

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Budget adopted by 4-1 vote

By SARAH HITE
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The \$3 million budget has a deficit of \$153,138 and Reino said the supervisors didn't "have any other choice" but to increase property and earned income tax rates.

The board of supervisors adopted the 2012 budget in a 4-1 vote and increased taxes in a 3-2 vote at a special meeting Wednesday.

Supervisors James Reino Jr., Jeffrey Box, Frank Natitus and John Solinsky voted for the budget while Shirley Moyer voted against it.

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Reino, Box and Natitus voted for tax increases and Solinsky and Moyer voting against them.

Property taxes will increase from .0004112 to .00075 mills. A

mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian said this increase will generate an additional \$177,740 for the township.

Moyer said she opposed this tax increase because of concern for senior citizens in the township.

"They just got hit with increased school taxes and county taxes last year, so I was concerned about that," she said.

Earned income taxes will also rise, from 1.50 to 1.57 percent, .5 of which is remitted directly to the Dallas School District. This hike is estimated to bring

in, at most, \$129,250 in revenue but Sebastian said earned income tax collection is unpredictable.

Last week the board passed a \$52 local services tax for non-residents employed in the township. Reino said the board wanted to raise taxes evenly for everyone in the township so no one area was particularly hard-hit.

Sebastian said the amount of funds that surpass the deficit, \$193,852, can be transferred into the capital improvement fund.

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DALLAS BOROUGH

Council approves 2012 budget

By SARAH HITE
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The budget will be available for public inspection at the municipal building at 25 Main St., Dallas.

Council approved the proposed 2012 budget at a meeting Wednesday evening.

The \$1,155,000 budget has no tax increases for next year. The property tax rate in the borough is currently 1.28 mills. A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

The earned income tax rate will stay the same at .5 percent, and the real estate transfer tax will remain at 1 percent.

Borough Manager Tracey Carr said expenses were mostly unchanged.

She said there are many projects ongoing after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee swept through the borough, but the budget was built to handle those unforeseen

expenses.

"We're very careful financially," she said.

The budget will be available for public inspection at the municipal building at 25 Main St., Dallas.

Carr also said correspondence about residents' flooding issues has been sent to the state Department of Environmental Protection for further guidance in addressing the complaints.

Council approved three resolutions involving gaming grant applications. The borough will support the Back Mountain Community Partnership's grant application for a regional emergency management center and Lehman Town-

ship's application for a new street sweeper.

Council also approved an agreement with Misericordia University in which both parties will support one another on grant applications.

Council reduced the police officers' pension contributions to 2 percent and set non-uniformed employees' contributions to 1 percent.

Borough employees will contribute 5 percent of annual insurance costs, which include medical, dental and vision coverage.

The next Dallas Borough Council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the municipal building.

Gerlin awarded band scholarship

Lake-Lehman Marching Band senior receives Tournament of Bands Scholarship.

Lake-Lehman Marching Band senior Christopher Gerlin, of Shavertown, was awarded the 2011 Tournament of Bands Group 1 Scholarship at the Atlantic Coast Championship competition held October 30 in Hershey.

Eighty two seniors from 30 marching bands across nine states submitted essays for consideration and Gerlin's was selected as the winner.

Gerlin has been in the Lake-Lehman Marching Band drum line for five years, the Indoor Percussion ensemble for six years and the Symphonic Band for six years.

He is a member of the Lake-Lehman Jazz Band and is also a member of "Fusion Core" Drum and Bugle Corps based in Morris County, N.J.

The son of Jeff and Michele Gerlin, of Shavertown, he plans to continue to march in Drum Corps, and pursue an Education degree in history and/or music.



Wyoming Co. Chamber of Commerce launches holiday shopping contest

The Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce is launching its Sixth Annual "I Shopped Local This Holiday Season" Contest.

Sponsored by Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation, retail purchases made in Wyoming County from November 25 through December 24 will qualify shoppers for entry to win a \$500 grand prize.

Qualifying purchases include everything from meals

in restaurants, gift certificates, furniture, clothing and appliances to shoes, food, home improvement materials, cars, vehicle upgrades, jewelry and more.

Purchases made at Wyoming County Chamber member businesses will be awarded a double entry. Look for the "Buy it Here, Keep it Here" logo on retail store doors.

Each time you shop Wyom-

ing County, you may submit an entry form toward the \$500 drawing.

To enter the contest, complete a shop local entry form and return it, along with an original receipt to WYCCC, P.O. Box 568, Tunkhannock, PA 18657. One entry per receipt is allowed.

For more information, contact Maureen Dispenza at the chamber office at 836-7755.

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