

POLICE

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2002, with an option to buy the property.

Musial said the force was located within the current municipal offices, which also shares the space with the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority.

Prior to the department's move, the force used state police investigators and was comprised of mostly part-time officers, according to Dallas Post archives.

Despite the building's conditions, Musial said the department made limited upgrades and physical changes to the space before moving in.

"We were enthused to be getting out of the broom closet we were in," he said. "...We sort of started nickel and diming this place just to get through."

He said the building was open space and desks and walls were installed after its purchase to suit the police department's needs within a constrained budget.

Musial attributes a separation of the flooring, visible through carpeting, and cracks in the walls to sinking of the building. He said nearby townhouses had to be built upon pilings due to issues with wetlands, but the current police station is a modular building on no foundation.

He also blames the townhouse construction in 2003 for plaguing the police building with water issues.

"The toilet, we can get one flush out of it every 20 minutes," he said. "(With the sink), if we give it about a half hour we can get about three seconds of water."

Musial said the fact that he spends much of his time at the building when not on patrol allows him to address these issues, as he has seen the building deteriorate over time.

"The borough looked at trying to get ... public water ran into this building but ... the cost was too high," he said.

He said the sewer system in the building was installed "illegally," and a grinder pump was needed to pump the sewage. Musial feels the changes made may not be deemed appropriate by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Musial and Mayor Clarence Hogan said not much has been said about the police station's conditions in order to protect the safety of officers on duty and also to ensure the department isn't evicted from the building due to several infrastructure issues.

"I honestly wouldn't want someone to come in just in case they deem it unsafe and we'd get kicked out," said Musial.

The holding bench is a wooden and metal park-style unbolted bench next to a handicap shower bar. Officers cuff those apprehended to the bar while doing paperwork, but its proximity to a desk poses a safety risk, said Musial.

"We had two (benches), but the one, a prisoner picked up and threw at us and it broke," he said. "We had a woman while we were typing up charges on this computer; she picked it up and threw it at us. We had one put his head through the wall. We had people spit at us while we were doing the charges. Several times we had to take the person out and put them in the back of the car and leave the door open to keep an eye on them because they were so bad."

Musial said the building was designed by former Police Chief Jeff Butler, and moving the holding bench isn't an option.

"There's not too many places where we could put it in the room without (those who have been apprehended) being behind the officers," said Musial.

The current building is a wooden exterior, which Musial said is rotting, with drywall inside. Musial said the new building will also be studded with drywall, but the concrete will ensure no one can penetrate the exterior.

He also said a secure bench bolted to the floor along with a mechanism bolted to the floor will ensure those apprehended cannot disrupt or pose a safety risk to police duties.

Musial said the current building is also not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design.

Musial invites anyone interested in seeing the condition of the building to visit. He said he gave tours to residents after the public hearing on the issue on April 17.

Boice said she has taken photo-

graphs of the building's exterior, but has not toured the facility.

"I was over at the police station on (April 21 in the) morning and took several photos. When I arrived, the police were exiting the side door. We had a charity run at the lake on Saturday and I assumed they must be heading to that event, so I didn't bother to ask for a tour," Boice wrote in an e-mail. "Honestly, since I never heard a word at any borough meeting either before I was elected or since with regard to our police station being in deplorable condition, I have no reason to believe it is unsafe/unhealthy or in deplorable condition."

Musial said the building has served the department sufficiently over the years but the current conditions, paired with the grant availability, have led to the quick execution of the project.

New building promises

The former recreation center is located at 22 Little League Road, adjacent to the Little League fields and just down the street from Lake-Noxen Elementary School on Westpoint Avenue.

It's also about four miles away from the current site, which Boice dubbed the "metropolitan area" of Harveys Lake. Boice has said having police presence at the entrance of the lake lets visitors know the borough is protected.

Musial said calls to the department are handled with priority, no matter where police are located. He said having the building at the entrance to the lake poses safety threats to the community.

