

ARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Public will decide location of police department

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

After listening to residents' comments about the proposed police station relocation, members of council took action in remedying community concerns Tuesday by choosing to let voters decide on the issue.

Whether the police department, currently housed across from the general municipal authority building on State Route 415, should be relocated to 22 Little League Road will be a

referendum question on the general election ballot in November.

Council members Mitchell Boice, Thomas Kehler, Ed Kelly and Amy Williams voted for the measure while Larry Radel, Fran Kopko and Boyd Barber voted against it.

The motion, proposed by Boice, also asked council to "slow down" with the process of relocating the police station and finding estimates for renovating the existing building.

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was awarded grant funds to relocate the police station in March. Many residents, former and current council members claim they never knew the police station was in poor condition or that the borough had applied for a grant. Mayor Clarence Hogan has

said the existing building is not suitable for a police department due to its wooden frame, poor plumbing and other conditions that could cause security problems.

The former recreation building is a concrete shell, and the renovations needed to convert it

to an up-to-code and handicap accessible police station are estimated to cost nearly \$80,000. Council solicited bids for the project last month and Radel said bids are expected this week.

Radel also said if the returning bids are higher than the grant money awarded, the project cannot be completed.

Resident Rob Weaver asked why council did not get estimates to renovate the current police station to compare costs.

Many residents have had concerns about the project since it

was revealed, from the safety of the proposed location to whether council had violated the Sunshine Law in applying for the grant.

Former council member and resident Diane Dwyer was uncertain how the grant application could state that the borough intended to move the secretary and zoning officer to the current police building as part of the project but now "the (police) building is condemned."

Resident Ed Williams made a

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DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution may bring in big bucks from low bond rates

By SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

The Dallas School Board may gain \$308,000 because of historically low bond rates.

Dave Payne and Brian Koscelansky, representatives of PNC Bank, encouraged the board at Monday's meeting to pass a parameters resolution next month.

Payne said this kind of resolution will allow the board to specify a minimum level of savings on district's debt service and will allow PNC to move quickly and capture a low rate.

Payne said that without a parameters resolution, the wait time for refinancing a bond issue was about two months.

He said the market is unstable and bond interest rates are low and the process is similar to locking in a rate on a home mortgage.

The board acted on PNC's proposal and voted to advertise its intent to refinance the bond issue which generated funds for the new high school and other

projects. This does not commit the board to refinance and it will decide at the August meeting whether to pass a parameters resolution.

A resolution to renew a contract with accounting firm Bonita and Rainey met opposition from board member Karen Kyle.

"It is good practice to bring in fresh eyes," she said. She recommended considering other agencies to audit the district's finances.

"There's no question that a public body, like a corporation, should change auditors after a certain period of time," Board Solicitor Ben Jones said.

The resolution to renew the contract with Bonita and Rainey failed, with board member Bruce Goeringer voting yes and all other board members voting no.

Member Richard Coslett was absent from the meeting.

The board then passed a resolution to solicit quotes from auditing firms to consider at next month's meeting.

A resolution to adopt a 60-

month lease with De Lage Landen Public Finance LLC for two new Blue Bird school buses also met with resistance from the board.

Several members questioned whether the old buses needed replacing so soon.

Business manager Grant Paley encouraged the board to enter the contract.

"You can get into owning bad buses in a hurry," he said.

The motion passed with board members Charles Preece, Catherine Wega, Colleen Slocum, Larry Schuler and Goeringer voting yes and Maureen Matiska, Fred Parry and Kyle voting no.

The board unanimously passed a resolution honoring Dallas High School graduate Paige Selenski, a member of the 2012 U.S. Olympic field hockey team.

Her father, Brian Selenski, accepted the proclamation for his daughter, who was playing a game at the time of the meeting.

Selenski received a standing ovation from the board, guests and residents at the meeting.

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

Residents tired of dirt bike noise

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Dallas Post Correspondent

Bothered by the noise from ATVs and dirt bikes tearing through a vacant lot nearby, several Oak Hill residents asked supervisors for help at Monday's meeting.

The residents, who did not want to be named, complained that teenagers have been riding their quads and dirt bikes too close to residential properties. The residents added that the lot is most likely in a wetlands area, which drains into the Huntsville Reservoir.

Township Supervisor Dave Sutton said the board is working on a solution to the problem, such as possibly restricting the

distance people can ride their vehicles from residential areas. He also advised the residents to contact the state Department of Environmental Protection if they are concerned that the lot is in a wetlands area.

"We're not totally against people using quads on their property," Sutton said. "They just need a large property."

The board also announced the township will begin to accept recycling at the township building in the near future. Assistant Township Secretary Marian DeAngelis said Abe N. Solomon Inc., of Wilkes-Barre, will provide recycling service to the township free of charge.

"This is not exclusive to township residents," said Sutton.

"We're hoping parents who are dropping their kids off at school will drop off their recycling on the way."

The board said Solomon was the only company that offered free recycling services. The board voted to authorize DeAngelis to negotiate a one-year contract with Solomon, rather than the two-year contract, which Solomon requested.

The board added it hopes to offer recycling drop-off times during the week and every other Saturday. DeAngelis said the recycling will be "single stream," meaning items don't have to be separated.

More information about the program will be provided in the near future.

DALLAS TOWNSHIP

Police chief to serve on state board

By GERI GIBBONS
Dallas Post Correspondent

Supervisor Liz Martin commended Dallas Township Police Chief Robert Jolley on being invited to serve as a member of the Joint State Government Advisory Committee on Capital Punishment.

