

McAdoo to honor other communities' junk car laws

By **JIM DINO**

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It won't cost a municipality anything if it enters into a cooperative agreement regarding abandoned autos.

Dan Guydish, executive director of the Mountain Council of Governments (M-COG), said that so far, only one municipality – McAdoo – has stated it will adopt the agreement to honor other municipalities' junk car ordinances.

"There are others looking at it," Guydish said last week. "There are other little idiosyncrasies we would have to work out, like how to tag the autos so that all municipalities had the same information. But the key is to see

how many want to participate."

Guydish has created an agreement in which the owners of junk cars cannot dodge the law by moving an unlicensed or unregistered vehicle from one municipality to the other.

Guydish researched state law and drafted an agreement that would be used for municipalities to cooperate with each other to force the autos off public streets.

If a vehicle is tagged in, for instance, Hazleton, the owner gets 10 days to remove it. By moving it to West Hazleton, the owner would not get a new 10 days to remove it. Once the original 10 days were up, the municipality the vehicle is in can

get it towed.

Guydish said with any money left over, he would like to get insurance for the program.

See **M-COG**, page 26

M-COG

(Continued from page 17)

Even if the municipality didn't make any money from removing vehicles, Guydish pointed out another value to the program – getting the autos off the streets.

He pointed out that the agreement is not an ordinance. Each municipality would have to decide how to change its own ordinance – such as to expand the policy to private property. Adopting the policy

would serve the purpose of getting the autos off the streets.

Guydish is also waiting for specifications for entrance welcome signs for some communities. M-COG has commissioned the signs through a state grant.

He is also waiting to see how many municipalities want to participate in a program to provide building code inspectors to municipalities.

Next year, the grace period to use untrained inspectors will end and municipalities will either have to have their inspectors get the training or hire inspectors who are. The M-COG has been trying to set up a central program that would provide trained inspectors to local municipalities.

Guydish also asked members if they were interested in a joint program to purchase a pothole patch-

er, which was suggested by one member. The M-COG is purchasing a sewer camera for joint use by member municipalities. Guydish said he was about to send in the application for a grant for the camera.

"I got a preliminary price of \$20,000 to \$30,000 for a unit that will hold two tons of asphalt," Guydish said.

At the suggestion of another

member, Guydish will arrange to have a representative of a firm that sells the equipment in to speak to the M-COG.

The M-COG also approved a contract with Cargill Salt for road salt at \$39.65 a ton. The only other bid was from International Salt, \$59.69 per ton. The M-COG did not receive any bids for road anti-skid after advertising for both substances.