

# Some residents in Amity to abandon wells

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By Denise Larive, News Writer

The Amity Township Board of Supervisors approved the Monocacy PCE Ordinance that will connect 24 properties along Monocacy Creek Road and Thalia Lane to public water lines during a meeting on May 5.

Township Solicitor Brian F. Boland said the sewer laterals and water connections will be provided by the state Department of Environmental Protection which will also disconnect the properties' private wells.

The DEP informed the township last September that 19 of the area's wells are contaminated with the dry cleaning chemical Tetrachloroethylene (Perchloroethylene).

Water drawn from those wells is exposing the chemical to oxygen, which makes it more toxic and also causes the contamination plume to expand to nearby wells.

Boland said the DEP has confirmed that connecting the 24 properties would protect everyone in the area from the chemical contaminant.

Supervisor Kimberly J. McGrath voted against adopting the ordinance.

"I don't want to make anyone hook-up that has a good well," said McGrath.

Lyon said nine property owners have not complied with the township's Sewer Management Ordinance (per the state's Sewage Facilities Act) that requires private septic systems to be pumped and inspected every three years.

Last June the board determined that Keith and Heather Dixon, Douglassville, had violated the township ordinance by not allowing an inspection of their septic system in February 2008.

Boland said the Dixons' appeal to the county Court of Common Pleas has not yet been heard because of a lawsuit the Dixons have since filed against the court's Prothonotary Office. The Dixons had sought for that office to enter a default judgment against the township.

Boland said that lawsuit hasn't been decided yet and he would inquire of its status.

Lyon said the septic system inspection violations pose a health risk to

Lyon said the septic system inspection violations pose a health risk to township residents; the inspections would detect systems that aren't working properly or have already failed.

In other business:

- Amity Township Police Chief Kent A. Shuebrook said the double homicide at the Hillside Motel, Route 422 West, Douglassville, on April 27, is closed except for some final forensic work.

"There is no doubt that Christopher Deiter was the shooter but we still don't have a motive," said Shuebrook of the man who fired the fatal single shots at Carolyn Levan, age 60, and Charlene Levan, age 57. Deiter eventually took his own life.

"My officers did a phenomenal job on their first response and none of them ever participated in a homicide," said Shuebrook.

He said the last homicide in Amity Township was in 1976.

- The board of supervisors appointed Alistair Howell-Clarke, Exeter, as its new public works foreman, effective May 10. His full-time annual salary will be \$50,000.

In his new position, Howell-Clarke will be a liaison between Township Manager Charles E. Lyon and the parks and public works departments.

He brings more than 20 years experience in home building construction, utility and infrastructure work and most recently worked for Forino Development, Sinking Spring.

Scott Stepp was not at the board's May 5 meeting.