

## LAKE TWP. SUPERVISORS

# Drilling concerns aired at meeting

Residents worried about water-testing, road use and industry procedures.

By EILEEN GODIN

Correspondent

Residents attending the April 14 supervisor's meeting voiced concerns about gas drilling set to begin this summer. Those worries included questions about procedures, well-water testing, and road maintenance.

In July, a Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling operation with EnCana Oil and Gas USA of Denver, Colo. will come to the township. The site of the operation is owned by supervisor Amy Salansky.

Salansky said the farm was previously owned by an older neighbor, who willed the gas and mineral rights to a nephew and gave Salansky and her husband the "first right to buy" the land.

"The agreement was already made when we purchased the farm," Salansky said.

Residents within a mile radius of the site have received letters from EnCana stating a voluntarily assessment of well water will be scheduled immediately. Salansky said the letter states a third-party environmental firm, Rettew, of Lancaster, will collect water samples. Samples will be sent to a state-certified lab at no cost to residents.

The letter stated if residents want to use a lab of their choice to test water, the sample will be split by Rettew and sent to a second lab. Residents would pay the cost.

With 75 percent of the township's roads being dirt, residents questioned supervisors on road routes EnCana may use and who would be responsible for maintenance and repairs.

Chairman of supervisors Lonnie Piatt said the township roads are not bonded yet, but the township has an agreement with EnCana. He said it is possible that EnCana will hire a contractor for road maintenance.

It is undecided which routes will be used. Salansky said they have not sat down with EnCana officials yet to determine which incoming and exiting routes will be used.

Barney Dobinick, the township's emergency management coordinator, said it is possible that the trucks will run on a different schedule than school buses, so the two are not navigating streets at the same time.

Dobinick said EnCana has provided him with a list of chemicals to be used on-site and a list of their safety guidelines. He also has the Department of Environmental Protection's regulations for gas drilling.

In other news, the annual spring cleanup will be held May 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the municipal building.

Residents must provide proof of residency and pay \$15 per pickup truckload, \$20 for large pickups and \$6 per car load. An additional \$6 fee will be applied for the following items: washers, dryers, carpets, overstuffed chairs, couches, dressers, television sets, hot water heaters, boilers, furnaces, stoves and large appliances.

The following items will not be accepted: tires, hazardous wastes, chemicals, brush, tree stumps, cinder blocks, animal waste, shingles, sheet rock or other building materials, garbage and freezers, refrigerators containing Freon and air conditioners.

## LEHMAN TWP. SUPERVISORS



DON CAREY/THE TIMES LEADER

The Lehman Township board of supervisors approved an ordinance on April 13 allowing EnCana Oil and Gas Inc. to allow the company to begin natural gas drilling operations near Peaceful Valley Road. From left to right are Attorney M. John Haley, Jon Rogers, David Sutton, Ray Iwanowski and Douglas Ide.

## Drilling plans move forward

By RALPH NARDONE  
Correspondent

Township residents will get a new neighbor when EnCana Oil and Gas Inc. begins drilling for natural gas in late summer.

Township officials voted unanimously on April 13 to approve an ordinance allowing the company to start Marcellus Shale gas drilling operations near Peaceful Valley Road.

Board of supervisors Vice Chairman Ray Iwanowski made the motion to enact the ordinance and Chairman David Sutton and supervisor Douglas Ide voted yes.

Township zoning board solicitor Jack Haley addressed a well-mannered crowd of about 70 people before the vote, essentially telling them the township was in no position to halt the company's plans.

Some residents who expressed opposition wanted the supervisors to "send a message" by not enacting the ordinance, Haley said. That would have amounted to "civil disobedience," he said.

According to Haley, all authority to halt drilling operations in any municipality in Pennsylvania lies in the hands of state agencies, not local governments. The township's rules are "superseded" by the state Oil and Gas Act, he said.

The state Supreme Court already reviewed two similar cases, he added, and decided

the only authority Lehman Township has applies to what roads EnCana can use.

Haley also addressed concerns raised that two of the supervisors, Ide and Sutton, have personal ties to gas drilling. Ide leased some of his own land for gas drilling, and Sutton consults property owners concerning drilling, Haley said.

Both members could only second the motion or vote yes but could not participate in any questions about the vote or make the original motion. The only supervisor who could make the motion was Iwanowski.

The state Ethics Commission checked into the potential conflict of interest involving the two supervisors.

Iwanowski outlined six conditions to the motion: that EnCana put up \$13,540 to maintain Firehouse Road through the total time it is used; EnCana put up \$32,192 to maintain Peaceful Valley Road similarly; all traffic related to the drilling traverse on Firehouse Road toward state Route 118; no traffic will go on Old Route 115 in the township (near the school); EnCana provide adequate insurance coverage for the township, and that a legally binding agreement be signed by EnCana holding it to its commitment.

No representatives from EnCana attended the meeting.

About 25 peaceful protesters were there greeting meeting attendees at the door with anti-

drilling literature. Leanne Mazurick, 30, of Dallas Township, stressed the industry is essentially "unregulated." She said residents in other communities of northeastern Pennsylvania are having trouble with water contamination where there is drilling.

"We want safeguards put in place," she said.

