

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

# New council comes under fire regarding insurance carrier

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

A decision to switch insurance carriers put the newly formed council under fire during Tuesday night's meeting.

Council met a room of questioning residents as to why a decision to replace Walters Associates Inc. of Kingston with Thomas Insurance Group Inc. of Philadelphia was reached without obtaining bids and why the decision was made behind closed doors instead of publicly.

Borough attorney Charles McCormick said council is not required by law to seek bids on services such as insurance carriers.

Resident Michelle Boice, an insurance broker since 1978, said she filed an Open Records Request to obtain all information on the policy and how the decision was reached. She feels council violated the Sunshine Act which was created to make decisions made by governmental agencies available to the public.

Admitting that municipal insurance policies can be complex, Boice said that, even though council is not required to seek bids, it should have called local insurance agencies and obtain proposals for review.

Chairman Francis Kopko said the current insurance policy was

**"I can tell you it is impossible to obtain an insurance proposal on a municipality in only nine days."**

Michelle Boice  
Harveys Lake resident

set to end on January 16 and, due to time constraints, council did not have time to obtain proposals. He said Thomas Insurance Group Inc. approached council in 2000 when he was a member. When Kopko saw the current policy was ending, appointments were made with the Walters Associates Inc and the proposed carrier.

Kopko, council member Boyd

Barber and secretary Susan Sutton attended one meeting. Then Kopko, council member Rich Williams III and Sutton met with the second carrier. Kopko said Thomas Insurance Group claims to save the borough \$11,000.

Boice did not buy Kopko's explanation and said the proposal was dated January 12, "which is nine days into this new adminis-

tration."  
"I can tell you it is impossible to obtain an insurance proposal on a municipality in only nine days," Boice said.

She said the previous provider had insured the municipality for the past eight years.

"Most policies do not end until a cancellation notice is mailed out," she said. "Have you mailed it?"

Sutton said the notice had been mailed that morning.

Boice said she did not see the "workers compensation page where the experience modification was applied" in the proposal.

"When, not if, that is applied, the workers compensation pre-

mium will increase significantly," she said.

Boice said a complex insurance package to cover a municipality is based on several factors such as payroll, number of police officers, miles of road, liability for fire department, police department and road department.

"Too many things I think were missed," she said of the policy. "I will not know until I see it."

Following procedure, Kopko made a motion to name Thomas Insurance Group Inc. the insurance carrier for the borough.

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## CLEMSON MEETS PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL



Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding and Pennsylvania Fair Queen Nicole Clemson, of Dallas a student of The University of Scranton, pose with Punxsutawney Phil and his handler Ben Hughes at an agritourism press event at the 2010 PA Farm Show on Jan. 12.

## AMERICAN LEGION DONATES TO LIBRARY



Daddow-Isaacs Dallas American Legion Post 672 made a \$300 donation to the Back Mountain Library. The SAL and Ladies Auxiliary also contributed. From left, are John Emil Sr., SAL Adjutant, Commander Joe Kelley, Martha Butler, Clarence J. Michael.

## BMT students named to honor roll at Wyoming Seminary

Mary T. Kolessar, dean of Wyoming Seminary Middle School, has announced the Academic High Honor Roll and Academic Honor Roll for the first trimester of the 2009-2010 academic year.

### HIGH HONOR ROLL

- Grade 6  
Jake Kolessar, Shavertown.
- Grade 7  
Corinne Conyngham, Shavertown; Madison Nardone, Shavertown; Adam Rinehouse, Shavertown.
- Grade 8  
Sai Abhishek, Shavertown; Gabrielle Coslett, Harveys Lake; Matthew Doggett, Shavertown; Christopher Kim, Dallas; Andrew Levandoski, Dallas; Adam O'Brien, Hunlock Creek; Alannah Trombetta, Shavertown.

### HONOR ROLL

- Grade 6  
Dominique Coslett, Harveys Lake; Alexandra Cuddy, Shavertown; Jacqueline Meuser, Shavertown; Jacob Ridilla, Shavertown; Megha Sarada, Dallas.
- Grade 7  
Kelley Gavin, Shavertown; Nathalie Joanlanne, Dallas;

- Nathan Shearn, Wyoming, Grade 8
- Noah Sunday-Lefkowitz, Shavertown.

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