

Murrysville Star

Park could not appear on ballot

Tom McGee
Staff Writer

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Murrysville voters may have a chance to vote on the sale of Pleasant Valley Park, but it won't be on the regular ballot in either the May primary election or the November general election.

After consulting the Westmoreland County Election Bureau, solicitor George Kotjarapoglus said it was unlikely the issue would appear on the standard ballot.

"The county election board's position is that they will not put it on the ballot without a state mandate," Kotjarapoglus said.

Kotjarapoglus said in order for the county to put a referendum on the ballot, there would have to be a mandate within the municipality's charter to require it.

"Council's desire to have the referendum has no mandate," he said.

The next step would be to ask the county elections board to have a separate paper ballot on the sale of the park.

Municipal officials would have to print paper ballots to distribute at polling places and then collect and count the votes themselves. Poll workers would oversee the voting and distribute the ballots at the polling places.

Kotjarapoglus said election officials were open to allowing the paper ballots at polling places.

"If it's a valid point, it's a courtesy that they'll allow it," Kotjarapoglus said.

In November, the issue of selling Pleasant Valley Park was again discussed by council. To see how the majority of residents felt, Councilman Robert Brooks suggested putting the issue on a referendum.

Council members expressed concerns over the cost of printing the paper ballots and how the votes would be counted. They agreed to table the discussion until the municipal strategic planning meeting on Saturday, Feb. 3.