"Criminals coming into your town, they generally use the main part of your town and they see all three cars here, the lake's open," said Musial.

The former recreation center is approximately 600 square feet larger than the current building, and original drawings provided by Homeworks Construction of Sweet Valley feature two interrogation rooms, two rest rooms, one shower, one kitchenette, a police chief office, storage and a utility room.

Musial said two interrogation rooms are necessary because, according to state law, juveniles and incarcerated adults cannot be housed in the same room once in police custody.

Residents at the April 17 public hearing expressed concerns about parking and the safety of children playing near the recreation center during the summer months.

Musial said signage will be installed at the site and parking order will be enforced. He said the police department will request five spaces at the site, and earth nearby has already been leveled to create additional room for the parking spaces.

Musial has no worries about transporting and keeping those apprehended at the site despite the proposed station's closeness to a location where a concentrated number of children spend their time.

"We're not dealing with 100 prisoners," said Musial. "We will have them cuffed and nobody will see them. They will be securely placed and we don't have anyone here longer than two hours because then they have to go to the magistrate's office."

Boice has concerns about heating the building. She said years after the building was constructed in 1979, "it cost a small fortune to heat it," and it was abandoned.

According to The Dallas Post archives, the last known use of the building was a reading center created by Charlotte Williams in June 2007. The center was available to young children during summer but, due to illness, Williams could no longer run the center, said Hogan.

He estimates it has been vacant for one or two years.

The building is currently being heated by an electric heater to keep water pipes from freezing, as the pipes are also connected to the nearby borough garage. Records showing the costs of heating the building for occupation could not be obtained.

Plans outlined in the grant application specify the installation of a new heating system and insulation, which Musial said will ensure energy efficiency within the building.

Hogan doesn't foresee an additional monthly cost for the borough. He believes the heating and electrical costs for the new building will be "cheaper" because of the improved energy efficiency, but wasn't sure how that could be determined before the new heat-

ing system and insulation were installed.

Most recent estimates from PennEastern Architects, the borough engineer, state the project will cost \$76,440 for the recreation building renovations. Emil Jarolen, who signed the estimate documents, did not return messages prior to deadline.

Public awareness issues

Boice has questioned members of council and Hogan about why the public wasn't presented with the information regarding the police department's current state and the idea to move the facility to the former recreation building.

"I don't know," Hogan said of the reason why no public hearing was held prior to applying for the grant. "I didn't think it had to be. The opportunity was there to apply for a grant, and I was hoping that we would get it."

Hogan said, if the project were to be undertaken without the aid of grant money, public input would have been solicited before beginning the project.

"It's free money," he said.

Hogan said Radel and Kopko spent time working with him on the grant application, and it wasn't the first time the project has been proposed.

Musial didn't want to address the safety risks to the public because that would put officers in danger.

"We couldn't go too far — the old council was aware of it," said Musial. "I didn't want to go too far with criminals knowing the condition of the building to just pop in here whenever they wanted to when we weren't here."

Boice, who took office in January but attended council meetings frequently, said she never heard of the issues with the building. At a public hearing April 17 on the issue, former council member Diane Dwyer didn't recall any mention of the project, while another former council member, Rich Williams III, clearly remembered mention of the project at a work session meeting.

Examination of work session meeting minutes mentioned during the public hearing had no documented mention of the project.

Former council member Ryan Doughton also wrote a letter to the borough, stating he remembered the project being mentioned.

Boice recently said she is going to see if state officials can investigate whether the grant application process was conducted legally. She said the project was unknown to the community and felt some members of the municipal government have been dishonest about it.

Hogan signed a letter sent to Harrisburg dated Nov. 29, 2011, stating the project had community support, though he admitted during a public hearing on April 17 his comments were based on "word-of-mouth."

Boice contacted state legislators and officials on April 19, asking for a formal investigation.

