

Board meeting celebrates completion of Ross project

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Dallas Post Correspondent

The new library at Ross Elementary School was the venue for Monday's Lake-Lehman School Board meeting. The construction of the library was part of the school's \$1.7 million project which included adding two extra classrooms, a computer lab and a new playground.

Superintendent James McGovern presented a plaque to the board, commemorating the completion of the project. McGovern thanked members of the current and previous board as well as the school's staff and PTO volunteers for their support in the project. Members of the PTO raised roughly \$30,000 for the playground.

The project also included a new parking area for school bus-

es along the side of the school, freeing up parking spaces for visitors and staff and creating a safer student drop-off point.

George Anthony, a landscape architect with Borton-Lawson Engineering, gave a presentation on a proposed project that would expand the area around the junior/senior high school's football field. The project, if approved, would be completed in two phases.

The first phase, which would cost roughly \$521,600, includes creating a space for football and soccer practice and a girls field hockey playing field. A paved walking path from the high school to the soccer field is also included in phase one. The second phase, which includes creating a softball and baseball field as well as extending the parking lot, will cost roughly \$698,000. The 25-acre parcel contains sev-

eral wetland areas, which George said would be "worked around." In other business, the board unanimously voted to appoint Douglas Klopp, of Shavertown, as the principal of the junior/senior high school, at a salary of \$76,000. Klopp is currently the principal of Northwest Area's junior/senior high school.

Former junior/senior high school principal Tracey Halowich will continue to serve in the newly-created position of director of curriculum instruction and assessment for the district, a position to which she was appointed earlier this year.

Brian Pipich will remain as assistant principal at the junior/se-

nior high school while former assistant principal John Pollard has taken a position with another school district.

The board also voted:
• To appoint Jill Vanderhook as elementary art teacher at a salary of \$40,353, effective the start of the 2010-2011 school year. Board member Andrew Salvo voted against the appointment.

• To appoint Justine Hallenbeck, of Harveys Lake, as a professional employee. Hallenbeck's initial assignment will be elementary special education teacher at a salary of \$41,818.

• To establish the salary for McGovern at \$112,815 with a car

allowance of \$350 per month in lieu of mileage reimbursement.

• To establish the salary for Jacqueline McHale, director of human resources, at \$59,000 for the 2010-2011 school year.

• To approve PNC Bank, N.A. to provide a capital improvement note in the amount of \$500,000 at an interest rate of 3.49, payable over a 10-year period. The loan will help pay for new asphalt behind the high school, new sidewalks at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, an upgrade to the junior/senior high school's all-purpose field, doors on the classrooms at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School and a security camera upgrade in all schools.

• To award the bid for the purchase of two 7-passenger vans to Chapman Auto Group as a cost of \$19,150 each.

• To award the following bids

for the 2010-2011 school year: Student Accident Insurance - Joyce Insurance Group, Pittston; HVAC temperature control and boiler maintenance - Troy Mechanical Inc., Moosic; fuel oil - Montour Home Comfort Services Inc., Montoursville; trash removal - Ide's Sanitation, Dallas.

The board appointed the following coaches for the 2010-2011 school year, pending clearances:

- Boys soccer: Michael Kostrobala, head coach; Brian Noler, varsity assistant
- Cheerleading: Sandy Dobrowski, head coach; Tara Sears, varsity assistant; Crystal Savage, junior high assistant
- Cross Country: John Sobocinski, head coach; Justin Mazer, junior high assistant
- Field hockey: Jean Lipski, head coach; Sandra Boyle, varsity assistant

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DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Residents supportive of laying of pipe line

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Dallas Post Correspondent

At Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting, several residents said they supported the proposal by Chief Oil & Gas Company to lay a natural gas line through a township-owned recreation field.

"I believe it's a good thing," said Rich Stredny, a township resident who lives near the field, which has been the site of a Little League field for decades. "The money could go towards a lot of good things, such as an addition of the (township's) garage and a new plow."

Tim Haddle, owner of Kunkle Motors, also supports the proposed plan.

"As long as the pipeline is done the proper way, there should be no issues," he said.

