

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

# Residents want police to control speeding motorists

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Two residents asked the board of supervisors and police chief Tuesday night for help controlling speeding motorists in their neighborhoods.

Gloria Spencer, of Claude Street, and Kristin Connolly, of Westminster Drive, attended the bi-monthly board of supervisors meeting because they allege that speeding is a problem in each of their sections of the township. The women say they are afraid one of their children is going to get hurt.

"The kids are going to be out of school soon and on their bikes," Spencer said.

Spencer asked police chief Robert Jolley if the township could install stop signs at the intersection of Claude Street and East Center Hill Road. Jolley said it is against the law to put up stop signs to control speed and that a traffic study of the intersection must be conducted before stop signs can be erected.

According to Jolley, a traffic study on East Center Hill Road found that 5,545 vehicles, 111 of which were buses, trucks, or vans, used the road in a 24-hour period. Eighty-five percent of the motorists used 36.3 miles per hour. The speed limit on the road is 35 miles per hour.

"Cops are a lot like fishermen," Jolley said. "They like to go fishing where they catch stuff. Center Hill Road isn't one of them."

Connolly alleged students from Dallas High School speed on her road each day when school is dismissed. She says speed isn't as big of a problem in the morning hours because the students are probably still tired.

"I had a neighbor call and say, 'Did you know your 8-year-old almost got hit by a car?'" Connolly said. "The kids choose to come past me because they don't have to slow down."

Connolly asked for 15 minutes of police patrol by her house to observe traffic. Jolley agreed to place an officer in Connolly's driveway.

Jolley says the township could install sidewalks near the women's homes, but residents of the area would have to incur the cost. He recommended children utilize the Rails to Trails system so they are not on the road.

## Construction issues at apartment complex

A man who says he is not a township resident asked what can be done to address construction issues at a township apartment complex. The man, who refused to provide his name during the meeting, said the apartments are a safety issue.

"You have 120 apartments up there with 220 volt wires exposed," the man told the supervisors.

Solicitor Thomas Brennan recommended complex tenants call the township if they are concerned and the township would look into construction code violations.

"If there's a particular problem, maybe there's a way to address this problem," Brennan said.

## Pipe and water main replacement

The supervisors discussed a letter received by township engineer Tom Doughton from Jason Watson, an engineer for United Water. Watson inquired in the letter about where the township stands on the company's replacement of a water main on Rice Drive. Doughton says United Water will spend \$500,000 on the water main replacement, which includes installing several new fire hydrants.

Doughton says pipes will be installed by the township in the area and that Watson wants to know the exact elevation of the pipes so they don't hit them.

"Last year they ran the spur off of Lower Demunds up through the pipes," Doughton said. "We told them to stop because we were going to do work there. They'd like to know exactly what we're going to do and if we're not going to do it this year, they're going to go around us."

According to Doughton, the piping alone from the project is worth \$30,000, which is being funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The design and permits for the work have already been approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Doughton said he will get estimates for the township's piping project so work can begin.

## Pear Tree Lane traffic agreement

The supervisors approved a traffic flow agreement for Pear Tree Lane between township officials and the Dallas School District. The agreement restricts construction vehicles on the road during construction of the new high school. It also calls for the school district to pay for a traffic study to be conducted on the road once construction is completed.

Supervisors approved a permit for the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon to utilize certain roads in the township for a race on Sunday, Aug. 2. The organization provided the township with a certificate of insurance for the event.

## Bid awarded for waste containers

The supervisors awarded the bid for waste containers for spring clean-up to United Sanitation in Duryea for the amount of \$488.

