

BACK MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Membership is restricted to locals

By REBECCA BRIA
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Members of the Back Mountain Community Partnership decided at their monthly meeting at Misericordia University on September 17 to restrict membership to municipalities of the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts for now.

The partnership is an inter-municipal group composed of Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman townships and Dallas Borough.

The move comes after Exeter Township asked about joining the partnership at the group's August meeting. Partnership chairman Al Fox said several other municipalities have also expressed interest.

Joseph Chacke, of NEPA Alliance, and Jeffrey Malak, the partnership's solicitor, suggested the group should think about creating an alternate membership in the future. An alternate membership would give a municipality no voting power, but would allow it to participate in some programs.

Harveys Lake Borough Councilmen Clarence Hogan and Francis Kopko attended the meeting with an interest in the partnership. The borough, which is in the Lake-Lehman School District, is eligible to become part of the group.

Malak says the Dallas and Lake-Lehman districts themselves, as well as all municipalities in the two school districts, are also eligible for membership.

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DARE program

Partnership Vice Chairman James Reino said it appears that there is no state funding available for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. Reino said Kingston Township is providing the money necessary to continue the program in the Dallas School District and Gate of Heaven School.

Kathleen Sebastian, manager

for Kingston Township, estimated the program will cost the township \$10,428.89 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Reino suggested the partnership become involved and help share the expense of the program. Raymond Iwanowski asked how that would benefit Lehman and Jackson townships, which are part of the Lake-Lehman School District. Iwanowski says Lake-Lehman currently

does not have a DARE program.

Partnership members discussed offering the program to Lake-Lehman as well which would double the cost. Kingston Township police officer Frank Ziegler is the DARE officer in Dallas schools.

The partnership decided to invite Ziegler to speak about DARE at the group's October meeting. In addition, Reino said Kingston Township will put together an official proposal on DARE for the next partnership meeting.

Water issues

Brian Oram, a geologist and Wilkes University professor, told the BMCP that Toby Creek Watershed was identified as a potential critical water planning area in Act 220, the Pennsylvania Water

Resources Planning Act passed in 2002. Critical water planning areas are defined as areas where it is estimated that water supply does not meet and will not meet water demand.

Oram was the monthly guest speaker for the BMCP meeting. Dallas Borough Mayor Tim Carroll asked Oram if recent development of the Back Mountain is hurting water levels.

"There is definitely an impact that we're having," Oram said.

Oram said the Toby Creek Watershed is probably maxed out for consumption, adding that an aquifer study will be done on the watershed as part of Act 220.

Oram also discussed water's involvement in natural gas drilling.

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DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board votes to refinance bonds worth \$4.9 million

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Dallas School Board approved a series of general obligation bonds in the amount of more than \$4.9 million Monday night.

The bonds, which will be issued through PNC Bank, will be used to refinance bonds the district previously took out to build Wycallis Elementary School. The original bonds, issued in 1998, were also refinanced in 2003.

In another matter, the board learned from district building and grounds manager Mark Kraynack that change orders may be necessary to make additions to the high school construction project contract.

Kraynack said the contract for the project does not include security cameras for the new maintenance building. Kraynack also said cameras on the new high school will focus only on observation, not intrusion.

Some of the exterior doors to be installed on the school do not have contacts for burglary detection.

In addition, Kraynack said there will be a fiber optic issue related to the construction project. To open the new high school and demolish the existing one, fiber optic cables will have to be rerouted through the middle school to keep the Internet running in the district.

Bob Nesbit, of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, told the board the high school project is on schedule. Nesbit said the retention pond is 95 percent complete, underground utility work is about 80 percent complete and the bus loop and exit is 75 percent complete.

The maintenance building is about two weeks behind due to soil issues.

RFP for structural engineer

Board member Dennis Gochoel wrote a request for a proposal for a structural engineer to determine the integrity of the old Dallas Township School, which is owned by the district. Board President Karen Kyle noted the board

would like to demolish the building.

Superintendent Frank Galicki said that, if the structure is condemned, it is possible it may be demolished in conjunction with the existing high school in 2011.

Kraynack is going to examine the request for proposal before the board votes in October as to whether or not to put it out for bid.

Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services

An agreement was approved between the district and Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services, Inc. three days per week at a per diem rate of \$100. Galicki said Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services will provide educational and prevention programs and deal with student crises and interventions.

