

# Manufacturer blamed in Dover pool delay

By JIM CULLISON

The delay in opening Dover's new municipal pool was blamed on the pool manufacturer during an updating session by city officials Monday night.

All phases of construction were satisfactory except those involving the performance of the pool manufacturer, Chester Products Inc. of Hamilton, Councilman Richard Reifert, parks committee chairman, reported. The parks committee, mayor, service director and city engineer attended the session.

The pool was to have opened in June, but continual delays in the delivery of materials provided by Chester forced the opening back several times until Reifert announced early in August the pool would not open this year.

Council appropriated \$220,000 in December, but bids on the various construction phases exceeded that sum by about \$50,000 when opened in February, causing a delay in the awarding of contracts until the additional funds were allocated.

**EXCAVATION** of the site began March 30 and construction of the filter house and bathhouse proceeded on schedule.

Gundy Construction of New Philadelphia is the general contractor, and Johnson Electric of New Philadelphia and Plumbing Contractors and Supply of Dover are the other prime contractors.

The first pool parts did not arrive until July 2 and the last did not arrive until Aug. 31. Engineer Donald Dummermuth noted the late arrival of final items, sleeves for the base of the diving boards,

delayed completion of the deck by Gundy.

The Times-Reporter attempted to contact Roger Ach, Chester Products president, this morning for comment, but he reportedly was away from the office and will not return until Friday. A company spokesman said all information concerning the pool must come from him.

Dummermuth said no payments will be made to Chester Products until the pool is approved by the state health department, although various Chester officials have contacted him concerning payment. The price is \$87,965.

**THE WORK REMAINING** is painting of the pool and bathhouse, grading the access road and parking lot and seeding.

Dummermuth said the pool paint has a five-year guarantee from the time the pool opens, and city officials agreed the pool should be painted as soon as possible, rather than wait until spring and face more delays.

Service Director Arthur Hanni said the road and parking lot work can be done this year by city crews when time and weather permit, and the city will also take care of seeding. Dummermuth recommended the interior bathhouse painting be done by professional painters rather than city workers because of the difficulty in working with the epoxy-type paint required.

The engineer said total contracts to date amount to \$238,944, and the contracts added to city payroll and material expenses for such work as laying sewer and electric lines total \$250,079.

Reifert noted there has been good cooperation among city offices and contractors, except Chester Products, who he said had treated the city "shabbily" and not fulfilled its promises.