

Throop passes \$5 million budget; no tax increase

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THROOP - In a vote that had one borough council member "thanking God for garbage," council unanimously passed a \$5 million budget with no tax increase Monday.

A \$2.2 million estimated contribution from Keystone Sanitary Landfill has allowed spending to increase without burdening taxpayers, said council President Thomas Lukasewicz.

"In 16 years, we've almost tripled our budget," he said.

The borough receives \$2 per ton of all solid waste dumped at the landfill, and free waste disposal, among other fees.

The property tax rate, which remains at 5 mills, will bring in about \$133,000 in 2010, according to the budget. A mill is a \$1 tax for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

Council also opened bids for the restoration of sidewalks and curbing on George Street.

Tobyhanna-based S&K Construction submitted the lowest of nine bids at \$841,150.

Bids ranged to \$1.2 million. They will be forwarded to the borough engineer, solicitor and street commissioner for review. The project will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

Barbara Forslund of Advanced GeoServices, who reported on the Marjol battery site, told council contaminated sediment from the site's stormwater system will be placed in the containment cap if weather permits.

Crews are currently removing water from the basin, she said.

"I'm hoping that we can get them out," she said. "If it stays dry, we've got a better chance."

High volume air monitoring will continue on the site, which will be guarded during daylight hours until work resumes.

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