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## Dunne Will Seek Freeholder Post

Fanwood Councilman Donald C. Dunne will seek the Union County Republican Organization's endorsement to be a candidate for the Board of Chosen Freeholders this year. If he is successful before the screening committee he would be a candidate in the Republican primary election later this Spring.

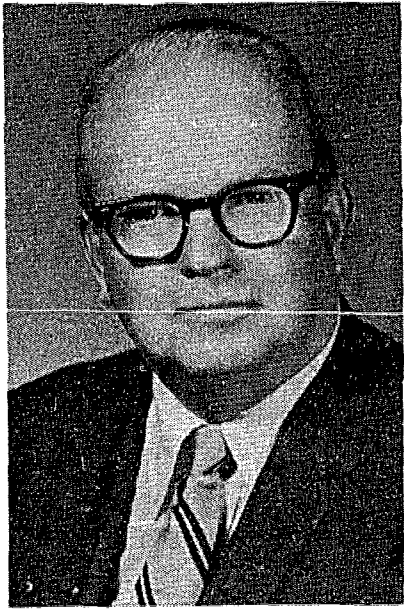
Mr. Dunne, a member of the governing body here since 1962, will not seek re-election to the council this year.

He announced his decision in a statement released today.

Councilman Dunne, chairman of the Borough's Public Works Committee, has a long record of service to Fanwood. He was founder and first chairman pro tem of the Association of Good Schools, a vice president of the Fanwood Recreation Association, and a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Education. He is currently a member of Kiwanis International and the Fanwood Republican Club.

Councilman Dunne is a alumnus of Lafayette College and is a sales representative with Pre-cast Products Co. of Union, N.J. He is married to the former Helena Montell and resides at 147 Belvidere Ave., Fanwood. He is 59.

"I seek to draw upon my local government experience to serve



DONALD C. DUNNE

the people of Union County faithfully, tirelessly and to the full extent of my ability," Dunne said.

## Committee Impounds Dog

Forty residents of Cook Avenue and surrounding streets attended the February 20 Township Committee demanding action on a dog who had bitten a 13 year old Scotch Plains girl on her way to school on February 14. The girl, Donna Seda of Harding Avenue, was passing 333 Cook Avenue, when a German Shepherd owned by the Chmelowski family became loose from its owner and bit the girl severely in the face, nose, and chin, necessitating her hospitalization for five days.

The group submitted a petition asking the township to remove the dog, which they termed as vicious, until a Municipal Hearing on a charge of harboring a vicious dog came up on March 6.

The Township Committee members said that legally they could not remove the dog from the premises, since state statute provides that an animal who has bitten be impounded on its owners' premises. Such an animal cannot be removed until it is legally proven that he is vicious.

The 40-member group said they would not leave Municipal Hall until some action was taken. They said that the dog posed a serious threat to some thirty children on the street, and also to children passing on the way to the YMCA and four area schools.

Committeeman Albert W. Theurer then telephoned the owners of the dog, who agreed to allow the township to impound the dog out of town until the hearing, which will be moved up.

The residents claimed that local police department was remiss in not terming the dog vicious immediately after the attack, and claimed that if the dog bit another person they would file charges against the township.

After receiving news of the arrangements for impounding the dog, a representative from the group said that they were concerned about the size of the pen in which it was confined. They asked the Township Committee to undertake an investigation of penning arrangements for large dogs throughout the community, and to institute legal specifications for sizes and types of dog enclosures.

## Proposes Blue Ribbon Budget Review Panel

Mauro Checchio, former mayor of Scotch Plains, this week proposed a "blue ribbon" committee of respected citizens to study the school budget which was defeated twice during February. Checchio said he felt there was a real need for voters to hear an opinion from people of prominence, either in fields of finance, education, or trusted figures in both communities on whether the budget is sensible, and what amount the voters must decide to pay to have a quality school system. He suggested that

## Budgets, Discrimination, Dogs, Liven Township Committee Meeting

### Minister Urges Consideration of Charges

Kelmo Porter, pastor of Saint John's Baptist Church, asked the Township Committee of Scotch Plains to look into alleged discrimination at SPFHS and to take an interest in Negro problems in Scotch Plains. Porter is meeting with Scotch Plains Negroes to draw up a list of grievances which they plan to present in a meeting with Dr. Perry Tyson, principal of SPFHS, next week. The meeting followed a sit-in by about 50 Negro high school students last week, protesting the failure of a Negro girl to be selected in final tryouts for the high school honor guard. The Negro students and some Negro parents met with Tyson to discuss the honor guard incident and several other areas in which they charged there was discrimination in the school. The Negroes have formed a representative committee of about 15, both students and parents, to discuss the allegations.

