

DALLAS BOROUGH

Boro's disaster response praised; motions passed

By SARAH HITE
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"We want to make sure we're prepared if this happens in the future."

Tracey Carr
Dallas Borough manager

Council approved several motions at a meeting Wednesday evening in response to Tropical storms Irene and Lee, which caused significant damage in Dallas Borough in late August and early September.

A state of emergency for both events was declared, but Borough Manager Tracey Carr said she felt the borough was well-prepared to weather the storms.

The power outages, downed trees and washouts caused by Tropical Storm Irene were issues the borough "really never experienced before" said Council President Lee Eckert.

Borough officials had to manage road closures and flashing traffic lights, but Carr said the response from the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency was "excellent."

"The Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency had their ducks in a row days in advance," she said.

Council approved the purchase of two additional generators in the amount of \$800 each.

Carr said the borough was able to handle some traffic light outages, like at the five-corners area and near Friendly's restaur-

ant on Route 309, but officials were unequipped to maintain power at other areas, such as the Dallas Shopping Center intersection and the intersection of Route 415 and Center Hill Road.

"We usually borrow some (generators) from the fire department, but in this situation there just weren't enough to go around," she said. "We want to make sure we're prepared if this happens in the future."

Carr was also named the borough's agent to file applications to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. She is working to account for all the expenses accrued during the storms in order to recoup costs.

Carr is also keeping track of residents who have sustained damage during the storms, but she currently does not have applications for residents to complete.

Resident Cathy Casey told council about a water problem at her house that happened before the storms.

She said in early July, soon after she purchased her home on Lackawanna Street, she found there were problems with sewer drainage and water entering her home through her toilet, bathtub and bathroom sink.

Casey said a manhole cover in the street outside her house was spewing water five feet high and her yard, which is the reason she purchased the house, is now a "swamp."

She said the local fire department and municipal authority helped to pump out water on several occasions for hours at a time, but asked council if the situation can be resolved in another way.

Council member Robert Edgerton said the borough engineer, Brent Berger of Quad 3 Engineering Group, would visit the site in a few days.

In other news, council...

• Hired Mark Joseph Liparela as a part-time police officer at an hourly rate of \$13.78.

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Members of the Rock Solid Academy Board and Committee are, from left, first row, Mark A. DiPippa, President/Head of School; LuAnn Letoski, Polly Harteis, Carolyn Oravitz. Second row, Pastor Dan Miller, William Norwig, Gerald Harteis, board chairman. Third row, Brian Phillips, Attorney Lee Piatt and Ted Haas. Absent at the time of the photo Joyce Hoban.

Rock Solid Academy directors to meet with Christian leaders

Group invites more than 100 church leaders of different denominations to breakfast.

The Rock Solid Academy Board of Directors and Committee members met on September 19 to discuss the by-laws, mission statement and statement of faith for the school.

The school has officially adopted the following mission statement: "The mission of Rock Solid Academy is to partner with parents to provide students with a superior

education consistent with Christian principles."

The statement of faith, which mirrors the Association of Christian Schools International statement of faith, consists of seven points that open the door for the school to be truly interdenominational.

"With the mission statement and statement of faith in place, we now have the foundational documentation to build a caring Christian school that breaks down denominational walls and lifts the name of Christ," stated

Mark A. DiPippa, President/Head of School for Rock Solid Academy.

The school will host area pastors and Christian leaders at a breakfast on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at Leggio's in Dallas. An invite was sent to over 100 church leaders from different denominational backgrounds.

The school has opened a registration link of www.rock-solidacademy.org/regform/ for the Christian Leadership to register for the breakfast and comment about Christian Education and Rock Solid Academy.

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Gas company begins work

By SARAH HITE
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Solicitor Thomas Brennan told residents that, because Williams has signed an agreement with the township and has received land development approval from the planning commission, the company is "entitled to start the work on the pipeline as far as the township is concerned..."

Supervisors took questions from residents Tuesday about ongoing work being performed by Williams Field Services, LLC.

The company is currently clearing trees for right-of-ways to install a portion of its 33 1/2-mile natural gas pipeline within the township. The line will connect to the Transco interstate pipeline, located near the Dallas School District campus, to bring gas from wells in Tusquehanna County to market.

Residents wanted assurance from township officials that the company was being monitored by the appropriate government regulatory bodies and has all the permits and documentation necessary to perform the work.

Resident Chuck Borland asked whether any township officials knew if the state Department of Environmental Protection has been overseeing the tree-clearing and other work.

Supervisor Frank Wagner said he had seen a DEP vehicle driving around the area, but wasn't sure if its presence was

related to the Williams work.

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Supervisors announced a public hearing will be held October 13 and a special meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on October 24 to discuss and consider the adoption of a proposed zoning ordinance amendment related to the natural gas industry.

In other news, the board...

• Announced the closure of Pear Tree Lane, which connects the Dallas School District campus with New Goss Manor. Sergeant Doug Higgins said he and

township officials met with district administrators at the site to observe traffic, and it was clear that before a traffic study can be done the road needs to be closed for safety concerns.