"While I am 100 (percent) in favor of grants and making certain my small community receives its fair share, I want to make sure we go about it in a fair and honest matter," she wrote in an e-mail to officials.

Boice said the project will cost taxpayers because she believes the recreation building needs more extensive work than what has been reported. The borough has had a deficit in the last two years.

"I have other serious concerns about the deceit and misrepresentations made on the part of our elected officials and would like to address them with the proper investigative authority," Boice wrote.

Boice said if she doesn't hear from officials soon, she will continue to pursue the issue with other state authorities.

Borough office relocation

Another part of the project outlined in the grant application is the relocation of the borough secretary and zoning officer into the current police building.

In the original grant application, that aspect of the project is mentioned first, and Hogan said the idea stemmed from a request from General Municipal Authority Director Richard Boice, husband of Michelle Boice and a former Harveys Lake Borough mayor, to expand his offices where the borough secretary and zoning officer are currently located.

Richard Boice said on April 25 that he had no intention of expanding.



Harveys Lake Police Chief Charles Musial demonstrates how offenders have to be hand-cuffed to a park bench in the station office while being held. He thinks the station needs a newer and more secure facility.

"It sounds like we're trying to push them out," he said.

The grant application also said the purpose of the move was out of concern for the health of borough employees. The building acts as the sewer authority's main pumping station, and Richard Boice said there are odors involved in the process.

"I've worked here for years and I haven't gotten sick," he said.

Hogan said as the police relocation project will use much of the grant monies, the borough office

relocation project will become another phase of the project.

He said in the building's current condition, some upgrades will need to be made to house those two offices, including remedying the water and sewage issues.

"I'm going to have to see if I can get another grant," said Hogan.

He also said the former recreation building has room to expand, which may be another option for housing the borough offices.

Hogan said the current police

building is not appropriate for a station because of its condition, as the department needs specific tools, layout and access to the building.

He said it would suit borough offices because they are only open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and do not require the same needs as the police department.

In the initial grant application, it states "no renovations" would need to be made to the current police building to house the borough secretary and zoning officer.

Power cut to some HL streetlights

At public hearing April 17 in Harveys Lake Borough, a resident mentioned a cost-saving tactic adopted by council — cutting power to several streetlights.

Council president Larry Radel said during the budgeting process, council approves the budget in December and new council members are allowed to review and make changes in January, after they are sworn into office.

Radel said no official vote was taken to adopt the measure,

though power was cut to the lines.

The streetlights were just one of several ways council attempted to cut a \$43,000 deficit, including giving up their monthly stipends.

Eleven streetlights were affected, but Radel said they were located randomly throughout the borough, and it didn't appear safety was a factor in their installation a few years ago.

Radel approved the measure because the borough-owned streetlights were not energy effi-

cient.

"They were not environmentally-friendly, they had a glare, they weren't dark-sky compliant," said Radel. "I personally didn't want to have the light pollution."

He said cutting power to the lights will save the borough per light per month. He said safety isn't a concern because there are more privately-owned lights around the lake than there were borough-owned anyway.

Sarah Hite

ROCK

Continued from Page 1

garten classroom with its own restroom for little ones. Some of the school's curriculum materials will also be on display for parents to peruse.

DiPippa said one exciting aspect of the nearly-ready school is the recent donation from the Weatherly Area School District of 13 SMART Boards.

"One of the things we were concerned about was having technology and being technology-based," he said. "Now with these 13 SMART Boards, one for every classroom, that's something super for us."

