

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Goeringer remains in place as board president

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

The Dallas School Board did not change in structure at the board's reorganization meeting Monday evening.

Bruce Goeringer maintained his position as president and Russell Bigus stayed on as vice president.

Charles Preece was named assistant secretary, and Karen Kyle was voted in as the district's representative for the West Side Area Career and Technical Center until 2013, joining Bigus and Catherine Wega.

Dennis Gochoel Jr. and Preece were named representatives to the Parent Advisory Council, and Maureen Matiska and Goeringer maintained positions as representatives for the Back Mountain Memorial Library Board.

The board also passed a res-

olution to require the signatures of the president, vice president, board secretary, superintendent and business manager by any person who is a depository of the district and to authorize wire transfers.

At the committee of the whole meeting that immediately followed, the board discussed an ongoing water line replacement project with Marc Kurowski of K&W Engineers.

Superintendent Frank Galicki said the water line replacement was not budgeted for the high school construction project when it began in 2008 because discussions with United Water, the district's service provider, did not result in requiring a change from an 8-inch water line to a 12-inch water line.

In recent months, United Water has required the dis-

UP NEXT

The next meeting of the Dallas School Board will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13 in the administration building next to Wycallis Elementary.

tract to include the replacement, which could be pricey for the construction project, said Galicki.

Kurowski presented several options at previous board meetings, but those estimates included prices exceeding \$50,000 and also endangered the safety of students in terms of fire hydrant placement.

Kurowski told the board he is preparing a counter proposal to the water company, but he has concerns as to whether United Water will agree to the significantly lower-cost plan.

Time is of the essence in the water line replacement. Administrators hope to have the issue settled by spring, before

paving begins for roads included in the construction project.

The board also discussed replacement of the school's automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The school currently has seven AEDs, however, one is not functional. Matiska discussed the option of buying two new machines and upgrading the others to have one in each school. The discussion will continue at the board's next meeting.

Bob Nesbit of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, which is overseeing the construction of the new high school building, presented four change orders to the board, totaling \$10,631 to consider for a vote at its next meeting.

The changes include relocation of a catch basin and storm line, roof repairs and a change in site lighting on the campus.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dr. Bruce Goeringer will serve another term as president of the Dallas School Board.



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Moderno Rossi, past president of the Lake-Lehman School Board, shows off a fleece jacket presented to him by Superintendent James McGovern at the board's reorganization meeting Monday night in appreciation for serving as president.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kornoski named school board head

Lake Lehman School Board appointed a new president and treasurer among other positions during its reorganization meeting held Monday night.

School Board member Mark Kornoski will replace Moderno Rossi as school board president. Other re-appointments are: Peter Farrell as first vice-president, Bo Kreller as second vice-president and Andrew Salko as treasurer. Other school board members are Harold Cornell, Walter Glogowski, David Paulauskas, Kevin Carey and Rossi.

New committee chairs are: Farrell, curriculum and instruction; Paulauskas, athletics and activities; Cornell, building and grounds; Rossi, transportation; Carey, support

SCHEDULE

Lake-Lehman School Board work session meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month while voting meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month.

services; Salko, finance; and Kreller, school board.

Farrell was appointed as the Pennsylvania School Board Association representative.

Paulauskas was elected as an alternate to seats on the West Side Area Career and Technical Center Joint Operating Committee currently occupied by Farrell, expiring in December 2011; Kornoski, expiring in December 2012; and Rossi, expiring in December 2013.

- Eileen Godin

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Paving project sparks residents' concern

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

About 10 worried residents from Fairground Round attended the board of supervisors meeting Tuesday night to express concerns about a potential paving project for the dead end road.

The supervisors announced the plan to conduct street improvements to the road at the last meeting. Funds from the project would come from a Luzerne County Office of Community Development grant, but the \$100,000 allotted amount would only cover a portion of the improvements.

The grant, set to be received in 2011, must benefit low to moderate-income families, and a community survey must be conducted to determine whether the pro-

ject meets this requirement.

Township Engineer Thomas Doughton told residents that if there was further development to the area, the municipal road is required by law to have Pennsylvania Department of Transportation-approved improvements to the road for "safe and acceptable access."

Doughton told the residents that the estimated 4,000 feet of road could leave the township with a \$1 million bill to pay if a housing development is created.

Safety is an issue for most residents. Wayne Dottor said his three children walk to the Dallas High School every day, and he already worries about their safety as they cross Conyngham Avenue.

And, while Doughton said the new high school construction project is trying to alleviate traffic

UP NEXT

The next meeting of the Dallas Township Board of Supervisors will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21 in the municipal building.

issues, residents said there's no guarantee that increased traffic will not occur on their road.

Supervisors proposed the paving plan as a result of a recent bridge replacement at the intersection of Fairground and Lower Demunds roads. The township received \$1 million in funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to complete the work, and supervisors say just one resident steadily uses the new bridge.

