

## BUDGET

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concerns." Galicki said he and Duffy held a meeting and called the police soon after.

"We don't know anything about the investigation at this point," said Galicki. "We've been told by the district attorney's office that they would make contact with us."

The investigation was not otherwise mentioned by the board or the audience in the crowded meeting room.

The board approved salaries for the superintendent, business manager and confidential secretaries through the 2012-13 school year and for secretaries, housekeepers, custodians and maintenance staff through June 30, 2016. Administrators received a 2.1 percent raise.

A construction change order for the new high school was also approved. The board authorized the change order totaling \$2,074 for the addition of back draft dampers in the art room hoods.

In other news, the board...

- Authorized the lease of a wheelchair lift mini-bus at a cost of \$1,068.41 per month for 60 months.

- Approved an agreement with Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services Inc. for prevention education services two days a week for the 2012-13 school year at the per diem rate of \$100.

- Authorized Solicitor Ben Jones III to attend the Pennsylvania School Board Association School Solicitors Symposium in State College July 12-13 at a cost of \$650.

- Approved John Hodle as part-time groundskeeper effective June 25.

- Accepted the resignation of Jennifer Kelley, speech therapist, effective the end of the 2011-12 school year.

- Approved the payment of a stipend of \$500 per month, totaling \$6,000, to Tom Duffy, middle school principal, to handle duties formerly completed by the assistant middle school principal for the 2012-13 school year. Board member Karen Kyle voted against this measure.

- Hired Wendy Greenwood as

a lifeguard for the district at a rate of \$10 per hour.

- Approved a resolution to comply with the Award of the Arbitrator issued April 27 based upon a grievance filed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association by the payment of total back pay for the school years 2010-11 and 2011-12 in the amount of \$40,008.31 to Nancy Roberts, athletic director, in satisfaction of all claims asserted by PSEA.

- Solicitor Ben Jones III said this issue arose from the teachers' union, as Roberts was hired as athletic director while serving as a part-time wellness instructor in the district. He said the union grieved that the athletic director position should be held by a full-time employee of the district based on past experience. He said the arbitrator ruled in favor of the union.

- Appointed Nancy Roberts as a full-time physical education teacher in the wellness department at the fourth step Master's level on the salary scale at \$41,667 beginning on July 1, 2012 and ending on June 30, 2013.

- Accepted the resignation of Melissa Cencetti, contracted physical therapist, effective June 15.

- Approved the new district policy on management of athletes with concussions and return to play. Galicki said all coaches, paid and volunteer, will need to undergo training about concussion symptoms and how to respond to such incidents.

- Accepted the resignation of Paul Darling, assistant girls basketball coach.

- Appointed Abe Lewis as head girls soccer coach for the fall season with a stipend of \$3,033. Galicki said this is the co-coach stipend amount and a memorandum of understanding will be drawn to determine the head coach salary for girls' soccer.

- Appointed the following winter sports coaches: Kelly Johnson as head high school girls basketball coach with a stipend of \$6,235; Doug Miller as head high school boys basketball coach with a stipend of \$6,265; Matt Barry as assistant high school boys' basketball coach with a stipend of \$3,295; Mike Richards head high school wrestling coach with a stipend \$6,235; Bob Jesse

as assistant high school wrestling coach with a stipend of \$3,295; Romayne Mosier as head high school swimming coach with a stipend of \$4,090; Jen Swiderski as assistant high school swimming coach with a stipend of \$2,373; Matt Nonenburg as high school diving coach with a stipend of \$2,217; Jerry Ogurkis as assistant-in-charge for middle school wrestling with a stipend of \$3,295; John Hutchins of assistant middle school wrestling coach with a stipend of \$2,725; Johnna Schickram as eighth-grade girls basketball coach with a stipend of \$2,725; Karen Bove as seventh-grade girls basketball coach with a stipend of \$664; Jesse Francis as assistant-in-charge of middle school boys' basketball with a stipend of \$3,295; Tony Chiarucci as eighth-grade boys basketball coach with a stipend of \$2,725; and James Gattuso as seventh-grade boys basketball coach with a stipend of \$664.