The property, roughly 56 acres, was donated to the township in 1950 by Dr. Bud School-ey, said township supervisor Glenn Howell.

At the July 6 meeting, a number of residents protested the request by Chief for an easement that would allow the laying of the pipe, which would run along a stone wall on the property. At that meeting, members of the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition urged the board to reject Chief's request.

Solicitor Tom Brennan said the main reason the GDAC and

MORE INFO...

The Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition will hold a public information session at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 11, at the Dallas Methodist Church.

others oppose the pipeline is that, even if the pipeline is completely safe, by helping the gas companies in any way is viewed as helping an activity (natural gas exploration and drilling) that hasn't been deemed safe.

"We don't have any say in stopping or not stopping drilling," Brennan said. "What they're saying is 'don't help the process.'"

Supervisor Phil Walter pointed out that the Trans-Atlantic gas line, which runs under the township municipal building, hasn't posed any problems since it was installed over 50 years ago.

The GDAC will hold a public information session at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 11, at the Dallas Methodist Church. Brennan said he plans to attend the meeting.

In other business, supervisor Frank Wagner said that residents may bring their grass clipping and tree limbs to the composting site behind the municipal building.



Lois Schwartz, of Dallas, stands beside an antique buggy once owned by her late father, George A. Taylor.

Selling a collection of lifetime memories

They came from all over the country, converging on Debi Sue Manor on Troxell Switch Road in Dallas and on the Luzerne County Fairgrounds for the two-day auction sale of antiques and carriages once owned by the late George A. Taylor.

Taylor was well known throughout the local community for collecting antiques of many types of horse-drawn coaches, carriages and sleigh. He was also known throughout America and internationally for his carriage collector and loved to share his expertise, knowledge and keen eye with enthusiasm.



ABOVE: Members of the Luzerne County Historical Society Geraldine Nesbitt, left, William and Bill Lewis show some interest in this Kingston Dairy milk truck.



LEFT PHOTO: Robert Taylor, brother of the late George A. Taylor, stands by his father-in-law's one lung hay bale lifter at a family estate sale on Troxell Switch Road.

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

Supers voice opposition to bill eliminating locals

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Supervisors agreed to join the opposition against a state bill proposing to eliminate local municipalities while calming fears of recent truck activity on Zosh Road.

On Monday night, supervisors unanimously passed a resolution to support the Pennsylvania State Association for Township Supervisors, PSATS, stand against a state bill, House Bill 2431, aimed at eliminating local municipalities.

The bill is currently before the House of Local Government Committee. If it passes, a constitutional amendment will be made to eliminate all levels of government below the county. The proposed law would give county government the power to oversee roads, zoning, sanitation and law enforcement.

Supervisor chairman David Sutton said consolidation of municipalities has been discussed in the past, but to have consolidation forced upon everyone is unacceptable.

Recent truck traffic in the ar-

ea of Sholtis Road and Zosh Road in neighboring Lake Township caused some concern over an upcoming gas drilling operation off Zosh Road on property recently acquired by Paul and Amy Salansky.

Lehman Township resident Joe Rutchauskas asked supervisors if their roads are protected by the incoming truck traffic.

"The trucks are already starting," he said.

Sutton explained the work on Zosh Road occurred within Lake Township and, from what he read in the newspaper, the project, a partnership with Encana Oil & Gas U.S.A., the Luzerne Conservation District and Lake Township, was experimental to see if road work before the heavy trucks arrived was cost effective.

"Only a section of Zosh Road was closed," supervisor and roadmaster Douglas W. Ide said. "There was a sign posted 'Road Closed. Local Traffic Only.'"

Last week, 120 feet of Zosh Road were rebuilt from the base up to add weight-bearing geo grid material to disburse

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Jack Day, of Baltimore, Md., finds just the right red and black buggy for himself (minus one red wheel) in the over 175 antique carriages from the collection of the late George A. Taylor.



Keeping a sharp eye on the items at the George A. Taylor Estate Auction sale were many from other states and some Back Mountain residents, including Will Conygham, of Lehman, left.