

# Citizens' group wants 4 more on Authority

by Zelda Heisey

Nancy Yoder, R.D. #3, Elizabethtown, spokesperson for the Concerned Citizens of Mount Joy Township (CCMJT), presented a petition with approximately 340 signatures, to the Mount Joy Township Authority, requesting that board to increase its membership from five to nine members. Mrs. Yoder stated the four additional members would give the authority a "broader representation."

Citing a lack of confidence in the authority, David Stapler, a leader of the CCMJT until he accepted appointment to the authority in Jan., said the board should honor the petition.

Kenneth Brown seconded a motion, by Harry Graham, to table the proposal for further study. Brown stated he felt the additional members would be of "no value."

Solicitor Henry Gingrich, when questioned, said he knows of no legal limit on the number of members to an authority board. The law provides that no less than five members be appointed, he said. He also said any addition would necessitate a change in the articles of incorporation. The authority's engineer, Robert Shaffer, said authorities he has worked with have had five to

seven members and he could not recall any authority with more than that.

The CCMJT accused the supervisor of "not acting in the best interest of the people." Kenneth Brown, board member, explained that the township supervisors "had already completed two feasibility studies in the township" and before the five-member board was appointed. "Our job was and is to get the sewer construction done at the lowest cost," said Brown. The Department of Environmental Resources has directed the board to get the job done, Brown said.

The project is estimated to cost \$5.3 million. The board cannot estimate costs to individuals until the bids are in and the board can evaluate them.

A ray of hope was held out on costs, when Robert Shaffer, engineer, told the authority a recent bid on a similar project in another area, came in at a 20 to 30% lower cost than the original estimates. He credited this to the "search for work that the contractors seem to be doing now."

A public meeting is scheduled for March 16, at 7:30 p.m. to review the transcripts of previous public meetings, before submitting them to the DER & EPA. The CCMJT asked

and the board agreed, to indicate somewhere in their submission that remarks about malfunctioning sewer systems on Mount Gretna and Hershey Roads were the personal estimates of sewer enforcement officer Armond Fieni and had no documentation.

The authority will hold a private meeting March 23, to write a questionnaire to be distributed to residents in the proposed sewer area. The meeting will be closed to the public. The CCMJT, as well as David Stapler, objected to a "private

session." They felt representatives from the CCMJT should be allowed to participate in that meeting. The authority held fast to its 3 to 1 decision in favor of a private meeting.

Charles Bailey, Jr., chairman, said the authority would welcome residents' input and in fact was eager to receive this information, but they would appreciate the residents' mailing their remarks to the authority before the March 23 deadline. The address is: Charles Bailey, Jr. R.D. #4, Box 410, Elizabethtown, PA, 17022.

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## Angela Herr wins award



Angela Herr, a 5th grader in Mrs. Carol Gingerich's class at Riverview, has won the Reader's Club Award in

Project DARE. Angela read 18 books, gave an oral report, and completed 2 activities.

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