sergeant and eight patrolmen.

In many communities, staffing levels are declining in part because cities and towns can't afford the salaries of officers hired with federal funds after the grants run out. Even so, Balavage said he hasn't heard of one case in which a municipality was forced to repay the funding.

Tax

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1994. That could raise about the same amount as the tax on businesses, approximately \$85,000 a year.

Given a choice, Trudy Liuzzo thought the property tax might be more evenhanded. "I could see that before I could see a business tax," she said.

Frank Lombardo, owner of Cook's Pharmacy, termed his a "mid-size" business in the township. He said he could accept the tax, "if it makes sense and it's good for the community."

But he wondered why any tax increase is needed.

"My biggest question is, 'What is that revenue going to be used for?'" Lombardo asked.

Anthony Liuzzo said taxes on business often hurt a township's economy in the long run. "It's a very shortsighted perspective," he said, noting that smaller businesses will have more difficulty than large ones coming up with several hundred dollars each year.

Tax policy plays an important role in attracting businesses, who contribute to the township coffers in other ways, Liuzzo said, such as the taxes paid by employees. If Kingston Township becomes less desirable as a business address, "The township could ultimately end up losing money."

Mary Bartos has operated Bridal Trinkets on West Center Street for five years. While not rejecting the tax, she also wants to be sure it's necessary.

"I'm not opposed to paying it," she said. "But I'd like to see where it's going."

In their search for new revenues to help close a projected \$236,000 deficit, some supervisors have complained that businesses are able to take advantage of public services without paying for them. The traditional "mercantile tax," in which a municipality received a percentage of gross sales, can no longer be imposed in Pennsylvania, but a flat tax can be.

Dave Jenkins, who will take a supervisor seat along with

"I'm not opposed to paying it. But I'd like to see where it's going."

Mary Bartos Bridal Trinkets

Jeff Box after the first of the year, agrees the township needs to address its budget shortfall.

"Yes, there is a need for revenue enhancement," he said, given that residents seem to want services maintained. But Jenkins objects to the knee-jerk manner in which the current board arrived at the business tax proposal.

"We seem to lurch into one decision after another," he said, without research, planning or discussion with the people who will be affected.

Jenkins and Box have indicated they will seek to reopen the 2004 budget as soon as they are seated. "We're going to look at these kind of actions next month," Jenkins said.

As for a property tax, Jenkins said that would spread the impact more evenly among everyone who uses township services.

Chris Yankovich, himself the owner of a small business, was the only supervisor to vote against the tax on businesses.

In addition to the new tax, supervisors have considered hiking employee prescription co-pays, charging fees for the spring cleanup and asking the police union to reopen its contract, which calls for 4.75 percent raises in each of the next three years.

The proposed tax will be taken up at a special meeting of supervisors starting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. The budget itself is likely to be discussed at that meeting, as well as the monthly work session on Monday at 7 p.m. and Wednesday's regular meeting, starting at 7:30 p.m.

If accepted by the supervisors, the 2004 budget will be settled Wednesday night.

Busy week ahead

The Kingston Township Supervisors will hold meetings on three consecutive nights this week. The monthly work session starts at 7 p.m. Monday. It's likely the 2004 budget will be a prime topic, along with other issues that are coming to a head. Votes cannot be taken at a work session.

A special meeting has been called for Tuesday, starting at 7:30 p.m. to discuss three specific items: renewal of the earned income, realty transfer and other taxes, at essentially the same levels as now exist; a proposal for a Business Privilege Tax of \$500 to \$600 per business; and a proposal to limit or ban open burning.

The regular monthly meeting is Wednesday. At their last meeting, the supervisors expressed hope that a final 2004 budget could be adopted then.

All meetings take place in the township municipal building at 180 E. Center St. in Shavertown.

New books added to collection at Back Mountain Memorial Library

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, announces the addition of the following books to their collection:

EXPRESS LOAN

"The Hanged Man's Song" by John Sandford  
"The Big Bad Wolf" by James Patterson

FICTION

"The Cove" by Catherine Coulter  
"The Big Bad Wolf" by James Patterson  
"Cry No More" by Linda Howard  
"The Christmas Kite" by Gail Gaymer Martin  
"The Small Boat of Great Sorrows" by Dan Fesperman  
"The Road to Armageddon" by Larry Collins  
"The Salt Roads" by Nalo Hopkinson  
"The Con Man's Daughter" by Ed Dee  
"Owen Glendower" by John Cowper Powys

"Heat of Passion" by Harold Robbins  
"A Christmas Journey" by Anne Perry  
"By Sorrow's River" by Larry McMurtry  
"The Touch" by Colleen McCullough  
"Trojan Odyssey" by Clive Cussler

NON-FICTION

"Intelligence in War" by John Keegan  
"Ultimate Punishment: a lawyer's reflections on dealing with the death penalty" by Scott Turow  
"Self-Powerment" by Faye Mandell  
"The Wyoming Valley: an American portrait" by Edward F. Hanlon and Paul J. Zbiek  
"A National Party" by Zell Miller  
"Better Together" by Robert D. Putnam

BIOGRAPHY

"I am a Soldier, Too: the Jessica Lynch story" by Rick Bragg

"Brinkley's Beat" by David Brinkley

LARGE PRINT NON-FICTION

"Seeking Enlightenment — Hat by Hat" by Nevada Barr

AUDIOTAPES

"Balance of Power" by Richard North Patterson  
"Shepherds Abiding" by Jan Karon  
"Orchid Beach" by Stuart Woods  
"Blow Fly" by Patricia Cornwell  
"Smoke Screen" by Kyle Mills  
"O'Hara's Choice" by Leon Uris  
"Condi: the Condoleeza Rice Story" by Antonia Felix  
"Over the Edge of the

World" by Laurence Bergreen

"The Children of Henry VIII" by Alison Weir

"The Burma Road" by Donovan Webster

"Dragon's Lair" by Sharon Kay Penman

SPECIAL DONATIONS

"Castles of Steel" by Robert K. Massie donated by Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 American Legion  
"The Oxford Companion to Military History" donated by Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 American Legion  
"The Illusion of Victory" by Thomas J. Fleming donated by Daddow-Isaacs

Post 672 American Legion

"World War II on the Air" by Mark Bernstein donated by Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 American Legion

"The Military and Naval History of the Rebellion in the United States" by William Jewett Tenney donated by Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 American Legion

"The Civil War Research Guide" by Stephen McManus donated by Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 American Legion

"The First Heroes" by Craig Nelson donated by Daddow-Isaacs Post 672 American Legion

"Peace Pact" by David C. Hendrickson donated by Oneida Lodge I.O.O.F. #371

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