

Daleville Town Council

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Sets Fire Protection Fee

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DALEVILLE — The town council decided Monday night to pay the township a flat annual fee of \$12,000 for fire protection for the town.

Salem Township Trustee Ellen Nixon told the council that the decreased 1990 tax rate for Daleville caused the fire protection contract fee to drop from \$11,000 to \$9,906.27.

This year's tax rate of \$2.1134 was nearly 12 cents lower than last year's. In past years, the volunteer fire department has based the town's fee for fire protection on the town's assessed valuation.

Nixon said gasoline prices had risen along with insurance coverage for the volunteer firefighters. In addition, she said, the state had mandated that the volunteer firemen receive instruction on how to handle hazardous materials.

"But, they don't mandate where we're going to get the money," Nixon said.

Council member David Shellabarger said he thought the council should check with the State Board of Tax Commissioners before approving the flat annual fee.

The council voted 3-1 — with Shellabarger dissenting — to pay Nixon the \$12,000 over a 2-year period if it was determined the council was not in violation of any

state tax laws.

In other matters, the council learned from Postmaster Sherry Murphy that the town's post office lobby had been closing at 5 p.m. because of recent vandalism. The lobby had previously been open 24 hours a day.

Murphy said vandals had kicked in the ceiling of the lobby as well as dumped trash and torn down posters.

"I had to take some kind of action to stop this from happening," Murphy said. "Unfortunately, it's the residents of Daleville that have to pay for it."

The postmaster said the next thing the vandals might have done was to break into the post office boxes or vending machines.

"It's just a first step to something serious," she said.

After reaching an agreement with Town Marshal James Orr, Murphy said the lobby would remain open until 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday on a temporary basis. She said the marshal or one of his deputies would lock the door at that time.

Murphy said she planned to check into the cost of installing timed locks on the door to eliminate the problems.

The council also voted to install two no-parking signs and paint the curbside yellow in front of the mail drop box at the post office.