

DALLAS BOROUGH

Council approves bidding of stormwater projects

By REBECCA BRIA
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Borough council approved the bidding out of two separate stormwater infrastructure improvement projects at its regular monthly meeting on August 19.

The first project will install stormwater drainage piping in the area of Norton Avenue and Spring Street. The area of the borough qualified for \$100,000 from the Luzerne County Office of Community Development (OCD). Borough manager Tracey Michael Carr says the borough hopes to use all of this year's OCD grant money on the project.

The second project calls for demolition of the Orchard Street Bridge. Stormwater drainage piping will also be installed on Orchard Street.

Council voted unanimously on

April 15 to eliminate the replacement of the bridge in lieu of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)-approved alternate projects. The bridge, which crosses Toby Creek, was damaged during the flood of June 2006.

Carr says the Orchard Street bridge demolition and stormwater infrastructure project is one of the approved FEMA and PEMA alternate projects that will occur in the borough. Plans for other FEMA and PEMA alternate projects include repair of the municipal building and maintenance garage, the purchase of a police cruiser and dump truck and improvements for storm water and storm sewer systems.

According to Carr, the borough can only use 75 percent, or

\$227,194, of its approved FEMA and PEMA award for the alternate projects.

Crime concerns

Mayor Tim Carroll advised council and residents to be vigilant and not to leave valuable items in their cars due to recent automobile break-ins and other crimes in the Back Mountain. Carroll mentioned car break-ins that he says recently occurred at the Dallas Shopping Center.

Members of council also discussed a recent robbery at Fino's Pharmacy in the borough and a daytime residential burglary in Dallas Township.

"It looks to me like the Back Mountain is becoming a little crime-ridden recently....," Carroll said. "We've been talking about it coming out this way and it really seems to have hit in the last

month or so."

Street paving

Carr announced that Maplewood and Highland avenues are scheduled for paving the week of August 24.

Masonry repairs bids

Council authorized the solicitation for price quotations and bids for masonry repairs to the Center Hill Road Bridge.

Police vehicle bids

Authorization was granted to solicit bids for the sale of a used 2004 Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser upon acceptable delivery of a replacement 2009 vehicle.

MMO budget

Council approved the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)

budget for 2010 for the borough's uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$21,530 and the non-uniform pension plan in the amount of \$10,973 in compliance with Act 205.

Master plan payment

Payment was approved in the amount of \$5,320.59 to Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson for work completed on the Kenneth Young Memorial Park master plan for the period of June 16, 2009 to July 15, 2009.

Tax Collection Committee

Mark Van Etten was appointed the delegate and Karen Rose the alternate delegate to the borough for the Luzerne County Tax Collection Committee.

The Back Mountain Community Partnership, of which the borough is a member, passed a

resolution on August 17 for each member municipality to appoint the same delegate (Van Etten, of Misericordia University) and alternate delegate (Rose, Kingston Township tax collector) to the committee.

Residential lease

Authorization was granted for the borough manager to execute a residential lease for the second floor apartment at 25 Main St., which is the borough building. Carr says she received two applications for the apartment and has not yet decided on a tenant.

Borough health insurance

Council authorized borough officials to execute a plan document for the Dallas Borough Group Health PPO Plan as drafted and submitted by the Benecon Group.

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Paving project will temporarily close Rice Drive during August

By REBECCA BRIA
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Township engineer Tom Doughton told the board of supervisors on August 18 that a paving project will temporarily close part of Rice Drive next month.

Doughton said Rice Drive will be closed to traffic from Lower Demunds Road to the Pulverman driveway for approximately the first three weeks in September.

There were nine bids submitted for the paving project. Pikes Creek Site Contractors, of Sweet Valley, was the lowest bidder and was awarded the project at a total cost of \$88,530. American Asphalt was the second lowest bidder at \$89,479.

Doughton says engineers estimated the project would cost \$154,000. He also said that United Water will reimburse the township \$6,696 for the project because the company is installing a new water line.

