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by Bob Niedbala, Staff Writer niedbala@observer-reporter.com

Franklin Township again opens bids on gas leasing

WAYNESBURG — Franklin Township supervisors opened bids Monday for the second time to lease the natural gas rights under the former township dump.

The supervisors had solicited bids for the lease for gas under the 20.153 acres of land off Wayne Road, just north of Waynesburg, in April but then rejected the two bids because they were considered too low.

The same two companies again submitted proposals for the lease. Tanglewood Exploration proposed a three-year lease with a \$2,000 per acre bonus and a 20 percent royalty on the gas. Alpha Natural Resources submitted a proposal that would pay a \$5,000 per acre lease bonus and a 20 percent royalty.

In April, Tanglewood proposed a three-year lease, offering \$1,000 an acre and a 20 percent royalty; and Alpha proposed a five-year lease offering \$2,750 an acre and a 15 percent royalty.

Supervisor Reed Kiger said the new proposals would be reviewed before a lease is awarded.

In other business, the supervisors agreed to advertise for bids for residential refuse collection. The township will again jointly bid the contract with Waynesburg Borough. Veolia now has the contract for residential collection in both the township and the borough under a five-year contract that expires Dec. 31.

The supervisors announced they would be meeting at 8 a.m. Thursday to prepare the township's annual budget. A tentative budget is expected to be considered at the supervisors' next meeting, which will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29.

The supervisors accepted the resignation of Scott Stephenson from the township planning commission. Kiger reported he has contacted several people to see if they are interested in serving on the commission but so far he has received no responses.