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VOLUME

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To ip Committee Studies Potential Heliport Sites

Some time ago, D'Annunzio Brothers on Plainfield Avenue first applied for a private heli-stop license to permit rented helicopter landings and takeoffs for the construction firm employees' transportation needs. The application, still not granted by the state, occasioned a wild flurry of community reaction, both from the governing body, which cleaned up the zoning ordinances to specifically restrict heliports and/or heli-stops, and from private citizens who have gathered petitions and signatures in opposition to such a proposal.

In addition, the Scotch Plains Township Committee assigned to the Planning Board the task of studying the desirability and/or feasibility of a heliport within the limits of Scotch Plains, and to recommend appropriate locations if that body should favor such a concept.

The Planning Board named a subcommittee to make the study, their recommendations have been received, and Scotch Plains residents are invited to hear the ideas of the Planning Board and to register their reactions at a public hearing on Tuesday, February 8 at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Chambers.

While the Township Committee did receive a resolution from the Planning Board detailing two possible recommended sites for such a municipal facility, the resolution did not include any specific statement of position either for or against the concept of a municipal heliport. If such a heliport were to be established in Scotch Plains, however, it is the view of the Planning Board that it should be on one of two sites -- both of them "off the beaten track," and distant from heavily developed residential districts.

The Board recommends: Lot 12 D, Block 312, or Lot 12, Block 312, both along the forthcoming new extension of Martin Avenue out in the south side of Scotch Plains.

Martine Avenue will soon be extended beyond its present end at Raritan Road, Sleepy Hollow Inn, and will continue to a joining to Lake Avenue. One recommended heliport site would be on the right side of the new extension, behind Union County Technical Institute area. The second would be on the left side of the new extension, closer to the Lake Avenue joining. The flight pattern for both possible heliport sites would be over Askbrook Swamp, an unpopulated area.

It was emphasized by the Township Committee that next Tuesday's public hearing is not a delayed version of the public hearings originally scheduled by the New Jersey Department of Aeronautics in January. Instead, this hearing is a local meeting. The state hearing was postponed, according to Mayor Albert Theurer, upon the request of the Township Committee for an extension, which was needed to permit the Planning Board the time to investigate possible sites. A later date will be announced for the state meeting.

Theurer noted that D'Annunzio had made application for a heli-stop -- which is simply a spot for landings and takeoffs, possibly parking lots, rooftops, etc. A heliport, on the other hand, is intended strictly for heliport service.

The state Aeronautics Divis-

ion encourages municipal heliports, citing their value for emergency and/or disaster purposes.

In other action, the Committee accepted a Planning Board recommendation, and authorized seeking of state assistance grant for Continuing Planning Program, otherwise known as the 50-40 plan. It would pay part of the cost of a consultant who would render technical advice and assistance in connection with planning activities in the municipality paying 50 percent of the consultant's fee the first year, 40 percent the second, and 30 percent the third. The Planning Board would utilize the consultant for subdivision, mapping, planning streets and roadways, etc.

David Feinberg was named Planning Board Attorney on a unanimous vote.

The Committee received a petition from residents of King Street and adjoining streets objecting to speeding. The petition stated that children from Oak Court, Tanglewood Lane, Ramapo Way, etc, must now use King Street under new school assignments, and they requested an attempt to reduce speed and traffic volume there, as well as sidewalks. The matter was referred to the Police Chief and the Safety Committee.

William Hicks of Waverly Place complained of conditions in the Waverly Place-Jerusalem Road area, stating that paving, cleanup, etc. is neglected in this part of Scotch Plains. Committeeman Alan Augustine said he had inspected a township lot at the corner, found it dirty, and sent the Public Works department to clean it up the next day. Augustine noted that it is difficult to control dumping in township-owned lots and elsewhere, and asked that citizens watch such locations and report dumping incidents. In response to Hicks' question as to whether a racial discrimination question might arise regarding care of streets in the Shady Rest area, Committeeman William Kitz pointed out that there unimproved streets throughout all sections of Scotch Plains.

The complaints of residents in the Flanders Avenue area over dirt and what they claim are undesirable conditions at Verdic's Nursery at Flanders and Second Street are still being investigated by the attorney, residents were told.

Mayor Theurer announced in his inaugural address that vandalism will be of particular concern this year. On Tuesday night, he announced he would welcome any and all suggestions from residents regarding possible remedies. Vandalism is costing far too much and is a waste of money, Theurer concluded.

Britton, Ferguson, Siff, Reilly, Victors In School Elections

Britton Was The Big Vote Getter With 1230 Ballots

Incumbent Board of Education member Peter Britton Jr. retains his seat, former board member Charles Ferguson returns for a third three year term, and newcomer Walter Siff joins the board for a single-year seat, following Board of Education elections last Tuesday. These three represent Scotch Plains. In Fanwood, current Board President Owen P. Lynch bowed to Mrs. Leonia Reilly, who defeated both Lynch and another challenger, John Philips.

