

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Natural gas companies must now get zoning approval

By SARAH HITE
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Natural gas companies looking to construct pipelines within the township are now required to receive zoning approval for projects, officials said at a meeting Tuesday night.

Two natural gas companies, Chief Gathering LLC and Williams Field Services LLC, have submitted plans to build gathering lines within the township to tap into the Williams-owned Transco interstate pipeline, which runs perpendicular to Hil-

debrant Road near the Dallas School District campus.

Solicitor Thomas Brennan said an Act 14 notification was received by the township on May 19 on behalf of Chief for its application for a state Department of Environmental Protection permit related to its approximately 30-mile Wyoming Natural Gas Pipeline.

Act 14 notifications are required by the state for companies looking to apply for certain permits related to projects within municipalities and counties. The notification allows local governments 30 days to provide com-

mentary on companies' intentions before a permit can be issued. Jack Varaly, the township's planning consultant, reviewed the permit application and noted "inaccurate and/or undocumented responses."

Zoning Officer Leonard Kozick wrote a letter to the state Department of Environmental Protection stating Chief has not satisfied zoning requirements and has not addressed community concerns about the pipeline project. He said he wrote letters in May to both companies stating the need for zoning approval prior to

land development and subdivision approval for pipeline projects.

Kozick added that zoning approval for such projects has always been necessary, but could not determine the project's requirements until after plans were reviewed. Williams submitted plans for a 33-mile pipeline project in late April, and Chief submitted plans for its Wyoming County pipeline in early May.

Brennan said while the township is requiring zoning approval for the pipeline projects, the issue is being contested by Chief.

Zoning hearings for natural gas

activities are currently underway within the township already - Chief will attend a fifth continuation hearing on June 16 for its special zoning exceptions application to build a natural gas metering station off Hildebrandt Road about 1,300 feet from the Dallas schools.

Williams withdrew its land development and subdivision application for a metering station about 500 feet away from the Chief proposed site in April because the planning commission would be unable to grant approv-

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KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Issue of police force study doesn't even make it to vote

By SARAH HITE
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A motion to opt into a grant-sponsored regional police force study didn't even make it to vote at the board of supervisors meeting Wednesday.

Though studies have been conducted in the past to no avail, members of the Back Mountain Community Partnership were alerted to a Governor's Center for Local Government Services-backed grant to participate in another study at a meeting last month.

Partnership members from Dallas Borough and Dallas, Franklin, Jackson, Kingston and Lehman townships agreed to discuss the idea with their individual boards before agreeing to participate in the study.

As of Wednesday, Jackson Township approved its participation in the study, but Kingston Township will not. After a brief discussion and hearing Police Chief James Balavage's opinion on the matter, board members failed to make a second motion on the issue.

Balavage said a similar study from about 17 years ago didn't provide results in favor of a regionalization, and said only if a current study was "serious" would he consider taking part. "Unless there is a concerted effort to understand ... policing in the future, I would say no," he said.

The board also discussed an issue pertaining to the Sleepy Hollow development owned by Dr. Joseph Lombardo. Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian said the owner has not yet paid engineering fees incurred to the township, and he has also ven-

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tured from land development plans approved by the planning commission in the construction of a detention basin.

Zoning Officer Bill Eck said the issue has been ongoing for at least two years.

Solicitor Benjamin Jones III advised the board to send two separate notification letters to Lombardo, giving him 30 days to resolve the aforementioned issues. He said if Lombardo does not comply, the township will need to take legal action.

The board discussed changes to its public exhibitions and amusements ordinance.

John Gibbons, of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly Church, said he received a letter from the township expressing public safety concerns about the church's annual Fourth of July fireworks display.

Board member Frank Natitus said attendees often park on both sides of narrow streets, including Manor Drive, Terrace Avenue and Dug Road, which prohibits normal traffic flow as well as emergency vehicle passage.

Supervisor James Reino Jr. said fiscal difficulties in providing adequate police force for the event is another issue the township is trying to resolve.

