

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Supers make move toward new local tax

First step taken to levy \$52 annual local services tax on workers in township.

Township supervisors took their first step Tuesday night toward levying a new tax on people who work in the township.

The officials held the first reading of an ordinance to impose the local services tax, which would cost taxpayers \$52 annually, \$10 of which would be paid to the Dallas School District.

The tax would replace the annual \$10 occupational privilege tax.

"This tax would be paid by those who are employed within the township," said Supervisor Jeffrey Box. "We would be collecting funds from those who enjoy the benefits of the township because they work here."

Supervisor Chairman James Reino also expressed his support for the tax.

Box and Reino cited the 2011 deficit and increasing costs of providing services, including upkeep of township roadways, in explaining their support.

"I remember years in which we were able to pave over 10 streets," said Box. "Now, we are lucky if one or two streets are paved."

"Kingston Township is one of the few municipalities in the

"This tax would be paid by those who are employed within the township."

Jeffrey Box
Kingston Twp. supervisor

county to not require the tax," added Reino. "Many township residents are required to pay the tax to other municipalities in which they are employed."

No residents were present for public comment.

The meeting also gave the supervisors an opportunity to present a statement of support to the Pennsylvania Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, recognizing the role of the Guard and Reserve, and as a show of support for the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

The board will meet again on Wednesday, Nov. 9 to discuss budget issues, including the proposed increase in the real estate tax and on Wednesday, Nov. 16 to discuss the proposed increase of the earned income tax.

The next public work session will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7 in preparation for the regular supervisors meeting.

- Geri Gibbons



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Eric Pimm, of Harveys Lake, helps his young son, Ashtun, during a pumpkin-carving party sponsored by the Harveys Lake Borough Council.



McKayla Williams has the most fun cleaning out the inside of her pumpkin.



Anna and Janet DelPino get help from their uncle, Robert Smith, while carving their pumpkin.

Having some PUMPKIN fun

By SARAH HITE
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While no one fashioned the likeness of a snowflake into their pumpkin, it may have been appropriate given the blizzard-like conditions at a Harveys Lake carving party held Oct. 29.

Youngsters and their parents braved the snowy weather to attend the event armed with pumpkins to carve in celebration of Halloween.

The event was sponsored by the Harveys Lake Homecoming Committee, a group that has seen its fair share of weary weather this past year.

An Easter egg hunt scheduled in spring time was rained out. Rain poured on the group's first attempt to hold the annual homecoming weekend this summer, and the second try to celebrate at the end of August was blown out of the water by Hurricane Irene.

Despite the snow, the event location was toasty warm. That's because Patti Adamshick, whose family purchased Sunset Marina on Lakeside Drive in August, opened the facility exclusively for the party.

"The building has been vacant for nearly 10 years," said Adamshick, of Harveys Lake. "It was always used as a boat marina. It should be a business. We're going to keep it. We don't know what our plans are yet, and depending on the economy, we'll just have

to find the best fit for it."

Several tables were set up for the kids to carve their orange gourds, and the homecoming committee supplied carving kits.

The event also featured homemade food, spooky music, kid-friendly Halloween movies, several games and more.

Amy Williams, of Harveys Lake, said the committee recently started using the funds raised from the homecoming celebration to hold community-minded events throughout the year.

Borough council member Fran Kopko said events are planned in order to bring the community closer together - something he feels has been missing from Harveys Lake.

"This is to show the people

"It's tough getting started because I think the pumpkin is frozen."

Amy Williams
Harveys Lake resident

that we're all coming together in the same municipality," he said. "And it's been working."

Eric Pimm, of Harveys Lake, and his 2-year-old son, Ashtun, have been anticipating the event for a while.

"He's been talking about this for a week," Eric said. "The kids love it. It's a great time for him to meet and play with other kids in the community."

Several tykes got busy carving

the tops of their pumpkins and enjoyed rolling up their sleeves while pulling out the seeds and other innards.

McKayla Williams, Amy Williams' daughter, was especially excited to carve the likeness of a Barbie doll into the large pumpkin the family bought from Dymond's Farm.

"It's tough getting started because I think the pumpkin is frozen," Amy said, laughing.

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Supervisors agree to sign disaster agreement

Preparing to put the pieces together following Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, supervisors agreed to sign the PEMA Public Disaster Financial Assistance Agreement for damages sustained during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

The township sustained about \$300,000 in damages from the two storms, Stan Davis announced during last

month's meeting.

Funding received through the agreement with PEMA and FEMA will help with road restoration and repairs caused by the storms within the township.

In conjunction with the motion, Township Secretary Terry Davis was appointed as the applicant agent, making her responsible for all forms and documents required by FEMA and PEMA.

In other news, the proposed 2012 budget will be ready for public review later this month.

Also, supervisors announced there will not be a meeting on November 8, which is Election Day.

The next Ross Township monthly meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6 in the municipal building.

- Eileen Godin



Dallas Township Police Officer Brad Balutis, left, and Dallas Township Police Chief Robert Jolley stand near the Kunkle Volunteer Fire Department sign that warns drivers of the Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Project.

DT cops take part in driving project

The Dallas Township Police Department will participate in the Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Project through November 14.

Officers will be on the lookout for aggressive driving behaviors, including speeding, following too closely (tailgating), improper passing and red light violations. Enforcement activities will concentrate on roadways known to have a high number of aggressive-driving crashes.

Approximately 60 percent of all 2010 traffic fatalities in Pennsylvania involved some sort of aggressive driving. Following

too closely, or tailgating, is a common aggressive driving behavior. This decreases your reaction time and increases the likelihood of a crash. When drivers increase the distance between them and the car in front of them, they increase their safety.

As this project is both enforcement and education, signs will be placed informing drivers that "Aggressive Driving Enforcement" is underway. To help in the education process, the Kunkle Volunteer Fire Department placed the Aggressive Driving message on its electronic sign.

answer the numerous questions residents have regarding the issue. Brennan suggested that residents e-mail their questions to him or township planning consultant, Jack Varaly. Residents' concerns will then be addressed.

Brennan pointed out that, although the questions will be addressed, a decision on the mat-

ter can only be made in a public forum.

"We have to look at this from both sides," he cautioned. "Or we've gone through all of this effort for nothing."

Chief Gathering LLC is in the middle of zoning hearings for its application to build a natural gas metering station off Hildebrandt

Road about 1,300 feet from Dallas schools.

In a related matter, Mike Dickinson of Williams Field Services, LLC updated the board on the status of a gathering line installation project, which will tap into the Transco interstate pipeline. Township Engineer Tom Doughton said he spoke with a

Transco representative who assured him the township would be notified prior to any activity on the line.

"They will set up a schedule with the township so we will have answers for the public as to what they're doing, and when," Doughton said

- Camille Fiotti

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Resident nervously pleads with supervisors to take hazards of gas drilling into consideration

Hands shaking, Wendy Cominsky nervously read excerpts from national news articles pointing out the hazards of natural gas drilling at Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting.

"I'm asking you to take this into consideration," she pleaded.

Last month, the supervisors approved an amendment to the

zoning ordinance that would allow for natural gas development in the township under a conditional use provision.

"There is not enough research," Cominsky said. "Really take your time on this."

Another resident asked Solicitor Tom Brennan if a special meeting could be scheduled to