The Scotch Plains race featured an unusually broad number of entries for three seats. Two three-year terms, now held by Britton and by Mrs. Muriel Ramsden who did not seek reelection, and a single year remaining in the term of former member John Evans, were at issue. In contention were eight candidates.

Britton was the hands-down strongest vote-getter, with a total of 1230 votes. Ferguson edged out Frederick Eyer, who has held a single-year seat in Evans' original term, by a total of 981 to 956. Eyer ran on a

Mrs. Reilly had a healthy victory total of 498, in contrast to Lynch's 369 and Philips' 197. She took all four of Fanwood's election districts.

The elections represent a victory for the Joint Civic Committee, which backed Britton and Koleszar, and for the Committee for Better Education, which endorsed the three Scotch Plains victors.

The total board now includes, from Scotch Plains: Sheldon Anderson, Peter Britton, Charles Ferguson, Meyer Freiman, John McCormick, and Walter Siff. Fanwood members include Richard Bard, Joseph Parry, and Mrs. Reilly.

Although at one time the Board was distinctly split into two factions, of late there have been indications of a variety of opinion in some areas, rather than an obvious factional composition. In the majority of instances in the past, Mr. Britton and Ferguson were aligned in voting with Mrs. Ramsden and Mr. Anderson.

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slate with John T. Mielach, seeking a three-year term, and with Jerome McDevitt, seeking a single year, with both running mates also facing defeat. Mielach garnered 781 votes, and George T. Larkin received 631.

In the one-year seat race, Siff tallied 825, followed by McDevitt at 780, and Koleszar at 652.

Tennis, Anyone? But Where?

The crowded conditions which currently exist on tennis courts through out the area will apparently continue, at least for the present, since voters on Tuesday negated the possibility of eight new courts on the grounds of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Under a separate public question on the school election ballot, residents were asked to authorize \$40,000 as the Board of Education's contribution toward a tennis court construction program which would total \$80,000. Scotch Plains Recreation Commission would have paid the other half of the total.

The measure was defeated in Scotch Plains by a margin of approximately 2 to 1, or 1440 to 780. A far stronger majority of Fanwood residents defeated the tennis proposal. There, the vote was approximately 5 to 1 in opposition -- or 875 to 173. The strong negative reaction in Fanwood may have been occasioned by the fact that the new courts were to be used only by those Fanwood residents who are high school students. Because Fanwood did not enter into the construction proposal, it had been anticipated that use of the eight courts, proposed to be built for \$80,000, would be shared by the high school tennis teams, physical education programs, etc. and on weekends and in the

Public Hearing On Heliport Next Tuesday

The Scotch Plains Township Committee will hold a public hearing next Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. in the council chambers in order to acquaint citizens with Planning Board suggestions on a municipal heliport.

The meeting will be strictly informational, not legislative, and will be held to provide citizens with a familiarity with Planning Board suggested sites, and with an opportunity to ask questions.

Voters OK School Budget

A total of 3620 residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood went to the polls on Tuesday, to approve a 1972-73 school budget of \$10,852,352. The budget, which represented about a six percent increase, the smallest in many years, was also the first budget to be approved in four years. The current expense portion was carried by a vote of 1777 to 1448, while capital outlay passed by 1766 to 1464. Approximately 24 percent of the total of 15,000 registered voters in Scotch Plains and Fanwood went to the polls.

A distinct voting pattern emerges among Scotch Plains' 20 voting districts -- in general pointing to a negative reaction in most north side districts, and a positive vote on the south side. The totals in Scotch Plains for current expense were: 1193 yes, 992 no; and for capital outlay, 1195 yes, 989 no. The budget was defeated by a majority of voters in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, all on the north side, and in District 12. The remaining districts carried the budget, with a particularly heavy turnout in District 19.

The budget had a majority of supporters in four of Fanwood's five districts, with a borough total of 584 in favor of current expense, 456 opposed. In capital outlay, 571 were in favor, 475 opposed. Only district 22 defeated the budget, by a very small majority.

Boy Scouts will join the Committee in running the next Committee meeting, Theurer announced.

Last month, the Committee publicly commended several members of the police department for outstanding work in apprehension of burglars. By accident, the commendation list did not include Lt. Michael Rossi, who manned the desk during the occasion. His efforts were cited Tuesday night.

summers by Scotch Plains residents.

The tennis question was a late-comer to the ballot, having been approved at the January meeting of the Board of Education for inclusion in the election. Informational literature circulated before the election cited the fact that the public courts are now required to absorb the burden of tennis practice for school teams, depriving the burgeoning number of tennis enthusiasts among the public from using the courts for many hours each week.

Total vote on the tennis issue was 2315 to 953.

Listening Post

The regular monthly Listening Post session conducted by Scotch Plains Committeemen Alan Augustine, Walter Grote and B. Lawrence Newcomb has been set for Saturday, from 10 to 12 noon. The sessions have been planned by the two committeemen in order to provide for Scotch Plains residents an opportunity to present their views, seek information, and inform themselves on questions of concern. The public is invited to the informal meeting, which is held on the first Saturday morning of each month in the Committee Chambers, Municipal Building, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.