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Merry Christmas

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FIFTEEN CENTS

E. Donegal Twp. budget is lower than last year; taxes remain same

East Donegal's 1980 budget will be lower than 1979's. A budget of \$267,243 was adopted for 1980 at last Thursday's meeting of the Township Supervisors.

This is down from \$344,997 in 1979. The reason for the drop is that the new municipal building debt has been paid off.

Taxes will not change. The property tax still stands at 7 mills. The per capita tax is \$5, the occupational tax remains \$10, and earned income tax is still one half of

one per cent.

An ordinance was adopted, as requested by Donegal School District, to require owners of apartment complexes to report lists of their tenants four times per year.

A revised ordinance for the flood plain was adopted, allowing property owners to secure flood insurance.

A refund of \$682 was realized from workman's compensation because of fewer accidents in the township last year.

A total of \$1000 was granted to the fire company to reduce the debt on the tank truck.

Two new air packs will be purchased for fire company use. The two now in use will be repaired. One will be available for local residents, if needed, to be administered by a trained volunteer.

Twenty calls were reported by ambulance personnel for November. Fire calls amounted to seven emergency calls, with no property damage.

Marietta boro council fails to meet because only 4 members show up

Last week only three of the seven members of the Marietta Borough Council were on hand for their regular monthly meeting, which had to be postponed for lack of a quorum. Councilman Roberts, who was present wrote the following letter to the editor of the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal:

To the Editor:

This letter is to express my personal feelings about a very sad situation that presently exists in Marietta.

For two years I have been a member of borough council. My reason for seeking election to council was dissatisfaction with the way things were being handled. In my two years of service I have seen a split in council on major issues which directly affect the borough. Most of these issues were resolved in the best interests of the borough so I felt no reason to voice my opinions publicly. But what happened Dec. 11, 1979 has given me reason to

speak out.

On Dec. 11, 1979, a regularly scheduled council meeting night, the borough failed to have a quorum to conduct this meeting. (This problem has existed at committee meetings but this is the first time it has happened at a public meeting). At this meeting very important issues were scheduled for action; adoption of the borough budget for 1980, action on demolition bids for condemned property, action on a new trash collection contract and action on a request for a change in zoning of industrial land (which is very limited in the borough) to residential. These issues all directly affect the future of the borough.

I felt very sad and disappointed when I left the council chambers. To those in attendance at the meeting I apologize. If this type of action by elected officials is accepted without action by the residents of the borough then the future is quite bleak.

In the past, absenteeism at meetings caused unnecessary delay in resolving important issues. This has cost the taxpayers money because we must pay for the services of the professional people involved at meetings. This type of absenteeism has placed a negative effect on the efficiency of our government at all levels.

In closing, I would like to say that as part of my job as a councilman I listened to the feelings and complaints of the residents and after investigating those complaints I tried to take appropriate action.

Thank you for listening to my feelings and complaints and I feel certain that they will not go unheard. I ask that all of you who care to become active in your local government. If Marietta, or any other community is to prosper and grow, we need involvement by those who do care.

Jay R. Roberts
Councilman



Met Ed chief Robert Arnold

Met Ed officials meet with people; discuss T·M·I· radioactive releases

A meeting between local people and top Met Ed officials, arranged by local State Representative Ken Brandt, was held last week at the East Donegal Municipal Building in Maytown. The meeting produced both good news and bad news.

The good news includes new calculations showing that the area served by the Susquehanna Times received almost none of the radiation that escaped from TMI during the reactor accident last March. The bad news includes the possibility that several, as yet unannounced, releases of radiation into the environment may happen in the course of the clean-up operation.

WHERE THE RADIATION WENT

Maytown, Marietta and Mount Joy were almost untouched by the radioactive gasses that escaped from TMI Unit II last March. A study by a consulting firm (hired by Met Ed) indicates that radiation totaled less than half a millirem above normal background in Maytown, because the wind was blowing away from this area at the time of the accident.

North of the plant site, the total dose of radiation was generally less than 100 millirems. Total natural annual radiation for this area is 116 millirems per year. So, health physics expert Keith Woodard told the crowd, "The radiologic-

al consequences of the accident were negligible."

THE KRYPTON GAS

The krypton gas now floating inside the TMI II containment building can be released, according to Met Ed calculations, without adding more than .1 millirem to the annual background radiation level here.

Krypton gas, it was pointed out, is less dangerous than most radioactive substances, because it is not absorbed by human beings, and tends to diffuse in the air, rather than settling on objects.

Krypton gas is, however, more than twice as heavy as air, and some anti-nuclear
[continued on page 10]

Postponed meeting this Tuesday

The Marietta Council was to meet this Tuesday, December 18.

Some readers of the Susquehanna Times have suggested the newspaper publish dates of important

meetings each week, for the information of the general public, and for the information of participating officials.

Besides the re-scheduled meeting of the Marietta Council this Tuesday, the

only major governmental meeting in December will be the meeting of the Mount Joy Borough Planning Commission on Thursday, December 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mount Joy Borough Office Building.