

DEVELOPMENT

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about his plans for the former Yalick farmland.

"I don't have anything planned for it," he said Dec. 17.

Housing, which Naparolo first suggested when he bought the property, has also been mentioned as a possibility.

The service station land will be needed to make room for a roundabout or other project at the "five-points" intersection. Before work can begin, a traffic study must be completed. The PennDOT-commissioned study for the intersection is being combined with two others in the Back Mountain, said Bob Doble, Assistant District 4 Executive.

"They all have sort of a common thread," Doble said of the three studies. The others are to determine the need for additional signals at the Hildebrand Road/Route 309 intersection, and an overall study of traffic along the "Route 309 corridor" from Kingston Township through Dallas.

PennDOT will advertise this spring for a consultant to perform the studies, Doble said. He hopes to see results early in 2006. The five-points portion will include a preliminary design; the others only traffic statistics and recommendations.

Naparolo's development is only one factor in the increased congestion at the center of Dallas, Doble said. "Yeah, it makes it worse, but it's an incremental thing" caused as well by home building and traffic to and from Harveys Lake.

A traffic study commissioned by Naparolo in 2002 found the intersection operating at a "D" level on an A-F scale. Traffic caused by the development would lower it to "F" without changes.

Doble feels PennDOT is in good shape addressing the issue. "We're always way behind the eight ball. In this case, we're pretty close."

Traffic grant not at risk

But the Council of Governments may need to become more formal.

By RONALD BARTIZEK
Post Staff

A \$30,000 PennDOT grant for the study of traffic in the Route 309 corridor is not in jeopardy. But concerns about liability for grant funds has exposed a fault in the current structure of the Back Mountain Area Council of Governments, which applied for the grant.

At their Jan. 12 meeting, the Kingston Township supervisors postponed a vote accepting the grant, an add-on to a larger intermunicipal planning study. Solicitor Ben Jones III had reservations about liability should the grant funds be misused. The COG is comprised of Dallas Borough and Dallas, Lehman and Kingston townships. The other three members had approved the grant.

Adrian Merolli, Director of the Luzerne County Planning Commission, who administers the grant, said there is little to worry about. "Nobody handles money," he said. "We don't give them money."

Instead, the firm doing the study will bill the COG, and the members will split the bill and pay it. Only then are they reimbursed for the expense.

Joe Moskovitz, the Dallas Borough Manager who has acted as administrator of the COG, said the borough has established a separate bank account, dedicated only to handling COG funds. Like all borough accounts, only members of the borough council are authorized signatories.

"The COG is not an entity unto itself," Moskovitz said, so one of the member municipali-

TO FIND OUT MORE

The Back Mountain Area Council of Governments will meet on Tuesday Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. in the Lehman Township Municipal Building, Old Route 115, Lehman. The meeting agenda will include a review of developments in the multi-municipal comprehensive master plan.

ties had to handle the funds.

At this point, there are no funds to handle. Moskovitz said the COG has commitments for grants totaling about \$200,000, but, "not a penny has been received yet."

But Moskovitz foresees the need for the COG to take a more formal stance in the future. "It's going to have to incorporate and stand on its own two feet," he says, or it will not be eligible for some state programs.

As for the traffic grant, "I've already taken care of that," Merolli said, and the money is earmarked for the Back Mountain study. The only concern at this point is timing, since the grant expires June 30. But he sees no problem getting a one-year extension to make use of it.

"If you don't use it, that money just goes back into the state pot."

The Back Mountain Area Council of Governments will meet on Tuesday Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. in the Lehman Township Municipal Building, Old Route 115, Lehman. The meeting agenda will include a review of developments in the multi-municipal comprehensive master plan.

The Kingston Township supervisors plan to attend to satisfy their concerns about the grant funds.

FIRE AND ICE



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Firefighters survey the damage after they knocked down a Jan. 18 fire that destroyed a garage off West Eighth Street in Kingston Township. Firefighting was made difficult by sub-freezing temperatures.

