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VOLUME

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J., THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1972

15 CENTS A COPY

Council's Fanwood Municipal Budget

The Fanwood municipal budget for 1972, which calls for \$11,161 less to be raised by taxation for municipal purposes than last year, was unanimously approved by the Borough Council last Wednesday. The budget totals \$1,225,628 -- up \$20,647 over 1971. Anticipated revenues are up, by \$31,708, to \$721,300.

The budget includes \$955,238 in appropriations, down \$4,146 from 1971, and \$270,400 in reserve for uncollected taxes, up \$24,792. The total to be raised from taxation is \$504,338.

The reduction in the amount to be raised in taxation was possible because the borough used \$348,800 in "windfall" monies. The "windfall" was money realized by the borough on a one-time basis a while ago, when both Scotch Plains and Fanwood converted to a calendar year rather than a fiscal year in making payments to the Board of Education. The Fanwood windfall was a total of \$877,900.

Frank Eustace of 462 La-Grande Avenue asked about the implications of a possible change in the entire tax structure of the state. Mayor Theodore Trumpp replied that if the method of collecting taxes changes, then "the whole ballgame changes." A municipality under present patterns which are fairly consistent, can defer some expenditures, Trumpp noted, whereas if the method changed, it would put more pressure on to get things started.

Eustace questioned the size of the reserve for uncollected taxes. He said that if it weren't for the possibility of the entire tax structure changing, he would seriously question the percentage being set aside for uncollected taxes.

The budget includes \$2,000 for a study of municipal facilities, which Trumpp said will include a study of Borough Hall, the library, Community House and borough garage. Also included

is \$4,000 for legal fees for defense of the borough in the police blotter suit brought against the council by Councilmen Stephen P. Ritter and John Swindlehurst, both Democrats.

Councilman Swindlehurst noted that the capital fund includes some \$114,000 to which is being appropriated an additional \$39,000. Some of the capital improvement funds may be dedicated to a new borough facility, a new vault, etc., he said, and further indicated that he would go over the list.

Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt said that the Council did discuss capital improvements, but will do so in greater detail this week. There are some monies available for a detention basin, and some for land and a building for new police facilities, Pollitt noted. Some of the funds in the capital improvement account represent projects for which money was appropriated but which didn't go through.

Eustace asked whether the borough is now committed to construction of a detention basin in Midway Circle. The proposed detention basin is one facet of a long-range flood control program planned on a step-by-step basis.

Pollitt pointed out that the money is there for the basin, and he hopes the Council will act this year to acquire the remainder of the land necessary for the basin. He further indicated that he anticipates that the present Borough Council or next year's Council would appropriate the funds for the construction of the detention basin.

Committee Votes To Accept State Flood Control Aid

Mayor Albert Theurer labeled it a "happy moment for this township," as the Township Committee voted Tuesday night to accept \$250,000 in state aid for drainage improvements in Route 22. Flooding has plagued the Scotch Plains portion of the highway as well as homeowners in streets adjacent to the route, for many years, but the township has been unable to attempt a solution without involvement on the state level for drainage required in the state road.

Last month, the Township had been notified by State Assemblyman Peter McDonough that funds would be available for the project. Theurer noted that many long years of advance work and pressure upon Trenton officials have gone into the project. Previous and present township engineers have all agreed upon the type of drainage required beneath the third lane of Route 22, in order to solve problems created by Green Brook. Township officials have been visiting Trenton for years, with reports and studies, and also with information and photographs furnished by residents of Katherine, Byrd, Mountainview, and other affected streets.

The work now anticipated by the state would be in the area between Byrd Avenue and the

Little League field, on Route 22. The township would also play a role financially in the project, with township and state engineers working together, it was reported. The storm sewerage to be installed along the east branch of Green Brook adjoining the highway will help relieve "serious, repetitive flooding conditions experienced by adjoining property owners of Scotch Plains," according to the resolution of acceptance.

Committeeman Lawrence Newcomb pointed out that it will take a while for the various advance steps such as planning, specifications, bidding, etc., and he warned enthusiastic homeowners not to expect "the bulldozers to be on the scene next week."

