

THE TIMES

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Trumpp Announces Fanwood Business Area Litter Patrol

Hopefully, the appearance of the Fanwood business district will improve, with the introduction of a new form of municipal "clean up" announced by Mayor Theodore Trumpp last Wednesday. "Litter patrol" is the name of the program. It will involve a weekly tour of the public areas of the borough by the Fanwood Public Works Department members, performing their tasks in a truck well-marked and easily identified as the "litter patrol" vehicle. Trumpp said he hopes the sign on the truck will serve as a reminder to Fanwood citizens to keep their borough clean.

Trumpp's action came as a result of comments from two sources regarding conditions in the center of the community. One was the newly appointed Mayor's Environmental Action Committee. The three-man committee, including Chairman William Kluckas, Miss Barbara Adams, and Dr. Anthony Sartor, toured the borough finding examples of what they termed "environmental blight that plagues the Fanwood business district." If the borough is to attract desirable commercial enterprises, improvements in the appearance of the center will have to be made in the opinion of the committee. They forwarded photographs of business properties. Of the six photographs submitted to Trumpp, only one illustrated a positive and recommended approach to "housekeeping." This was a photograph showing wooden trash collection bins at Bob's Scotchwood Pharmacy, which the environmentalists termed an example of a "responsible and inexpensive approach to the problem." The other five showed blowing papers, litter, torn boxes, old pipes, etc.

Trumpp said that coinci-

dentally, within the same week, a former resident returning for a visit had commented on the littered appearance of the center of Fanwood. He plans to institute corrective measures to the fullest extent possible, and feels that the proposed Property Maintenance Code should make the litter problems obsolete.

Although not in existence at the present time, a Property Maintenance Code is being studied and formulated by the Fanwood Planning Board. It would cover private and public property. The Mayor hopes the Code will be moved along quickly by the Planning Board, and noted that once such a code were released to the Council, action could be swift.

Trumpp said that the "litter patrol" technically can only clean up public areas within the community. Therefore, the patrol's effectiveness has limits, the mayor noted. However, any action which can make people more conscious of tossing beer cans onto the streets, papers into parking lots, and wrappings on lawns will be a help.

Committee Continues Fight On Heliport

Township Committee meetings or heliport meetings? They're becoming an almost interchangeable term, as whirly birds and their potential landing sites continued to dominate another session of the Scotch Plains governing body last Tuesday.

Once again - the question facing the Township Committee basically is: whether to establish a municipal heliport, which nobody in the township really wants, in order to avoid the granting of a license for a private heliport, and possibly many other private heliports in the future . . . or whether to stand pat and establish no municipal facility, hoping that if a license is granted by the state for a private heliport in Scotch Plains, in direct conflict with a specific prohibition in the zoning laws, the township might come out on top in any legal action it might have to take to close down such a facility.

On Tuesday, Mayor Albert Theurer once more reiterated the township position for questioning citizens. In August, Joseph D'Annunzio of D'Annunzio Brothers Construction Company on Plainfield Avenue bypassed the township, and went directly to the state, seeking a license to permit helicopter takeoffs and landings at his place of business. The application is still pending. Extensive opposition, since August, has been registered by officials and citizens.

However, Theurer noted that the Township has been unofficially informed by the N.J. Aero-

nautics Division that if a municipal heliport were established here, private licenses wouldn't be issued. If no municipal facility is established, there is a strong hint that the D'Annunzio application will be granted, as well as many other possible future applications.

State licensing laws show a contradiction between regulations governing airport licenses and heliport licenses. Airport licenses require the involvement and permission, by variance, of the affected municipality. Heliports do not. The ruckus in Scotch Plains for many months has led Assemblyman Arthur Manner to attempt to correct this situation. Manner has introduced Assembly Bill #456, which would require a certificate from the appropriate municipal or county authorities that the proposed facility is not contrary to provisions of existing zoning ordinances or other local laws when an applicant has applied for a license for a heliport or heliport. Applicant would have to comply with local law before the Division of Aeronautics would grant him a license for said heliport or heliport. Consequently, faced with a di-

Township Introduces \$3,440,950 Budget - Public Hearing Set For Mar. 21

Residents Ask Reconsideration Of Elementary School Site

Conceding that they were a little beyond the state deadline for budget submission, the Scotch Plains Township Committee introduced the 1972 municipal budget of \$3,440,959 on Tuesday. The budget is up \$42,752 over the 1971 budget of \$3,398,207, representing an increase of two tax points to cover the municipal portion of the total taxes collected. This figure does not take into consideration the additional increase to cover school budget. A public hearing on the budget is slated for March 21.

The budget delay was caused by the illness of the treasurer during the height of the preparation season.

The \$3,440,959 budget, minus the anticipated revenues of \$2,120,000 (down \$33,965 from 1971) results in \$1,320,959 to be raised by taxation.