- Appointed Mark Farrell and Vita DeLuca as volunteer seventh-grade basketball coaches.

- The next Dallas School Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, July 16 in the administration building.

## CHURCH BRIEFS

### TUMC announces Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held from June 17-21 at the Trucksville United Methodist Church Educational Building, 40 Knob Hill Road, Trucksville. Dinner is provided and starts at 5:30 p.m. each night. The opening skit begins at 6:15 p.m. and the program ends at 8:30 p.m. each night. This year's group will go on a safari with music, mission, games, crafts, skits, snacks and a lesson.

This year's Mission Focus benefits "Nothing But Nets," a mission that provides mosquito nets to families to prevent the spread of malaria.

### Sweet Valley church sets Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 17 through Friday, June 22 at Sweet Valley Church of Christ, 5439 Main Road, Sweet Valley.

The Bible School is for children between the ages of 2

through sixth grade.

Daily activities include Bible lessons, crafts, snacks and games. There will be a "Fun Fair" on Friday.

The church is handicapped accessible.

For information and registration, call 477-2320.

### Morgan will speak at breakfast

The scheduled speaker at the Back Mountain Men's Ecumenical Group on Tuesday, June 19 is Wayne Morgan of the local Youth For Christ.

The BMMEG meets for breakfast at 8 a.m. every Tuesday at the Irem Country Club.

### Vacation Bible School planned

Vacation Bible School, entitled "Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity," will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. June 24-28 at the Centermoreland United Methodist Church, 17 Creamery Road, Centermoreland. A light dinner will be served

every night.

Top register, call 836-5898 or e-mail melanie.transue@elkklakeschool.org.

### LIUM Church plans Bible School

The Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church, Mountain View Drive, Lehman, will host its annual Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon June 25-29.

A special service to celebrate the week will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 1.

For more information, contact Mandy Newman at 674-9777 or Pastor Bob Ryder at 675-5192. No pre-registration is needed.

### Maple Grove Church plans Bible School

The Maple Grove United Methodist Church, 5876 Main Road, Sweet Valley, will hold its Vacation Bible School from 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 25-29.

Registration may be done the first night of VBS or by calling 477-5216 to obtain a registration form.

## CHICKENS

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Supervisors also felt the space in the residential zoning district isn't adequate for that kind of activity.

"I grew up in Wayne County, and I grew up with chickens in my backyard when I was young, and I generally agree we lived in harmony and there were no issues there," said Box. "...My thoughts are simply that we have a zoning ordinance that's been in effect since 1975 that restricts what you want to do ... and I believe the R-1 zoning lot sizes are too small for anyone to be raising chickens..."

Chris Mathers said the birds could be regulated via a permit application that would feature lot specifications and other requirements. She said the money from the permit applications could be used for paying for the enforcement.

Chet Mozloom of The Lands at Hillside Farms spoke on behalf of Chris Mathers. He said he understood both sides of the argument but hoped a compromise could be reached to allow those who wanted chickens to raise them in an appropriate manner.

Moyer said it was a difficult situation to debate, but felt the health, safety and enforcement issues could not be ignored.

"As a supervisor, you try to make everybody in your township happy and the hardest thing is not being able to make a certain group happy," Moyer said.

The board also adopted an ordinance that will amend sections of the township home rule charter pertaining to project bid limits, contracts, actions requiring an ordinance and effect dates of ordinances.

The issue will be placed on the ballot for the November general election, as the home rule charter requires a public vote to be changed.

The board also voted to take legal action against Centax-Don Wilkinson Agency if the problems persist with earned income tax collection.

Reino said the township is short about \$265,000 due to the problems in collection, which may require the township to take out a loan to supplement the general fund.

In other news, the board...