"Even though we have the largest police force in the Back Mountain... with the costs involved, we just don't have the

manpower," he said. Natitus suggested looking into pooling officers from neighboring municipalities for the hour-long event, but the board made no final decision in reconciling the issues related to the event.

A public hearing about the proposed changes to the public exhibitions and amusements ordinance will be held prior to the board's next meeting on July 13.

In other news, the board...

- Tabled a decision to switch emergency medical service providers from Trans-Med of Forty Fort to Wyoming Hose Co. No. 1 until all involved parties could be available for a special meeting on the matter.

- Tabled a resolution to approve an inter-municipal liquor license transfer to Bali Enterprises of 155 N. Memorial Hwy., Shavertown.

- Approved a motion to pursue temporarily changing the weight limit of Main Street, Shavertown in relation to the East Center Street Bridge project.

- Awarded a bid to Student Transportation of America in the amount of \$4,901.32 for summer recreation program transportation.

- Approved an additional \$3,500 to the already expended \$13,600 for the Terrace Avenue pipe project at the request of Borton-Lawson engineers.



Scenes from the past 30 years of productions at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse will be featured when the Music Box Players present The Music Box 30th Anniversary Revue on June 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 and 26.

Thirty years of Music Box

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sic Box veterans and beginning with a sampling of their first production, "Oklahoma," the musical journey will include selections from some of the Playhouse's most delightful successes, "Annie," "Grease," "Evita,"

"Cabaret," "Nunsense," "Guys and Dolls" and many more.

The cast includes: Erin Abbott, Cindy Brandreth, Ciera Cellareri, Kevin Costley, Dorrance Daniels, Rebecca Darling, Sue Drake, Dana Feigenblatt, Michael Gallagher, Courtney Hahn, Karl Kleist, T. Doyle Leverett, Skyler Makuch, D.J. Markoch, Cate McDonald, Ben Steltz, George Steltz, Bill Ulichney, Debbie Zehner and Ronnie Ziomek. Musical direction is by Nancy Evans and sets and lighting are by Michael Gallagher.

For tickets and additional information, call the box office at 283-2195.

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Two named to dean's list

Shauna Phillips and Amy Vodzak, both of Dallas, have been named to the dean's list for the spring 2011 semester at Widener University.

The dean's list recognizes full-time students who earned a grade point average of 3.50 and above for the semester.

Heffers receive mathematics award

James Heffers, of Dallas, received The Reverend James E. Kline Award for Mathematics at the 62nd annual commencement exercises at King's College.

Heffers graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics.

LAKE TOWNSHIP

Response coverage is discussed

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

An issue of designating emergency response coverage for Sorber Mountain Road was determined while township supervisors also awarded a road construction bid and appointed a new code enforcement officer on Wednesday night.

Sorber Mountain Road was covered by both Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Company and Harveys Lake Volunteer Fire and Ambulance for years. Each has its designated areas.

Barney Dobinick, emergency management coordinator, said Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire and Ambulance will cover "from the bottom of Sorber Mountain Road to the 'y' intersection and Harveys Lake Fire and Ambulance will cover the remainder of the road."

Supervisor Bob Grey estimated the coverage areas have been

that way for years but lately, 911 dispatchers has been getting them confused. Supervisor Chairman Lonnie Piatt and Dobinick announced designated areas for each fire and ambulance department.

Piatt and Dobinick said they will visit the 911 dispatch office to inform authorities there of the proper coverage areas.

In other news ...

- Poppel Construction Inc. of Laffin was awarded a contract for road repair work on Cemetery Road. Their bid was \$60,655. Other bids were: Hazleton Site Contractors of Hazleton, \$69,878; Pennsy Supply Inc. of Pittston, \$72,933.50; and B & J Paving of Dallas, \$109,899.50.

- Lake Township resident Gary Booth will replace Dobinick as code enforcement officer at a pay of \$14.80 per hour. Dobinick resigned as code enforcement officer last month, citing reasons of scheduling conflicts.

- Supervisors reminded residents that recycling will be held

from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 18 at the municipal building.



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