

Back Mountain municipalities are reorganized

Pennsylvania municipalities, which are required by state law to reorganize on the first Monday in January, held their annual reorganization meetings on Jan. 4. Below is a synopsis of what occurred at each of the municipal reorganization meetings in the Back Mountain.

Dallas
District Judge James Tupper swore in new two new council members and two re-elected officials.

Robert Edgerton Jr. and Brian Stevens are both new to council, replacing Pat Peiffer and Barbara Barnes. Timothy Carroll was re-elected mayor and John Appel was re-elected as a member of council.

Council members voted to appoint Lee Eckert as president of council and Chris Matus as vice president.

All other borough officials were reappointed to their respective positions.

Dallas Township

Supervisors voted to remain in their respective positions.

Phil Walter will remain as chairman, Frank Wagner as vice chairman and Glenn Howell as secretary and treasurer of the board of supervisors.

Walter was re-elected to the board in November.

All other township officials were also reappointed for 2010.

Franklin Township

A new supervisor was welcomed as two others remained in their positions.

Incumbent William Miller entered his term as supervisor, replacing Lance Baseski.

Ted Dymond was re-elected as chairman of the board and Mike Prokopchak was re-elected as vice chairman. Rick Melvin, who is not a supervisor, will continue to serve as the township secretary and treasurer.

Jackson Township

Two supervisors retained their positions while one new supervisor joined the board.

John "Jay" Wilkes Jr. will remain as chairman and Alan Fox Jr. will remain as vice-chairman of the board. Newly-elected Thomas Tim Evans joins the board as a supervisor, replacing David Roskos.

All other township officials were renewed for their respective positions.

Kingston Township

It was a role reversal for two supervisors.

James Reino, formerly vice chairman, became the chairman and Jeff Box, formerly the chairman, became the vice chairman.

Newcomer Shirley Moyer was named secretary; however, according to township manager Kathleen Sebastian, Moyer is unsure if she wants to keep the secretarial position. Sebastian said Moyer's position will be revisited



Luzerne County President Judge Thomas Burke swears in new members of Harveys Lake Borough Council. From left, are, Lawrence Radel, Francis Kopko and Boyd Barber.

at the regular supervisors meeting on Jan. 13.

Additional supervisors include John Solinsky and Frank Natitus. Moyer and Natitus were elected to the board in November, replacing Dave Brodhead and Paul Sabol.

Harveys Lake

Three new council members and a new mayor took their oaths and seats with the remaining

members of council.

Before newly-elected Luzerne County President Judge Thomas Burke, new council members Boyd T. Barber, Francis J. Kopko and Larry A. Radel, all Republicans, were sworn in to fill seats on council.

Clarence Hogan, who has been a council member, was sworn in as mayor. Hogan defeated Richard H. Boice in the mayor's race in November. Richard E.

Williams III was unanimously appointed to fill in the remaining two years of Hogan's council term.

Council chose Kopko as council president, Radel as vice president, Susan Sutton as borough secretary, Andy Luzetski as zoning officer, Charles McCormick as solicitor, Prociak and Associates of Wilkes-Barre as auditor, Pasonick Engineering of Wilkes-Barre as borough engineers, and

Bill Hilbert to a three-year term on the Zoning Board.

Lake Township

The supervisors will stay right where they were in 2009, the trio determined.

Lonnie Piatt will remain as chairman and Amy Salansky as vice chairman of the board. Robert Grey will continue as a supervisor, having been re-elected in November to another term.

All other officials were reappointed with the exception of the solicitor. The supervisors named Mark McNealis as solicitor to replace Ron Kamage.

Lehman Township

All three supervisors decided to remain in their respective positions.

Dave Sutton will remain the chairman of the board, Raymond Iwanowski as the vice chairman and Doug Ide as a supervisor.

Ross Township

There was no changes made to the supervisors' positions.

Stanford Davis will remain as chairman and David Williams as vice chairman of the board. William Ferrey Jr. will continue as a supervisor, having been re-elected in November to another term on the board.

All other township officials were reappointed in their respective positions.

-Rebecca Bria

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Solicitor says Skyview Drive does not belong to township

By REBECCA BRIA
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Solicitor Thomas Brennan discussed his findings regarding Skyview Drive during the first regular bi-monthly supervisors meeting on Monday, Jan. 4.

The meeting was held a day earlier than normal, following the supervisors' annual reorganization meeting.

Several Skyview Drive residents attended the Dec. 15 supervisors meeting in hopes of convincing the supervisors that the bottom section of the road was

open over as a township road. Skyview Drive resident Kerrie Anderson had documents from Luzerne County that she said show the road was taken over by the township on June 8, 1955.