## Bond released

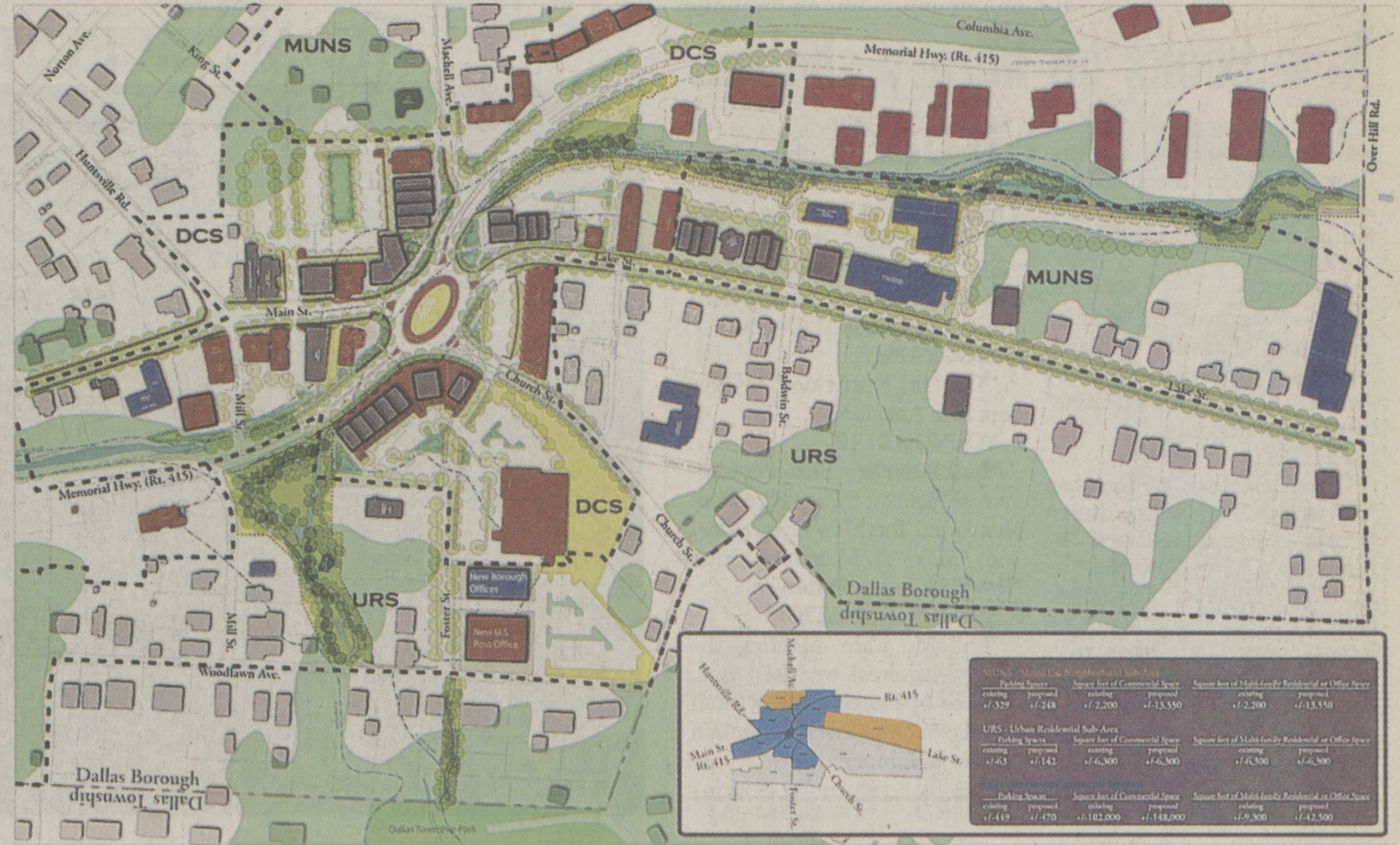
The supervisors approved the release of a \$94,831 performance bond held for Landview Properties, as recommended by township engineer Tom Doughton. Landview Properties, located on Manorview Drive in Dallas, specializes in the sale of property.

## Health insurance proposal

The supervisors approved a health insurance cooperative proposal from The Benecon Group regarding township employee health insurance. Benecon Municipal Services division specializes in creating health insurance purchasing cooperatives for municipalities.

## Meeting dates changed

The supervisors reminded officials and residents that the Tuesday, April 21, supervisors' meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, April 14. The Tuesday, May 19, meeting will also be rescheduled to Monday, May 18, due to the primary election.



