

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Position of AC unit in new building is an issue

By REBECCA BRIA
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Representatives from Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates, the engineer for the new high school project, addressed the Dallas School Board on Dec. 14 about concerns regarding a heating and air conditioning unit.

Mark Krainack, district supervisor of buildings and grounds, is unhappy with the placement of a heating and air conditioning unit in the mezzanine area of the new maintenance building. He says the unit is taking up a lot of space in the area.

Plans for the maintenance building were originally designed without the mezzanine, but the mezzanine was approved in an alternate bid.

Board member Karen Kyle said it appears there was miscommunication between GPL, which did the design for Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates, and Crabtree as to where the unit was to be placed.

Rick LeBlanc, of Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates, said Crabtree will come back to the board with several different options regarding the heating and air conditioning unit issue. Board member Karen Wega inquired as to what the costs would be and who would pay them, but LeBlanc said he did not know yet.

Board member Richard Coslett said he was concerned about GPI, citing a past issue with intrusion detection being eliminated the new high school project. The issue resulted in the board approving a constructive change directive not to exceed \$60,000 to add security contacts and motion detectors.

Other project news

Bob Nesbit, of Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates, said the maintenance building continues to be three weeks behind schedule.

Nesbit said the high school is two weeks behind schedule because of a steel delivery is-

sue to Lobar Inc., the general contractor. Also, Nesbit said the masons took a break from working last week because they said it was too cold.

Achievement Awards

All four schools in the district received Pennsylvania Department of Education Keystone Achievement Awards for 2009. Dallas is the only local district to have received a Keystone Achievement Award in all schools every year since the awards were started in 2003.

The Keystone Achievement Awards are given to public schools that achieve adequate yearly progress two years in a row.

Superintendent Frank Galicki presented the awards to the principals of Dallas and Wycallis elementary schools and to representatives from the middle and high schools. The principals from the middle and high schools were not present because they had to attend events at their respective schools. See ISSUE, Page 11



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Members of the Dallas School Board take the oath of office from Judge Thomas Burke at the board's reorganization meeting on Dec. 7. From left, are Charles Preece, Maureen Matiska, Karen Kyle and Bruce Goeringer. Goeringer was then elected president of the board.

DALLAS BOROUGH

Council passes budget with slight tax increase

By REBECCA BRIA
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Council approved the 2010 operating budget on Dec. 16 in the amount of \$1.085 million.

The budget calls for a real estate tax rate of 1.28 mills, an increase in .21 mills from the 2009 rate. A mill is a \$1 tax for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

Tax rates remaining at the 2009 value for 2010 include the earned income tax at .5 percent, the per capita tax at \$5, the real estate transfer at 1 percent and the local services tax at \$52.

Zoning ordinance amended

The final draft of an amended zoning ordinance was approved.

Borough Manager Tracey Carr said in October that the rezoning is part of the borough's master plan to revitalize the downtown area. The new zoning districts were created to allow a mix of uses to recreate the downtown feel.

According to Carr, the borough's zoning ordinance was last updated in 1992.

Master plan funding

Council authorized Carr to apply for local share account gaming funds for implementation of the borough's downtown master plan.

The downtown master plan design concept, created by Kairos Design Group, was approved by council in July. The plan includes increased retail space, parking, light posts, trees, sidewalks, bike racks and garbage receptacles. The plan is a result of survey findings from residents, businesses and students.

Grant funding

Carr was authorized to prepare documents required for the borough to receive funding through two separate approved grants.

The first project is an inter-municipal cooperative effort administered through the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance for traffic signal conversion funded through a Pennsylvania Energy Conservation Works! Grant.

The second project is for the borough's participation in the Pennsylvania Energy Conservation Works! Grant for energy efficient building renovations awarded through the Back Mountain Community Partnership in conjunction with Kingston and Lehman townships.

Personnel

James Joseph Barlow was hired as a part-time road department employee at a rate of \$11 per hour for approximately 24 hours a week.

Insurance

The borough's 2010 general insurance package and workers compensation coverage was approved and renewed at a pro-

posed annual premium of \$29,801 as submitted by DGK Insurance.

Payments approved

Payment in the amount of \$9,910 to Barbose Masonry through the State Liquid Fuels Fund was approved for repairs completed to the Center Hill Road Bridge.

The Jan. 1, 2009 Act 205 Actuarial Valuation Reports for the police and non-uniformed pension plans prepared by Beyer-Barber Company through Thomas J. Anderson & Associates Inc. were approved.

Thomas J. Anderson & Associates Inc. will receive \$2,700 from the police pension fund and \$2,700 from the non-uniformed pension fund for completion of the reports.

Natural gas rates

Approval was granted to implement a customer buy-order with UGI Penn Natural Gas to purchase natural gas for the borough building during 2010 at a rate not to exceed \$8.090 per dekatherm (a measure of the heat content of gas).

Discounted rates with savings of up to 25 percent were made available to municipal buildings served by UGI. Carr was unsure of the exact savings the borough will receive.

Christmas tree collection

The road department will begin a curbside collection of Christmas trees the week of Jan. 11 and will continue through Jan. 30. Christmas trees should have all decorations removed prior to being placed curbside. Residents should refrain from placing their trees curbside when weather predications call for snow or freezing rain.

Farewell wishes

Council President Pat Peiffer and council member John Oliver were wished farewell as it was their final council meeting. Peiffer, who has served on council for 20 years, said her main hope for council is to obtain funding for the downtown and the Kenneth Young Memorial Park master plans.

Neither Peiffer nor Oliver ran in this year's election to retain their seats. They will be replaced by Robert Edgerton Jr. and Brian Stevens beginning in January. Jack Appel, whose term was also up for election this year, was re-elected to council. Mayor Tim Carroll, who ran unopposed for mayor, was also re-elected.

Reorganization meeting

Council's reorganization meeting for 2010 will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 4, in council chambers at the municipal building.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Ava Gubbiotti and her Mom, Star, get a first-hand look at Santa as he visits Noxen Fire Station 101's Annual Christmas Breakfast Party.

Santa visits boys and girls in Noxen

Kids of all ages enjoyed Breakfast with Santa, courtesy of the Noxen Fire Station 101, recently. The event also featured a raffle to benefit the Noxen Food Pantry.



ABOVE: Volunteer Kevin May is about to get a special hug from Santa at the Noxen Fire Station 101's annual Christmas breakfast party. AT LEFT: Lew Hackling is the chef when Santa visits the annual Christmas Breakfast Party at Noxen Fire Station 101.