Karen Belli, of Dallas Township, and member of the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition, emphasized a long list of ills that arise from local gas drilling. She pointed out that homeowners in one local community have to use "water buffaloes" for their water supply because of contamination.

Belli also questioned how supervisors Ide and Sutton could be involved in the vote knowing their connections to the industry.

Not all in attendance were opposed. Barry Edwards, of Lehman Township, said the concerns about water are just a "harrange." He added that in Susquehanna County the drilling companies have made the roads "better than the ever."

Iwanowski said fixed-income elderly residents and farmers facing large debt are finding the gas drilling a financial "godsend."

He said the ordinance allows EnCana to drill only vertically. If the company wishes to expand horizontally underground, that will require another vote from the township.

## LIFESMARTS TEAM LAUDED



The Dallas High School LifeSmarts team received citations from Rep. Karen Boback and Senator Lisa Baker at a recent Dallas School Board meeting. LifeSmarts tests students' knowledge in five areas: consumer rights and responsibilities, health and safety, personal finance, technology and the environment. The Dallas team was one of nine teams to qualify for state competition in Harrisburg. From left, first row, are Kevin West, coach; Katelyn Reinert, team captain; Monica Esopi, and Lois Redmond, co-coach. Second row, Pierce Donovan, Sen. Baker, Kevin Hunter, Boback and Tim Reinert.

## ROTARY, FRIENDLY'S COMBINE FORCES



The Dallas Rotary Club and Friendly's in Dallas joined forces recently to host a tasty fundraising event. More than \$500 was raised through a donation from the store and additional donations from their customers. The funds will benefit the annual Dallas Rotary Club Book Scholarship Program which awards six \$500 scholarships to area high school seniors from Dallas, Lake-Lehman and Northwest School Districts who are heading off to college in the fall. The awards dinner will take place in May. Seated is Randy Loyd. From left, standing, are Rotarians Ann Marie Konek, Todd Buckley, John Rhoads and Paul Saxon.

## KINGSTON TWP. SUPERVISORS

## Board seeks OK on police manual

By REBECCA BRIA  
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The board of supervisors voted April 14 to have the chief of police sign off on the police department's accreditation manual.

Police Sgt. Michael Moravec explained the police department is in the process of trying to become accredited by the state. However, sign-off from the chief is needed on an accreditation manual to proceed. Moravec is filling in as chief of police while Chief James Balavage is out on medical leave. Balavage is expected to return in May, Moravec said.

In addition, the accreditation manager from the department, Officer Michael Huntzinger, is also out on medical leave. Moravec explained the accreditation manual contains 130 policies and procedures. It must be approved by the accreditation board, followed by a mock-up, recommendations by the board, and an on-site review.

Supervisor Jeffrey Box said the supervisors have supported the police department becoming accredited for the past six years. Box said it is frustrating that it still has not been completed.

The supervisors voted to contact Balavage and have him sign the accreditation manual before his return.

### Land preservation project

The supervisors approved

writing a letter on behalf of the township in support of a land preservation project.

Rick Koval, of the North Branch Land Trust, asked the supervisors to send a letter of support for the project. Koval said the land trust is applying for a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. If the trust is awarded the funding, it will be used to purchase development rights for 280 acres of forest land owned by the Lands at Hillside Farms.

Koval said each acre is appraised at about \$4,000 and the state will award 50 percent of the total value of the land as a conservation easement value. Also, the land will be guaranteed to be protected from being developed forever, he said.

The forest land is located in both Kingston and Jackson townships, Koval said.

### Wind energy facilities ordinance

Approval was granted to draft an ordinance on the operation of wind energy facilities based on an ordinance adopted by Hanover Township.

Chairman of supervisors James Reino said the ordinance is meant for larger windmills and not residential ones. Reino said the ordinance will not disallow windmills, but is a safety measure.

### Road name changed

Church Road, located off of Route 309, was approved to be renamed to West Church Road

through the E-911 addressing project. Another Church Road exists in the township in the Carverton Heights area.

### FEMA flood map

The new Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain map for the township was approved. The solicitor will review the map and it will be available at the municipal building for public review.

### DAMA request approved

The supervisors approved the request of Dallas Area Municipal Authority to be a conduit issuer on behalf of Misericordia University's endeavors to refinance bonds and notes.

The request does not obligate the township in any way not does it make the township liable for any part of the payment.

Reino said DAMA needed approval from the township because it is one of the townships that founded DAMA.

### Zoning hearing board term altered

A new ordinance was approved to change the term of office for members of the zoning hearing board from three years to five years. The measure is in accordance with a section of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.

### Donation approved

A budgeted donation of \$1,000 was approved for the Dallas High School 2010 graduation lock-in.

## TWO BMT STUDENTS EARN ROTC AWARDS



Christopher Box, left, of Shavertown, and Brian Haughwout, of Trucksville, both students at the University of Pittsburgh, recently won awards during Air Force ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Parents' Day Awards Ceremony. Cadet Box, a sophomore, is majoring in mechanical engineering and won the Pittsburgh Post Society of American Military Engineers ROTC Award. It is given annually to an outstanding freshman and sophomore cadet majoring in engineering or science. Cadet Haughwout, a freshman mathematics student, won the American Veterans Award awarded to a freshman cadet found to possess a positive attitude towards Air Force ROTC, a neat personal appearance, outstanding personal attributes and demonstrating officer potential.