Dallas Borough Downtown Master Plan  
Final Design  
DALLAS BOROUGH MASTER PLAN  
2008-2009

Craig Bachik, of Kairos Design Group, LLC, has provided The Dallas Post with preliminary plans for Dallas Borough's downtown master plan and zoning revisions project. Kairos is the engineering firm designing plans for the

project. The revitalization project is being funded by a \$50,000 grant from Luzerne County and an additional \$50,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

# Validity of community partnership questioned

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Supervisor John Solinsky expressed his concerns about joining the Back Mountain Community Partnership at Wednesday night's regular board of supervisors meeting.

Solinsky said he is not against working with other communities in the Back Mountain, but is worried the partnership is one step closer to consolidation. Solinsky says the state is pushing for consolidation of local police, school districts and small municipalities.

The Back Mountain Community Partnership is a cooperative among participating municipalities to work together on various projects that may not be fundable to an individual town, but could be to a collaborative effort.

According to Solinsky, Senator Lisa Baker urged Back Mountain municipalities to form the partnership as a way to secure more funding.

"The consolidation is to take well-run townships like ours and partner them with townships going broke," Solinsky said.

Vice chair of supervisors James Reino disagreed with Solinsky.

"This agreement we are entering into does not require us to be involved with every event," Reino said. "We can opt in or out of every function."

No citizens commented during a public hearing at the meeting regarding passing of Ordinance 2009-4, which adopts the articles of agreement between member municipalities of the partnership. The supervisors voted 5-0 in favor

of adopting the ordinance.

To the best of the supervisors' knowledge, no other Back Mountain municipality has yet to pass such an ordinance, making the township the first member municipality of the partnership.

## Tom Shone honored

A plaque was presented to Tom Shone by the supervisors in honor of his 17 1/2 years of service and dedication as a member of the Civil Service Commission to Kingston Township. Shone was appointed to the Civil Service Commission in July 1990 and resigned in December 2008.

## Line painting payment

The supervisors authorized the township manager and solicitor to negotiate an agreement with PSX, Inc. Line Painters to pay a lesser amount than the \$11,744.59 total billed owed for services performed.

"The low bidder from last year, in our opinion, did not do an adequate job," Reino said.

## Price adjustment for asphalt

The supervisors voted 4-1, with Solinsky voting no, to authorize payment to American Asphalt for a bituminous price adjustment for asphalt purchased in 2008. The company will be paid \$29,570.52 in increments of \$5,000 per month for five months along with a final payment of \$4,570.52 in the sixth month.

## Additional police officers

The supervisors authorized the township manager and chief of police to submit a grant application

to fund the hiring of an additional

police officer through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program with the U.S. Department of Justice. If the grant is received, the officer will be one of two additional officers to be hired this year. The second officer to be hired was already budgeted for 2009.

## New police vehicle

The supervisors authorized the township manager to purchase a 2009 Ford Explorer XLT Special Services Vehicle V6 Police Vehicle from KME Kovatch Organization through the Co-Stars purchasing program not to exceed \$26,000 and all needed accessories not to exceed \$4,000. Grant funds obtained from Sen. Lisa Baker will pay for \$15,000 of the total cost.

## Center Street Park revitalization

Authorization was granted by the township supervisors for the township manager to apply for grant funding through the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources' C2P2 Community Conservation Partnerships Program for revitalization of Center Street Park and Natural Resources Conservation Service grant funding to repair the Carverton Road Building and to solicit Chris Tweedy to prepare the grant appli-

cations.

## Financial software

The supervisors authorized the purchase of new financial software from Freedom Systems through the Co-Stars program. The software will cost \$8,995 plus training costs of \$3,600, a conversion cost of \$1,000 and annual support fees of \$1,995 over a four-year period. A total of \$6,595, which has been budgeted for 2009, will be due the first year.

## DHS Lock-In donation

The supervisors authorized a donation of \$1,000 to the Dallas High School 2009 Graduation Lock-In, as was budgeted for 2009. The lock-in is an adult-supervised, overnight party for seniors following their graduation. The party is an attempt to allow seniors to have fun while keeping them away from drugs and alcohol on the night of their graduation.

## Meeting rooms

The supervisors authorized use of the Herb Hill Meeting Room for mandatory police update training on Thursday, May 21, and Friday, May 22. In a separate motion, the supervisors approved a request from the Maplecrest Homeowners Association for the use of the lower level meeting room at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 20.

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