"It is quite an honor to be asked to serve with such an impressive group of people," Martin said about the invitation.

In another matter, Solicitor Bill McCall addressed Turkey Hill's application for a permit for reconstruction of the store at the intersection of Routes 415 and 118. McCall said the request was

premature and would be evaluated after plans for the project have been submitted.

Also, the board announced its intent to advertise for the appointment of a resident to the Dallas Area Municipal Authority to fulfill the term of Tom Doughton, who recently resigned. The board will discuss the matter at its next special meeting.

In another matter, resident Morrell Devlin, of Elmcrest Drive, addressed the board about a swale in front of his property that makes it difficult for him to get his vehicle safely into his driveway.

Roadmaster Martin Barry said safety was the township's first priority and the swale was neces-

sary, especially during the winter when water on the roadway could lead to dangerous, icy conditions.

Supervisor Frank Wagner also emphasized safety.

Board members said they would visit Devlin's property, assess the situation and report back at the next meeting.

The supervisors tabled an ordinance relating to reverse subdivision and will address it again at their next meeting, allowing McCall to do more research on the matter.

There will be a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Aug. 7 about the new flood plain ordinance, prior to the board work session, which is open to the public.



Members of the committee planning the 10th Annual Dallas Harvest Festival are, from left, seated, Owen Faut, secretary; Rich Fufaro, chairman; Liz Martin, marketing, Kiss the Pig Contest. Standing, Judge Robert Opel, grounds; Karen Fiorello, vendors; John Cybulski, grounds, vendors; Dallas Borough Manager Tracey Carr, children's activities; and Carol Wall, development. Absent at the time of the photo were Gina Major, entertainment; Maryann Ochman, co-chair, Kiss the Pig Contest; Carol Carroll, flower box competition; and Darcy Brodmerkal, volunteers.

Dallas Harvest Festival volunteers are prepping for 10th annual event

The Dallas Harvest Festival Steering Committee announces the 10th Annual Dallas Harvest Festival will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 16 on and around Main Street in Dallas.

In observance of its decade-long tradition, the Dallas Harvest Festival will seek to interact with the community in a special way this year - a "give back" to the thousands of people who visit Main Street each year.

Among the planned com-

memorative activities will be "Best of Kiss the Pig" which will pit winner against winner to see who can garner the most votes (and the most dollars for charity).

Vying for the privilege of kissing Dallas' favorite potbelly pig this year will be Dallas Borough Mayor Tim Carroll (2003 winner), Kunkle Fire Chief Jack Dodson (2006 winner), Back Mountain Community News Publisher and Past Dallas Rotary President Lisa Pretko (2007

winner) and Dallas Middle School Principal Tom Duffy (2008 winner).

District Judge James Tupper will announce the winner during the festival. Meanwhile, watch for those pink-labeled jugs to appear in Back Mountain businesses and vote with a single dollar for the winner/charity of your choice.

For further information, contact the festival hotline at 675-1950 or log onto www.dallasharvestfestival.com.

DALLAS BOROUGH

Yard sale permits required

By GERI GIBBONS
Dallas Post Correspondent

Borough Council on Wednesday night passed an ordinance requiring yard sale permits, limiting the number of such sales and providing penalties for violations of the new rules.

The ordinance limits yard/garage sales to two a year. There is no cost to apply for a permit.

Last month, Borough Manager Tracey Carr said the then-proposed ordinance was necessary to alleviate traffic congestion and tensions between neighbors.

Council also approved an ordinance regulating "BYOB" clubs, requiring permits and establishing penalties for violations.

In other business, council acknowledged receipt of requests for proposals from several area firms to provide engineering services to the borough in association with a \$75,000 block grant to be used for street and infrastructure improvements. The requests will be reviewed and the most qualified bidder will be determined. A contract proposal will then be forwarded to the Luzerne County Office of

Community Development.

In another matter, Dave Broadhead, representing Dallas Family Practice, of Church Street, expressed concern about a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation proposed roundabout to improve traffic flow in the area of that business.

The project will eliminate 15 to 17 parking spots in the lot shared by Dallas Family Practice, Orchman's Coins and

Jewelry and a pizza business.

Broadhead is concerned the elimination of the spaces will hurt those businesses.

Carr has called PennDOT and requested a meeting be set up to address these concerns in the near future. She said she will contact interested parties to give them an opportunity to attend that meeting.

The project is scheduled to begin in 2014.

Water day camp returns to Lands at Hillside Farms

Sponsored by Pennsylvania American Water in partnership with The Lands at Hillside Farms, the Wonderful World of Water Day Camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. August 13-17 at The Lands at Hillside Farms, Shavertown.

This is the second year that Pennsylvania American Water and The Lands at Hillside Farms have teamed up to offer this free camp.

Day campers, ages 7-11, will explore watershed basics, learn how human activity on the land affects the quality of water in rivers and streams and discover

solutions to water pollution. Campers will also learn about water's importance to the everyday workings on the farm and have the chance to participate in various activities on a sustainable farm.

To register a child, visit www.hillsidefarms.org/watercamp. Registration is limited. A deposit of \$10 will hold a child's space and the deposit will be refunded upon arrival at camp.

For more information, contact The Lands at Hillside Farms by e-mail at paawcamp@hillsidefarms.org or call 995-1711 and leave a message.