Porter, during the Township Committee, observed a group of approximately 40 white residents who were protesting the presence of a dog in their neighborhood who had bitten a teenager. The residents' protest resulted in impounding of the dog, outside the township until a formal hearing concerning its viciousness. Commenting on the action achieved by the neighborhood protesters, Porter said:

"There is another kind of dog biting in the community - not at faces, but at hearts, minds, and fabric of children." He said that

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committee members be impartial, and not be selected from among the ranks of those who had campaigned strongly for one aspect or the other of the budget.

Checchio said the one major danger in a situation wherein two budgets are voted down is that of a credibility gap between the townspeople and the Board of Education, Board President Earl Chamberlain warned of the same situation last week, calling it a feeling of alienation. The ex-Mayor said that defeats can become a habit, citing the situation during his term of office. He feels that a really penetrating study by such a committee would reassure voters as to what is necessary. He said two other ex-Mayors, Johnson and LaCombe concurred with his thinking, and would be willing to serve on such a committee.

### School Budget to Township and Borough Bodies

The school budget of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education is now under consideration by the Township Committee of Scotch Plains and the Borough Council of Fanwood. Customarily, a budget which has been defeated by voters twice, is submitted to the local governing body, which has ten days in which to offer a figure which they deem reasonable for school operation. The budget was defeated for the second time on February 20, by a 2-1/2 to 1 vote, with 28 percent of registered voters at the polls. The initial budget was defeated on February 6, by a 3-1 vote with 32 percent turnout.

If the governing bodies of Fanwood and Scotch Plains are unable to get together on a figure within the ten day limit, the budget is submitted to the

State Commissioner of Education for consideration. If the bodies do reach agreement, and the figure they set is unacceptable to the local Board of Education for operation of the school, it may also be submitted to the Commissioner in an appeal action.

Total vote in the February 20 election was 4033, of a total voter registration of about 1400 in both communities. For the current expense portion of the budget, 2869 negative votes and 1164 positive votes were cast. Under capital outlay, the vote was 2774 against, 1247 for. Out of sixteen election districts, only district 9 in Scotch Plains approved the proposed budget, as was the case in the initial election. Tally in that district showed 176 for current expense, 162 against and 185 for capital outlay, 154 against.

Newly elected President of the Board of Education, Earl M. Chamberlain said of the second defeat:

"The Board is certainly well aware of the view of the electorate after two defeats of the budget, but more important is the feeling of alienation between the Board and the townspeople. Certainly one of our most important efforts this year will be to effect a rapprochement between the Board and the townspeople.

On the other hand this cannot be a unilateral approach. The townspeople will have to realize that when the Board gives figures and justifications for the budget these cannot be immediately suspect while voters' figures and justifications are always right. The Board still feels that, in view of the legislated increases as well as loss in state revenues due to regionalization and the rights of teachers to consider in salary matters, that this was a good budget".

"If we can't really reach a meeting of minds which reduces alienation between board and townspeople it in the long run may have grave implications in years to come."

The rejection of the budget occurred on the same night that the Township Committee of Scotch Plains held a hearing on the 1968 municipal budget. Several residents offered opinions to the Township Committee concerning their consideration of the school budget.

Virginia Dekle of 1 Balmoral Lane, asked the Committee to look over a comparative study of school expenditures in Union County, and also asked for an

### SRO at Town Budget Hearing

The Scotch Plains Municipal Budget of \$2,671,275 was approved by a vote of 4-1 on Tuesday, February 20. After considerable question by a standing-room only crowd of approximately 80, the vote was taken, with Mrs. Edith Powers, lone Democrat on the Township Committee, voting against it.

After hearing considerable criticism of tax rates in the community, Mayor Santo Salvo said that the passing of the budget did not mean that the total would necessarily be spent. The budget provides for eventualities, he said, and he promised a close watch on expenditures by the Township Committee. He cited several items in fixed cost increases and in non-recurring expenses which caused the \$364,528 increase.

Among fixed cost increases were \$35,450 for employee group insurance, workman's compensation, added insurance, utilities, fire hydrants, street lighting, and sewer system charges. He said postal increases would cost the Township \$20,000. An added \$38,000 in non-recurring charges includes an aerial survey for proposed drainage improvements, a new generator in the municipal building, a new traffic light at Westfield Road and Westfield Avenue, and electrically operated doors for the fire department.

His announcement of \$20,000 budgeted for one general cleanup,

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