Daytime burglaries

Dallas Township Police Chief Robert Jolley said the region is experiencing an increase in daytime home burglaries. One burglary occurred at noon on Tuesday while the owners were at home.

Jolley asked township residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity by calling 911.

"We have someone awake at all times," Jolley said. "No one's bothering us, believe me when I tell you. Times are changing and when there's a downturn in the economy, this is what we're looking at."

Park clean-up

Dallas Township Police Chief Robert Jolley said the region is experiencing an increase in daytime home burglaries. One burglary occurred at noon on Tuesday while the owners were at home.

Also, the supervisors gave Chris Fiotti, of Shavertown, and Chelsea Kon, of Dallas, permission to clean up the township park located behind CVS store.

Fiotti and Kon are entering their senior year at Holy Redeemer High School and hope to perform 40 hours of community service at the park as part of their senior completion project. The students say they will do general clean up, plant flowers, cut the grass and paint lines on the basketball court along with the help of some of their friends. They will work on the project from now throughout the fall.

Nuisance property

Westminster Drive resident Marilyn Gregorski asked the supervisors for an update on an alleged nuisance property near her home. Gregorski attended a July supervisors meeting and said she and her neighbors helped pass a township nuisance property ordinance last year because of such a property near their homes. Gregorski said that, despite the ordinance, the property had gotten worse and she asked the township in July to enforce it.

Solicitor Thomas Brennan said activity did occur to clean up the property and that the side and front grass was cut. Gregorski said the grass in the back violates a township high-grass ordinance. Township zoning officer Leonard Kozick agreed to send a letter to the

property owner, informing her she has five days to cut the grass.

Fixed hole

John Newman, a resident of Wedgewood Way, told the supervisors that a hole he previously complained about had been fixed. Newman said at the last supervisors meeting the two-foot deep hole remained in between houses seven and eight on his road from a paving and storm water drainage project that took place last year. Newman alleged that a pile of stone and a large rock are covering the hole that he says is left over from Comcast's portion of the project.

Newman also asked if the township police vehicles are old and suggested the supervisors apply for grant money for new police cruisers. The supervisors said no new vehicles were needed at the time.

Rebecca Bria is a staff writer for The Dallas Post. She can be reached at 970-7436.

EVENT BENEFITS CCK



Donald Searfoss, right, a Lake-Lehman student, held a fundraiser at his high school in which the winning class (Cave and Novrocki) won a pizza party donated by Hogan's Heroes and Pizza in Dallas. Monies raised were used to purchase Blanket Buddies for the Community Cares for Kids (CCK) organization led by Dr. Francis Collini, above left. CCK is comprised of volunteers who travel to Ecuador to perform life-altering surgeries on needy children.

Paving begins Monday in Dallas Boro

The Dallas Borough Road Department will begin work to resurface Maplewood Drive and Highland Drive the week of August 24, weather permitting.

Once the street has been resurfaced, the borough will not approve any utility pave cuts (other than for emergencies) for a period of up to five years.

Residents considering the installation of water, gas or other utility repairs or improvements are advised that any and all utility cuts to the roadway will be

required to be completed prior to the street resurfacing projects and then prohibited for the five-year moratorium.

Call the Dallas Borough Road Department at 674-5362 with any questions pertaining to the Dallas Borough 2009 summer road resurfacing schedule.

Sem opens for 166th time

Wyoming Seminary will begin its 166th year of classes.

The Upper School in Kingston will register students on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 30 and 31, for grades nine through 12 and post-graduate. A convocation service will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at the Upper School.

The Lower School in Forty Fort will open Wednesday, Sept. 2, with a convocation for students in fifth through eighth grade.

Orientation for new Lower School students in grades 1-8 will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, and an Open House for new and returning preschool, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students and their parents will be held at the same time.

The opening convocation for primary grades will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 2, and that parents and friends are welcome to attend. Parents' Back to School Night will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3. A similar Back to School Night session for parents of children in first and second grades will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8, and at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9, for third and fourth grades. Orientation for parents of middle school students will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10.

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