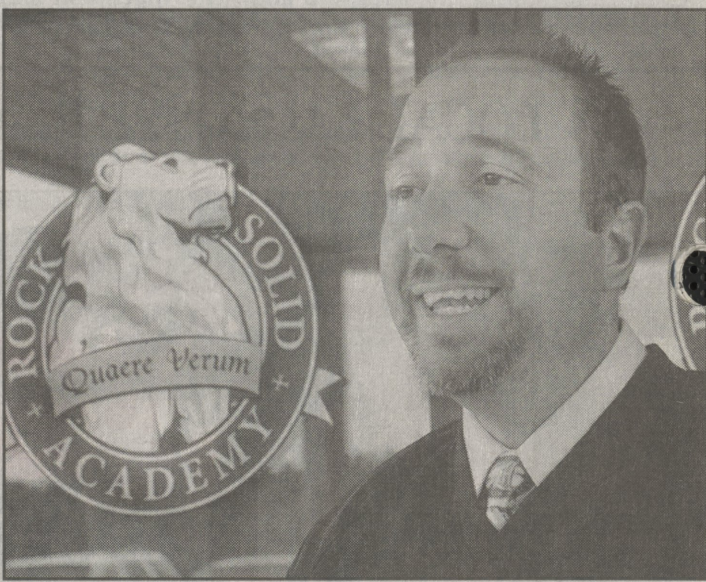
Jerry Harteis, president of Rock Sold Academy's board of directors, said tuition was recently reduced significantly to ensure the school is available to everyone during tough economic times.

"We decided as a board to open this up to as many students as possible," he said.

Tuition per child will now be \$3,950, a decrease from the initial \$6,240 price. Harteis said there will also be scholarships available for qualifying students.

He said the board hasn't determined where cuts will be made to cover the tuition reduction, but he felt it was important to do this for the first year.

"We're hoping to attract and



Rock Solid Academy Head of School Mark DiPippa is excited by the construction progress at the new school in the Twin Stacks Center in Dallas.

show people the quality of education and excellent individual teacher attention students will get from this school," he said.

DiPippa said the school hopes to hire all teachers by July 1, and a formal application process will begin in about two weeks. He said he's already received about 50 resumes from interested teachers.

Harteis said the hiring of administrative staff will depend on how many students enroll.

"We want to keep our costs as low as possible, and our current staff may have to perform those tasks if necessary," he said.

The school is set to begin its first year on August 27. DiPippa said 16 students have already applied to the school.

Mark DiPippa
Head of School
Rock Solid Academy

PUZZLE ANSWERS

King Crossword			
Answers			
Solution time: 21 mins.			
CRAM	ETC	STOP	
LAVA	NEO	MOPE	
ANON	DECEIVER		
MINUTE	ATTACK		
ARAB	HER		
DECLARER	SIDE		
AGO	PERIL	CUR	
BOSH	DECIPHER		
SUV	THOR		
ADAGIO	ANEMIC		
DECEMBER	TIDE		
ASKS	OLD	TROD	
MIST	EMS	YALE	

Go Figure!			
answers			
8	-	1	x 3 21
x	+		x
4	x	6	- 7 17
9	+	1	x 2 20
23		7	19

Super Crossword				
Answers				
ART	HOGAN	BIG	MAGRO	
LEOS	IRANI	EVA	SANOAN	
MATH	ISSONG	TEN	TRENDS	
STERN	CEHT	DDO	ETIE	
AMORAL	TOYSHOP	WEST		
VISUAL	STATISTIC	SAISH		
TREE	ILSA	ACE	KNELT	
UTA	CALIPH	RHO	BELTDED	
BERLIN	BITUNT	HOS	OLIVE	
CLEASH	OLLE	MELTS	VILE	
BRYN	IMPARTIAL	MILD		
OAS	ZONES	VAT	ATHOS	
DJIBOUTI	BENCH	RAIDUS		
EATERS	NIA	SHEKEL	GPIA	
CARTA	GORT	UNIV	SNV	
DODO	MAUGHAMSTORY			
ROMY	JITTERS	TROLE		
ABE	ASH	OHIO	EPITILE	
NATION	ELIF	RAFFIGHTER		
UGANDA	NOR	AGAN	BENT	
PERSE	SOY	MONET	REEA	

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