Brennan said he reviewed the documents, which contained a map of record by the developer but no exhibits or a map sketch.

He said the original documents at the courthouse were destroyed in the 1972 flood.

"My analysis is neither by activity or formal action has the township accepted that portion of Skyview Drive," Brennan said.

Meeting minutes questioned

John Newman, of Wedgewood Way, commented that no motion was made or seconded to adopt the 2010 budget in the Dec. 15 meeting minutes and there was never a formal motion made at the meeting, which he attended.

Brennan said the substance was that all three supervisors voted to adopt the budget.

The supervisors then amended a motion to approve the Dec. 15 meeting minutes with the modification.

Newman also requested a monthly financial report as he has at the past several meetings. Chairman of supervisors Phil

Walter said he will take the request under advisement.

Traffic signal work

Proposals submitted by Kuharchik Construction Inc. were approved to provide response maintenance, emergency repairs and yearly preventive maintenance to traffic signals in the township.

Unemployment contributions rise

The supervisors announced that the township's unemployment compensation contribution rate for employers for 2010 rose from .018370 to .022370. The unemployment contribution for employees for 2010 went up from .0006 to .0008.

Christmas tree collection

The road department will conduct a curbside Christmas tree pickup from Jan. 18 through Jan. 22.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Tim Haddle Jr., left, and his father, Tim Haddle Sr., say they will continue to operate their business, Kunkle Motors, no matter what the future holds for the Saab line of cars they sell. Kunkle Motors was notified in November that it is one of 81 Saab dealers nationwide that will lose dealership rights to the car company. Now, all Saab dealers are in trouble after General Motors, who owns Saab, announced in late December it will shut down production of the brand of cars.

SUPERVISOR ROSKOS HONORED



The Jackson Township Board of Supervisors presented Supervisor David Roskos with a plaque for his dedication and commitment to the residents of Jackson Township. Supervisor Roskos retired at the end of December after serving as Jackson Township supervisor for six years and serving as chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board for over 35 years. Roskos also served as police department, road department and zoning department supervisor for many years. From left, are Jackson Township Solicitor Jeffrey Malak, Supervisor-Elect Tim Evans, Supervisor David Roskos, Supervisor Chairman John J. Wilkes Jr. and Supervisor Al Fox.

With or without Saabs for sale, Kunkle Motors still in business

By REBECCA BRIA
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Tim Haddle isn't exactly sure what the future holds for his business, Kunkle Motors.

But one thing does remain clear. The Dallas Township vehicle service center will remain open, whether or not it continues to sell automobiles.

Kunkle Motors was notified in November that it is one of 81 Saab dealers nationwide that will lose dealership rights to the car company. Now, all Saab dealers are in trouble after General Motors, which owns Saab, announced in late December it will shut down production of the brand.

"It's a pretty tough thing to take," Haddle said. "Saab has been our life. Now it's going to go away."

However, Haddle, 52, said he heard more recently that General Motors may still sell Saab.

"We're just sitting here

waiting day by day," the elder Haddle said. "That's for all Saab dealers, not just us. I also would like everybody to know we do not intend to close. We are going to stay open to service cars and service Saabs."

According to Haddle, Kunkle Motors was started by his late grandfather, Daniel Meeker, around the time when Meeker graduated from high school in 1936. He started the business as a service and repair shop and, at some point, transitioned to include vehicle sales.

Haddle didn't know why Meeker decided to sell cars, but said his grandfather started selling British cars in the mid-40s, including MG, Austin, Morris, Hillman and Mini. In 1958, he added Saabs to his dealership list. After 1980, when MG went bankrupt, Kunkle Motors exclusively sold Saabs, Haddle said.

Haddle grew up at Kunkle Motors, having lived with his grandparents on and off when his father, Bill, was in the U.S. Navy. Bill Haddle also formerly owned

Haddle's Kennels in Kunkle, which is now under different ownership as Kunkle Kennels.

In 1994, Haddle assumed full responsibility of Kunkle Motors. He officially became the owner in 2006 after his grandfather died and left the business to him.

Now Haddle's son, Tim Jr., 32, also works at the business along with three other employees. Haddle drives three Saabs and his son and daughter, 21-year-old Sarah, also have Saabs.

"We have customers that come to us from (Washington) D.C. and from upstate New York all the way out to the State College area, Pittsburgh area," Haddle said. "They're spread all over. We have whole families that buy cars from us."

If General Motors does shut down Saab, Haddle would consider selling other brands of cars.

"We're probably like the last of the dying breeds as they would call us, but we don't intend to go anywhere," he said. "I'm going to stay here and keep servicing vehicles and keep working."