- Approved a settlement agreement in regard to the case of American Asphalt Co. v. Kingston Township and authorized a check to be issued in the amount of \$5,000 to American Asphalt Co.

Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian said years ago a contractor paved Green Road but did not perform the work according to township specifications. She said the township withheld payment to the contractor and the contractor then withheld payment to American Asphalt Co. for the project materials. She said American Asphalt sued the contractor and the

township and the lawsuit was settled out of court.

- Approved two payments for the East Center Street Bridge project, totaling \$33,505.81. Reino said 80 percent of that amount will be paid for by the state Department of Transportation and the township will be responsible for 20 percent, or \$6,701.16.

- Opened bids for line painting in the township. Bids were made by Alpha Space, Interstate Road Management and Mid-Atlantic Markings. The bids will be awarded at a special meeting at 7 p.m. on June 26.

- Allocated funds for the following projects in the township: install storm water management materials in Westmoreland Hills, remove a tree on Kimberly Drive and fix the municipal building parking lot for safety issues.

- The next Kingston Township Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11 in the municipal building.

## FIELDS

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been in the Back Mountain for years.

"Apparently, there was a soccer organization that was given the use of the field," said Bowden, who became president of the Raiders organization this year. "Though we put our request in very early, I guess it wasn't early enough."

The team practices at Center Street Park in Kingston Township, a field that hosts practices for baseball, lacrosse, soccer and football throughout the spring, summer and fall months.

"Center Street Park is used very heavily," said Kingston Township Supervisor James Reino Jr. "There's always a need for more space because there are other places where they don't have the space, and teams are struggling to get practice time."

Fields must meet stringent requirements to be considered official playing fields. Bowden said the Center Street Park field is about 10 feet too short to host Raiders' games.

Bowden said the team received permission to utilize a field at the West Side Career and Technology Center in Pringle, but the area is too hilly and rocky for safe play. "Our ideal option is to use fields here (in the Back Mountain)," said Bowden.

He said the team will most likely share field space with another team in the league, such as Swowersville.

Bowden said another option was to rent field space from Misericordia University or Penn State Wilkes-Barre, but the costs for the organization and players' parents would be too much to bear.

"It's not an attractive option," he said.

### Utilizing schools

The team once used the fields on the Dallas School District campus, but so much has

changed there within the last two years, some of the high school's own teams can't find a place to play.

Nancy Roberts, district athletic director, said teams have had to be patient during the construction process, as many lost their home fields.

The high school officially opened in September 2011, but several athletic fields are still not ready for use - many still need to be germinated and will not be useable until next year.

"Since the construction started, there has been a lot of frustration among teams," said Roberts. "The new fields haven't been germinated - we're not even using them."

This includes the baseball field and four other fields located behind the high school. The Dallas High School baseball team currently plays at the Dallas Little League field in Kunkle.

Roberts said with the addition of girls' soccer in the fall, most of the fields at the school will be in use by school athletic teams until the evening hours, which may also hinder young teams' usage.

"We're hoping down the road we'll have more community access to these fields," she said.

Tom Rokita, Lake-Lehman School District athletic director, said the high school campus has plenty of room for expansion, but with state budget cuts plaguing schools, it's difficult to find the money to move forward with such projects.

He said the campus has about 10 fields used by high school soccer, lacrosse, football, baseball and other sports.

Currently, the district allows the Back Mountain Mini-Knights, the Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association and a local baseball team to use the fields as well.

Rokita said the district doesn't charge a fee for community organizations to use the fields, but that is something that may be considered by the school board in the future.

The football field, which is made of multi-turf, is about nine

"I'm most concerned about finding a permanent solution to this problem," he said. "We go through the same process every January, and it takes a lot of attention away from the board, and our goal is to make sure every kid has a great experience."

Donald Bowden  
KT Raiders president

years old, and Rokita said that's about the standard shelf life of such a field.

"To replace this, it would cost about \$500,000 so we're going to use it as long as we can," he said. "We're on the home stretch with this field."