Firefighters save barn, garage destroyed

Staff report

KINGSTON TWP. — Bitterly cold weather hampered firefighters' efforts to put out a fire that destroyed a garage along with two cars and seven motorcycles housed inside, a fire official said.

Trucksville Fire Chief Bill Eck said single-digit temperatures caused two fire hoses to freeze and shatter as firefighters fought the blaze last Tuesday, at the Joseph Yagloski property at 1567 W. Eighth St.

"It was terrible," Eck said. "Pumps froze up. Gauges froze up. Hoses froze up. ... As soon as we'd move a hose it would just shatter like a piece of glass."

Despite the problems, Eck said firefighters got the blaze

under control within 30 minutes and prevented it from spreading to a barn, which was less than 15 feet away. The fire was completely extinguished within about two hours, he said.

The garage was heated by a wood burner, but Eck said he could not determine if it caused the blaze. A state police fire marshal was called in to investigate, he said.

Yagloski suffered burns to his face while trying to retrieve some of the items. He refused treatment at the scene.

In addition to Trucksville, fire departments from Shavertown, Dallas, Franklin Township and Mount Zion responded to the call, as well as the Kingston Township Ambulance and Rescue.



FOR THE POST/CLARK VAN ORDEN

Joe Yagloski walks past as firefighters put out a blaze that destroyed a garage on his property. He was burned on his face when he tried to rescue vehicles stored in the garage, but refused treatment at the scene.

TRASH FEE

(continued from page 1)

At the Jan. 18 council meeting, councilman Ed Kelly said the police department is planning to hire a part-time police officer, or maybe more. "One or two, we're not sure," he said. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 27. They may be picked up at the borough building.

Clarence Hogan announced the winners of the borough's first holiday home decorating contest. Gary Harrison, Route 415, won the first prize of \$50. Frank Butcofski, Pole 219, won second place and Eileen Chesney, Lewis Avenue won third. They each received \$25.

Hogan was impressed with the interest drawn by the contest, and hopes to award bigger prizes next year. "The judges were out for a good two days looking at them," he said.

Zoning officer James Smigielski said portable carports are being set up improperly. Like any other structure, they must meet zoning regulations and a permit must be obtained before erecting them. Council president Bernie Ozovek warned that violators would be subject to fines and may be told to remove carports that don't comply.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded recently at the Luzerne County Courthouse:

Henry A. Swartz IV to James Walsh, Dallas, \$141,000.

Brian and Diane Gallagher to Patrick and Michelle Gallagher, Ondish Hills, Dallas Township, \$220,000.

Nicholas Canzoneri per agent to Fred and Sue Parry, Goss Manor, Dallas Township, \$143,000.

Joseph and Marlene Matosky to Michael and Patricia Confer, Dallas Township, \$70,000.

Vincent Kasa to Halbing-Amato Developers LLC, Dallas Township, \$24,960.

Robert Cook to Kenneth Tereska and spouse, Harveys Lake, \$62,530.

Jonathan B. Anderson to Robert Ambrose and spouse, Harveys Lake, \$120,000.

Estate of Richard A. Lazovich to Andrew Mulligan, Jackson Township, \$48,000.

Fred and Sue Parry to Raymond and

Linda Marek, 147 Warden Ave., Kingston Township, \$145,000.

John and Amy Franchella to George and Colleen Mizzer, Kingston Township, \$115,000.

Ethelda Bergstrasser per attorney to Aric and Michele Gingo, 160 Shadetree Road, Kingston Township, \$135,000.

Sarah P. Carr to Jason Shatrowskas, Kingston Township, \$123,000.

Gerard Notartomaso and spouse to David Whalen and spouse, Kingston Township, \$230,000.

Judson J. Spencer to Elizabeth A. Barone, Kingston Township, \$20,000.

Scott and Kathleen Farrell to Robert Hatcher, Lehman Township, \$113,300.

Robert Parsons and others to Christopher Matus and spouse, Lehman Township, \$118,000.

Robert and Sandra Adams to Paul and Jill Heritage, Ross Township, \$145,000.

Louise Casterline trustee to James Brown and others, 832 Broadway Road, Ross Township, \$145,000.

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