The increase in the total appropriation cannot be traced to any one or two major areas of the budget. Ups and downs from last year are scattered about evenly among the budget pages. Salaries and wages, in the many departments of local government, showed increases. According to Committeeman William Kitz, the raises will range from zero to 5.5 percent.

Police department salaries and wages account jumps from \$470,900 in 1971 to \$531,100 in 1972, while "traffic control, other" shows a decrease from \$24,100 last year to \$10,250 for 1972. In contrast, salaries and wages for sanitation dip from \$17,000 last year to \$10,000 this year,

while the "other" account under that heading shows a raise from \$100,700 to \$122,200. Recreation salaries and wages are up from last year's \$66,600 to \$71,850.

In the area of "buildings and grounds," salaries and wages go up, from \$14,900 to \$16,310, while the "other" account dips from \$42,650 to \$24,700.

In the anticipated revenues, the trust surplus drops from \$175,000 to \$100,000, while gross receipts taxes shows a raise, from \$200,000 to \$215,000. Interest on investments is down, from \$275,497 in 1971 to \$257,615, but franchise taxes are up, from \$200,000 to \$230,000.

In other business, the Township Committee passed a resolution which raises the interest rate to 12 percent on delinquent taxes over the \$1,000 mark. Delinquent taxes below that figure will remain at the existing 8 percent

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ATTENTION Dog Owners

Dog licenses are overdue and may be obtained from the office of the Township Clerk between the hours of 9 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. The fee is \$3.50. Also, licenses may be applied for by mailing a check to this office together with a description of the dog, age, sex, length of hair, color, and name. A stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Scouts Take Over Town Meeting

Seven Boy Scouts from Scotch Plains Boy Scout troops sat in with the Scotch Plains Township Committee during their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, taking over a portion of the reins of local government, and receiving plaudits for their proficiency in reading off long and sometimes complicated resolutions. The program was carried out in observation of the forthcoming National Boy Scout Week.

In official positions on the dais were: Kirk Barrick as Mayor; Chris Brainard, Thomas Sweet, Kevin Wagner, and Cameron Benty as committeemen; J. B. Kelly as Attorney; and Joseph Kasparek as Clerk.

lemma, the Township Committee authorized the Planning Board to study possible sites for a municipal heliport. The Planning Board suggested two possible sites -- both adjoining the forthcoming extension of Martine Avenue -- and the township held a public hearing last week to discuss the matter with the citizens of Scotch Plains. Further questioning, and further opposition, were forthcoming Tuesday night.

Residents want to know, among other things, how flight patterns would be restricted to the area of Ashbrook Swamp if a municipal heliport were to be built, and how the township would prevent such a facility from growing to huge proportions, used by adjoining communities.

These and other considerations have been discussed, Theurer

MONDAY FEB. 21
IS A LEGAL HOLIDAY

OUR DEADLINE
FOR
NEWS RELEASES
WILL BE

FRIDAY FEB. 18

Pollitt Assures Citizens On Police Protection

Fanwood Councilman Van Dyke J. Pollitt said there has been some question from members of the Borough Council and the general public regarding sufficiency of equipment carried by the Fanwood police. Pollitt said the question had arisen after an armed robbery on Friday, February 4 at the A & P Market on South Avenue. Many citizens had been shopping in the store during the Friday night holdup. The holdup men fired a shot, using a 12-gauge shotgun. Nobody was injured.

In response, Pollitt noted that the matter had been discussed with Police Chief Gorsky, and it had been decided that in view of the adequacy of the Police Department, the citizens were well provided for. The Fanwood police also carry 12-gauge shotguns, but they are carried in a boot within the police cars and are not visible.

In other action, it was reported that the Plainfield Area Safety Council has requested that Sergeant Anthony Parenti, Safety Officer in Fanwood, attend the University of Pennsylvania traffic safety course.

Ralph Pettingill of 109 Russell Road complained to the Mayor and Council that, after North American Appraisal Company had placed a value upon his home, Fanwood Tax Assessor Arthur Gaylord had reviewed cards and had jumped the value \$7,000. Gaylord said this had been the case. He noted that the purchase price of the home, which

the Pettingills purchased 13 months ago, was significantly higher than the value placed by North American. Gaylord is reviewing all cards and has found some errors.

Mayor Theodore Trumpp said that of 2200 homeowners, Pettingill was only the second to complain of error. Trumpp said it is the consensus that the value is fair and correct.

The Council introduced a salary ordinance covering borough salaries. A public hearing on the ordinance is scheduled for March 8. The new proposed salaries include: tax collector \$5,500 (same as last year); tax assessor \$9,000 (\$8,500 last year); clerk (\$5,500 (\$5,475); attorney \$3,000 (same); Director of Welfare \$750 (same); Magistrate \$3,500 (same); Engineer \$5,500 (same); Inspector of Buildings \$1,800 (same); Borough Administrator \$5,500 (\$5,300); Treasurer, \$6,600 (\$5,950); Court Clerk \$2,900 (\$2,500).