In other news ...

• Charles Gordon made a request to the board to allow UGI to

make a small cut in newly-paved Main Street to connect a property at 219 Memorial Highway to a gas service line.

Five years is the allotted time before a cut can be made in freshly-paved roads unless there is justifiable cause, according to township code.

Gordon told the board Rodano's is planning to open a new pizza parlor in a building he owns and the many appliances they will use need the service line.

• Larry Lebenson announced to the board that the township will receive a reduction in its letter of credit with Dorchester Land Development Co. from more than \$1 million to \$288,898 for the Geisinger construction project.

Lebenson said the building still needs to be completed and that the clinic hopes to open in May.

Weintraubs preserve property into future

Judy and Harvey Weintraub wanted to be sure their scenic 35-acre Dallas Township property remains just the way it is well into the future. So, they signed papers Tuesday afternoon to make their land the first Back Mountain parcel conserved by the North Branch Land Trust.

Also signed by Lynn Aldrich, chairperson of the executive committee of the North Branch Land Trust, the document is an easement to ensure the conservation of the Weintraubs' property. The easement contains many restrictions and will essentially provide the means for the area to become an old-growth forest, said Rick Koval,

director of land conservation for the land trust.

"We've always felt that we're just borrowing this land," Judy Weintraub said. "We actually only thought about (conservation) when gas exploration came into the area."

Koval said the land trust ensures the surface area will not be disturbed and the rest of the property will be conserved.

The Weintraubs have lived at their Dallas Township residence for 21 years and are encouraged by their decision, which will ensure that future property owners will not be able to destroy the land they enjoy.

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BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Judy and Harvey Weintraub, of Dallas Township, sign a conservation easement with the North Branch Land Trust to protect their 35-acre property as Director of Land Conservation Rick Koval, left, and Executive Director Lynn Aldrich look on at Northeast Title and Tag in Dallas.

HARPIN' ON THINGS

Rose at the coffee shop did what she could to make the day better

"Two medium coffees, please, one with sugar and extra cream and one with extra everything," I said last week to Rose who works at Curry Donuts next to the bowling alley in Dallas where I stop each morning on the way to work.



Heffernan

I watched her pour one cup and turned to look out the window at the dreary, cold morning which matched my mood. As I turned back to the counter, she

handed me one coffee with a little 'xc' written on the top while the other cup held a dash of coffee, a straw, napkin, part of a receipt and other odds and ends.

"You wanted extra everything," she said with a smile and a laugh which was all it took to snap me out of that nasty frame of mind.

The good mood lasted about an hour and a half until I tried to pound my thumb through a piece of wood instead of the nail at which I was aiming. Following the "Pain Dance," a combination of the Macarena, the chicken and the Maori Haka, came the laughter of the rest of the guys, bringing the smile back to my face but

doing nothing for the throbbing thumb.

After work, still in a good mood with no further injuries, I made a quick stop at Ochman's to ask Maryann and Fran about some coins I found in an old box and take a look at the silver dollars they have on display.

Driving home, thinking about asking Santa for a pair of glasses with bigger reading areas to, hopefully, prevent further finger damage, I decided to inform the Mrs. that, since I had nothing of world-ending magnitude to do Sunday, we could spend the day together in preparation for the holidays.

After making the announce-

ment over the meowing of three hungry cats, I received a glare from the Mrs., not the cats.

"By the expression on your face, it must be painful to spend the day with me," she growled.

"No, no, that's not it," I stammered, holding up my thumb for her to see.

"Missed again, huh," she quipped as she started to laugh.

Hoping for some compassion, I moved closer to give her a better look, stepped on a cat's tail, spun sideways trying to take some weight off the foot, pinning the screeching creature to the floor and slamming the thumb into the countertop.

Now, the cats have disap-

peared and the Mrs. is in hysterics on the floor, saying, in between gasps, that she wants to get the Christmas tree and decorate the house on Sunday.

We went to Frank's Tree Farm on Sutton Creek Road where Frank and Donna Hilstolsky have fields of Christmas trees where you walk around, pick the one you like, cut it down and take it home. Their daughter, Jennifer, makes wreaths and funeral blankets while family members and friends, including Eddie, Ray, Christian, Matt, Dave, John, Mike, EJ and Joe help out.

The Mrs. and I walked several fields with Joe, looking at fir and spruce trees, finally agreeing on

one and, with the help of Christian, cut it down and hauled it to the trail for pickup. We met Darrel, Joann and Leigh Ann Esser along the walk - it was a nice scene, watching families searching the fields together in preparation for Christmas. It seemed like a very nice way for people to spend quality time together.

Happy holidays, everyone.

Harp Heffernan was the associate publisher, outdoor editor and chief photographer of the Sunday Independent, a newspaper that was in his family for 87 years in Wilkes-Barre. You can e-mail him at news@mydallaspost.com.