He said the district has limited the usage of the field to football to cut down on the wear and tear of the space.

Next to the lacrosse field behind Lehman-Jackson Elementary lies about 20 additional acres of property where Rokita said the district could expand upon field space if it becomes necessary.

He said there are issues with wetlands and leveling the areas, but the board isn't considering the need for expansion anytime soon.

### Expanding teams, fields

Now that the Rock Recreation Center in Trucksville has purchased the Wyoming Valley Swim and Tennis Club in Shavertown, there are more opportunities to expand the center's youth sports offerings.

The organization recently built a 13,000 square foot turf multipurpose field on two of the tennis courts at the swim club with the hopes of starting its own youth soccer program, said Doug Miller, center director.

The \$30,000 field was made possible due to state grants, Miller said. The center in Trucksville was recently approved as a clean fill site and, over time, Miller hopes to establish another field behind the center.

"We started last summer and last month we had about 100 loads (of fill) coming in," said Miller.

There's no deadline to build the field - it's mostly dependent on availability of finances. He said the newly-constructed field in Shavertown will be available for public use, and teams can make requests by calling the center.

"It's not big enough for organized sports games - it might be useful for U-8 soccer games," he said. "But it can be used for a practice field."

Dave Sutton, executive director of the Back Mountain Recreation Complex in Lehman Township, would like to expand upon the oft-used fields at the complex on Outlet Road.

He said between mini-football, soccer and lacrosse, there isn't much wiggle room for other sports teams to use the six fields, just two of which are full-sized.

"I get more requests all the time," said Sutton, who helped to found the complex in the 1990s.

Nicki Rismondo, president of the Dallas Youth Soccer Association, said the teams comprised of about 800 youths heavily use the Back Mountain Recreation fields and the fields near St. Paul's, but space is getting tight and money is getting tighter.

"It's getting very, very difficult," said Rismondo, who has been a soccer association board member for the last five years. "Fields are our biggest expense."

Rismondo said the association is able to wrangle in costs due to several sponsors of the organization, but the biggest challenge is competing with other teams for the field space.

"It gets a little stressful, especially when someone else gets the rights to use the fields," she said.



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The Lake-Lehman lacrosse field.

### Looking for funding

Miller said the center is "eagerly" looking for grants and outside donations to enable the center to make more field space.

He said it's been difficult to acquire state funding for projects in recent years.

Sutton would also like to see the Back Mountain Recreation Complex expand - current fields only occupy about 20 acres of the 130-acre property.

Sutton would also like to see unorganized space available for children and families to use, such as playgrounds.

"The trouble is finding finances," he said. "We're a non-profit - all of our money comes from donations. We charge (teams) a little bit for them to use the fields, but we don't get enough rent to cover expenses."

Sutton said the organization has started an endowment fund through the Luzerne Foundation to help it get closer to that expansion.

Reino said it might be difficult to create more athletic field space without the funds to support the endeavor. The Center Street Park field is aided by fees charged to teams, so it is not a costly space for the township to maintain, but other fields may cost much more because of the stringent requirements needed for play.

"(More field space has) been talked about, but there's only a handful of tracks long enough," said Reino. "It would be a multi-million dollar project, and at present, short of someone donating land, or finding a grant, I don't believe there's any way going to be able to add any new recreation fields."

### Searching for answers

Though many sports teams report a stabilization or slight decline in participation, many team leaders believe youths are playing more sports than ever before.

"Sports have totally evolved," said Rismondo. "Kids don't play just one particular sport during a season - kids are playing all year round."

Bowden believes municipal leaders and sports organizations should work together in solving this issue. He said municipalities and sports leaders should collaborate on the issue because both have a vested interest in benefiting the community.

"I'm most concerned about finding a permanent solution to this problem," he said. "We go through the same process every January, and it takes a lot of attention away from the board, and our goal is to make sure every kid has a great experience."