• Heard a suggestion from Borland about taking advantage of federal and state funds to clean up Trout Brook, a tributary of Toby Creek, which he said is clogged with debris after Tropical Storm Irene and Tropical Storm Lee swept through the region.

He said local government workers could also help in the debris removal.

Brennan said he is under the impression that municipal workers aren't allowed to do such work, but given the state of the area after the two storms, he said other organizations might like the extra help.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

District commended for aid during recent tropical storms

By SARAH HITE
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The Lake-Lehman School Board approved several personnel changes at a meeting Monday evening, and Superintendent James McGovern commended the community for its aid during recent tropical storms.

McGovern said the district received a letter from the Lehman Township Fire Department with accolades for the district and its support of evacuees during the flooding that occurred in early September.

McGovern said the school had only between 20 and 25 evacuees at the junior/senior high school, but the American Red Cross prepared the school's gym with more than 300 cots for families in the flood plain to utilize.

He said once administrators got word of the seriousness of the situation, officials pleaded for help on the district's Facebook page.

"Within 15 minutes, we had 55 volunteers," said McGovern.

For three days, the district maintained a 24-hour staff to help those in need during the flooding caused by remnants of Tropical Storm Lee.

"It's a testimony to the people in our community," he said.

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Nine professional employees within the district received tenure. They are as follows: Cecelia Candelario, Jenna Casaldi, Christopher Davis, Christina Goble, Kathi Hamilton, Tiffany Hettes, Jennifer Pauley, Melissa Smigielski and Kacie Skutnik.

The board also approved 11 substitute teacher hires with various certifications. They include Nicholas Bilski, of Wilkes-Barre; Andrea Buckman, of Tunkhannock; Leilani Cabrera, Wilkes-Barre; Jack Davis, Harveys Lake; Denise Elko, of Laurel Run; Maria Gialanella, of Dallas; Alicia Harris, of Mountain Top; Leanne Harvey, of Nanticoke; Melony Jones, of Hunlock Creek; Maura Narkiewicz, of Dallas; and Jessica Thomas, of Swoyersville.

Jeffrey Shook, of Hanover Township, was appointed as the home and school visitor with a salary of \$41,263 effective Sept. 20.

The board approved a medical sabbatical leave for Kyrston Strauch for the 2011-12 school

year.

The following four coaches were approved for the 2011-12 school year: Wayne Oplinger, of Shavertown, as head softball coach; Nancy Edkins, of Hunlock Creek, as head swim coach; Matthew Nonnenberg, of Scranton, as volunteer junior high assistant soccer coach; and John Davis, of Harveys Lake, as varsity assistant wrestling coach.

The board approved a raise for Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mary Jo Casaldi in the amount of \$0.55 per hour, retroactive to July 1, 2011.

In other news, the board...

• Approved a refund of paid taxes to the following property owners: Richard Lukasavage in the amount of \$340.67 for a property located in Harveys Lake, Justin Matus in the amount of \$272.54 for a property located in Harveys Lake and Josephine Olker in the amount of \$173.73 for a property located in Harveys Lake.

• The next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 10 and the next regular meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 17 in the junior/senior high school library.

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Flood-damaged items to be collected

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

A curb side pick-up of flood damaged items from homes and bathhouses has been arranged with JP Mascaro and Sons for Monday, said Francis Kopko, Harveys Lake council chairman.

Tropical Storm Lee left its mark on much of the Wyoming Valley, including Harveys Lake Borough when the lake water rose to abnormally high levels, flooding many homes, bathhouses and the majority of Grotto Pizza's parking lot.

To assist residents with their clean-up efforts, Kopko said JP Mascaro and Sons will conduct a curb side pick-up for flood damaged items. Kopko added the service has no limitations, but asked residents to only put out flood-damaged items.

waste disposal company scheduled a pick-up service of this nature in the borough. Just a few weeks ago, the borough arranged for a similar pick-up service for debris from Hurricane Irene. Kopko said it cost the borough about \$455 at that time, but "was well worth it."

The final cost of damages to the borough from the two storms is still being calculated, he said.

Residents asked the council if the dam at the lake outlet could be opened the next time the lake rises to such high levels to prevent flooding. Kopko said the dam is controlled by the Department of Environmental Protection, not the borough, and added that council will contact DEP to see if this is an option for future situations.

Also storm related, Council approved overtime for Police Chief Charles Musial in accord-

ance with his contract. Kopko said the contract allows Musial to receive overtime pay of \$34.19 per hour during emergency situations. Musial applied for the council's approval for \$376.09 in overtime pay.

In other news ...

• Council approved a bid of \$55,944 from American Asphalt, Shavertown, for a paving project on Lewis Avenue and Perrego Street. Work will begin soon, weather permitting.

Residents Ken Kale, Taft Truska III and Rick Amy were appointed to the borough's newly-formed Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals will hear dispute cases of residents not accepting the decision of Pasonick Engineering, the borough's third party engineer.

The next borough council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18 in the municipal building.