

Budget

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high mileage. And there will be money left over to buy some new equipment for the summer recreation program.

Box said Mundy had contacted him about the grant after learning of the township's tight financial situation. The supervisors enacted a 10-mill property tax this year to close a \$200,000 budget deficit.

Included in spending controls was elimination of a new cruiser purchase in 2004. The grant money will allow the Police Department to buy a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria marked cruiser to replace a 2001 model that has more than 93,000 miles on it. The new car is expected to cost about \$23,000, leaving \$2,000 earmarked for playground equipment.

The grant application must be submitted by April 9.

"I don't think it could have come at a better time," said Chairman Chris Yankovich.

Addressing a possible short-term cash shortage, the supervisors voted unanimously to give township Manager Eddie O'Neill authorization to move up to \$100,000 from the capital reserve fund to the general fund as the township awaits tax collections. Last month, the su-

"I don't think it could have come at a better time."

Chris Yankovich
Supervisors Chairman

pervisors considered taking out a tax anticipation note for the same purpose.

The capital fund stood at \$442,668 at the end of February, and the general fund held \$163,254, a decline of nearly \$60,000 during the month.

Another boost to the budget may come from a \$120,000 grant through the Luzerne County Office of Community Development. The township has received preliminary approval for the grant, which must be used for road improvements.

Spring cleanup will take place May 3-8, the same as Dallas and Dallas Township. For the first time, fees will be assessed for all vehicles bringing items to the cleanup. The car fee will be \$5 for unlimited visits; vans and SUVs will pay \$10; and pickup truck users will be charged \$25 and limited to one load.



FOR THE POST/SANDY PEOPLES

Cub scouts and volunteers from Pack 155 in Trucksville sorted the 6,900 pounds of food recently collected during the Scouting for Food program. They are, from left, first row: Katelyn Reinert, Tim Reinert, Samuel Reinert, Donald Michalisin, Nicholas Michalisin. Second row: Tania Reinert, Michael Kretchmer, Timothy A. Jennings, Jerek Gensel. Third row: Joe Wallace, project coordinator, Nicole Phillips, Crys Jennings, Sandy Michalisin.

Other scout troops who contributed to the collection of food are Dallas Troop 281, Lehman Troop 241 and Sweet Valley Troop 444.

Food

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year. We are all so impressed with the interest shown by our youth for this food pantry, and it helps us maintain a consistent flow of food to meet the increasing needs of our community."

Helping the children were many parents who dedicate countless hours to scouting. Crys Jennings, a parent and volunteer, committed her Saturday morning to provide leadership and guidance to her son and the other children.

"The community is so supportive of scouting," Jennings said, "and this is our opportunity to give something back. The people here at the food pantry really boost the confidence of these kids when they entrust them with helping to fill these shelves every year."

As the children scurried about the room delivering cans and boxes to the appropriately

"The community is so supportive of scouting, and this is our opportunity to give something back."

Crys Jennings
Parent volunteer

labeled bins, young Samuel Reinert stopped to express his feelings about the day. "I feel good about helping people who don't have food," he said with a smile. Then he lowered his head, the smile was gone and he said, "but I also feel bad that people don't have food. It's good to be here and I'm glad to help."

At the end of the day the scouts, their leaders and the

volunteers were pleased with the results of the food drive.

"You don't realize the number of needy families in our area," said Joe Wallace, project coordinator for the scouts in the Back Mountain. "This food pantry benefits a lot of people, and helping them is very rewarding. I'm so proud of everyone who helped out here today, and want to thank everyone who donated food and helped our kids collect it."

Throughout the year various churches, service groups and companies conduct food drives to help keep the shelves full at the pantry. The next major food drive will be conducted on May 8 by the letter carriers. Anyone wishing to donate food or coordinate a food drive may contact the pantry at 696-3897 to arrange for a mutually convenient delivery time.

Subdivision approval delayed

KINGSTON TWP. — After an extended discussion, the supervisors granted a delay until April 16 for final approval of a five-lot subdivision off Manor Drive. In that time, the supervisors asked the developer to address concerns about storm water runoff that makes its way into Green Pond.

Jason Moran of Northeast Layout Services, representing developer Rob Friedman, described a paved swale along Hilltop Drive that was put on the plan in place of a rock-lined ditch. Road superintendent Don Fritzges had argued against using rock because he said it would require cleaning and eventual replacement. But the paved area — 12-feet wide — was deemed too large, and the change had not been re-

viewed by township engineer Chris Borton.

The developer was asked to go over a new design with township officials and submit it to Borton for review before the April meeting of supervisors. The subdivision encompasses five lots ranging in size between 1.5 and 14.5 acres, all with access off Hilltop Drive, which loops off Manor Drive.

Supervisor Jeffrey Box saw the entire plan as inadequate, since it did not include any infrastructure, and left storm water management up to individual lot owners.

"To me this is a throwback to 40 years ago when you scratched some lines on a piece of paper and called it a subdivision," he said.

— Ronald Bartizek

Spring cleanup set for May 3-8; chief disputes complaints against Elmcrest speeding

DALLAS TWP. — The supervisors have slated spring cleanup for May 3 through May 8. Bids are being taken for dumpsters. Any Dallas Township resident who shows identification can unload junk, with the exception of refrigerators and air conditioners.

Dallas Borough and Kingston Township will coordinate the same cleanup schedule.

In other business at the Mar. 2 meeting of supervisors:

• Police Chief Robert Jolley responded to recent complaints about cars speeding through the Elmcrest development.

"There are very few cars, period," he said.

• Vice Chairman Frank Wagner said he was asked if Dallas Township would be willing to lend the \$5,000 that is forthcoming from the Dallas Area Municipal Authority to cash-strapped Kingston Township.

DAMA will give \$5,000 to Kingston Township, Dallas Township and Dallas to offset the expenses of spring cleanup.

"The money comes from our recyclables and our pickups and it (has) worked out real good. We've come out ahead the way we have it set up with one

hauler," Wagner said.

Treasurer Glenn Howell agreed with Wagner that they will consider helping out, but tabled the decision until a later date.

— Camille Fiotti

Sewer

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sometime in the 1990s. The municipal authority, in conjunction with the Borton-Lawson Engineering firm, is involved in a review of the borough's sewer system and practices — something that arose due to recurring raw sewage overflows.

"The connection fee is very justified."

Bill Mann
Authority board member

"When we sat down and looked at everything we were doing, that (adding the fee) was one of the things that came up," Smith said.

Budget problems have also plagued the authority — "With the budget concerns and work that lies ahead, every little bit helps," he said.

In January the authority raised the annual charge by \$111 to \$639.

Dallas

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team was congratulated for completing the season as district champions with a 26-0 record. Student John Hettes was recognized for being District 2 wrestling champion. High school teacher Catherine Wega introduced the LifeS-marts team that recently took second at the state competition in Harrisburg, and Jana Stec was congratulated for competing as a Forensics Competition National Finalist.

High School Principal Frank Galicki was presented with an inscribed clock in recognition of being named Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Secondary School Principals.

Poster contest for library auction

Junior and Senior high school students in the Back Mountain are invited to participate in a poster contest, sponsored by the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction Committee.

Students who are interested in entering the poster contest can stop by the library for a list of rules. Deadline for entries is March 19.

Anyone seeking information on the contest or auction can also visit the library's website at: backmountainlibrary.org.

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Have a story idea? Please call, we'd like to hear about it.

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