High school project payments

Payments related to construction of the new high school out of the capital projects fund were approved for the following companies: Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, professional services, \$45,453.32; Charles H. Corby & Sons Excavating Inc., site work construction, \$191,340; Lobar, Inc., general construction, \$346,120.65; Midlantic Engineering, construction inspection services, \$6,899; Middle Atlantic Inspections, Inc., temporary electric service inspection, \$275; Central Clay Products, Inc., pipe and materials, \$562.10; and Bassler Equipment Co., sign and materials, \$802.46.

H1N1 flu vaccines

Galicki noted that the school district applied as a site for the administration of the H1N1 flu vaccine, reporting that Dallas is one of several school districts to do so.

Personnel

The following people were hired by the board: Rachel Sutliff, long-term substitute special education teacher; and Cynthia Saraka and Michael

Coombs, housekeepers at \$11.68 per hour; Matt Wilson, Sarah Wenner, Jennifer Shaver, Kim Cool, Cheryl Brocius and Michelle Maransky, learning support aides at \$8.10 per hour; Pam Mingey, learning support aide at \$8.85 per hour; Maria Pizzo, classroom aide at \$8.10 per hour; John Harley, specialized one-to-one aide at \$19 per hour; Dorene Moskaluk and Bonnie Weinstein, Title I Reading aides at \$8.10 per hour; and Kristen Stallard, development first-grade aide at \$8.10 per hour.

The following personnel were approved to staff the before and after-school math and reading tutorial program for the 2009-2010 school year: Rachel Hayes, Erin Lypka, Wynn Nardone, Dyan Nice, Leslie Plank, Marcus Sowcik, Nicole Valkenburg, Fred Weaver, Amy Williams, and Jenn Yanuskavich, \$28.35 per hour; Linda Joseph, Marla Martin, Heather Pitcavage, Kim Smith and Michael Viglone, \$33.95 per hour; Chris Baron and Kerry Speziale, \$39.60 per hour.

Matthew Stretanski was appointed the pool manager for the current school year at the rate of \$1,841 per athletic season.

Maria Brody was transferred from reading recovery team leader to a part-time reading teacher.

Matthew Kelly was approved as a volunteer football coach for the current athletic season.

A leave of absence was approved for Jessica Pasquini, high school English teacher, from Dec. 1, 2009 through May 21, 2010; and Jonelle Vail, a middle school English teacher, from Jan. 4, 2010 through March 26, 2010.

The board also accepted resignations from the following employees: Russell Eyt, mathematics and computer teacher and coach; Danielle West, long-term substitute special-education teacher; Mary Ellen Dziadosz, classroom aide; Kimberly Kuzma, diving coach; Heidi Rac, long-term substitute speech therapist; and Tara Murphy, housekeeper.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Enjoying a pow-wow at the Lakeside Nursing Home in Harveys Lake are, from left, Jessie Silverdeer, Vincent, Sara, Kevin and Emily Williams, of Beaumont.

Powwow celebrates heritage

To celebrate the Indian heritage of some of its residents, the Lakeside Nursing Home at Harveys Lake held its annual powwow recently.



George Lassourelille holds onto his mother's wheelchair at the Lakeside Nursing Home in Harveys Lake. A Lanape Indian, Lassourelille died a few weeks ago, prior to the annual powwow. Lassourelille led last year's powwow at the nursing home.



Michelle Windwalker, of Hunlock Creek, and Pete Blackwolf, of Dunmore, do a rattle dance during an annual powwow at the Lakeside Nursing Home in Harveys Lake.

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Sewer Authority searching for sewer lines in need of repair; updates being made

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Council members received an update on sewer line inspections, added a planned residential development ordinance to the zoning manual and announced an upcoming Haunted House event at their regular monthly meeting.

Mayor Richard Boice said the Sewer Authority has been searching for sewer lines in need of repair. In the Alderson Area, manholes are being opened and searched for rainwater seeping into the sewer system, Boice said.

The sewer system updates are part of an entire sewer system overhaul made possible from \$550,000 provided through the

state's H2O Grant. Once the sewer system updates are completed, the bor-

ough will be able to start issuing sewer line hook-ups again. Boice said it has been about four years

since the borough was able to release a sewer hook-up permit and currently has 15 applications on a waiting list.

The hold-ups on the hook-ups are with the Department of Environmental Protection which wants to see a decrease of about 500,000 gallons of rainwater entering the sewer lines, Boice said.

The tedious process of finding leaks uses flow meters to measure water flow and specialized cameras pushed through the sewer lines to confirm location of the problem. Boice said leaky fittings are fixed and then the test process is repeated to ensure a permanent fix.

Council members unanimously agreed to re-insert an ordinance to the zoning manual for

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