Township Committee Hears New Objectors To Heliport Site

Park Commission, Board Of Education, And Nursing Home Join Long List Of Objectors

New voices were heard Tuesday night in the seemingly endless list of objectors to the possibility of a heliport r helistop in Scotch Plains. The township received letters from the Union County Park Commission, the Ashbrook Nursing Home, and the Board of Education regarding the subject.

The Township Committee and many northside residents have been fighting since last July to avoid state licensing of a private helistop at D'Annunzio Brothers Construction Company on Plainfield Avenue -- a direct violation of Scotch Plains zoning laws. The application is still pending. The state Department of Aeronautics had strongly urged that the township establish a municipal heliport in lieu of private, individual helistops -- and last month, the Township Committee held a public hearing to inform the public of recommendations made by a special committee named by the Planning Board to study the possibility of a municipal heliport. The committee suggested two sites, both along the forthcoming new extension of Martine Avenue. Two of the letters received by the Committee opposed the possibility of any heliport in that area -- a view which has been registered by many other southside residents.

According to George T. Cron, General Supervisor and Secretary of the Union County Park Commission, the noise and prox-

imity of helicopters landing and taking off next to the Ashbrook Reservation would not be compatible to the nature, wildlife and conservation area. "Disturbances from helicopters would be detrimental to the natural habitat and passive environmental uses of the Ashbrook Reservation and therefore have a serious effect on the ecology of the area," Kron said, registering the Commission's opposition.

Attorneys for Ashbrook Nursing Home also registered opposition to any municipal legislation which would permit or facilitate "contamination of the area's environment by reason of shuddering noise of helicopters in low level flight, destructive effect of high decibel sound on patients convalescing from illness, and deleterious effect in efficiency of personnel." The Ashbrook body "deplores increasingly dangerous exploitation of the common heritage of all persons entitled to peace and comfort."

The Board of Education reaffirmed its objection to a "heli-stop if the location is such that flight patterns endanger school

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The Swimming Pool Ordinance

A clarification has been issued by the Board of Health in response to numerous inquiries about a recently adopted Swimming Pool Ordinance.

The ordinance puts into effect the 1970 revision of the Model State Code covering public and club-type pools. Previously the 1955 Model Code governed these pools. The 1970 Code allows for new techniques, equipment, and operation. Fees for construction, alteration and operation remain the same as heretofore.

Private residential type pools are not affected by this ordinance.

S.P. Police Nab More Holdup Men

The Scotch Plains Township Committee publicly commended five members of the Scotch Plains Police Department Tuesday, for their role in apprehending three armed holdupmen. The men were involved in a February 23 holdup at Pathmark Supermarket in Route 22, Watchung, which apprehension led to solution of a previous armed robbery at the A&P Supermarket in Fanwood. Cited for their alertness, diligence, and teamwork were Lieutenant Michael Rossi, Detective Lieutenant John Trembicki, and Patrolmen Rocco Panzio, Thomas Culp, and Herbert Erholm.

On February 23, Lt. Rossi received word of a holdup in progress at the Watchung Pathmark, and dispatched four units. Three heavily armed men were seen running from the area at the rear of the store. Patrolman Culp located footprints in snow on Andover Ave. in Plainfield, and alerted the others, who converged on the area, joined by Plainfield police.

Lt. Trembicki and Patrolman Culp subsequently located and captured one suspect hiding under a car while the other officers cooperated in the apprehension of three other suspects who had entered a home in the area. A fifth suspect was located in a car stolen from Irvington to be used as a getaway car.

Listening Post Hears 18 Residents

"The Listening Post," an informal session held once a month by Township Committeemen Augustine, Grote and Newcomb, was held Saturday and attended by eighteen residents who had a variety of complaints or concerns.

A "new phase" was added to The Listening Post this month with the attendance of Mr. Ralph DiPaolo, Supervisor of Public Properties. The Township Committeemen feel that The Listening Post is a good place for the residents to informally meet and ask questions of the Department Heads responsible for the day to day operation of the town. It is hoped to have a different department head present each month to serve this purpose.

Flooding conditions on private property on Rahway Road came in for considerable discussion when the homeowner reminded the Committeemen that the situation has existed for many months and has been investigated by the Township Engineer.

Two residents requested the status of the project to install storm sewers and pave Frank

Street. Mrs. W. Lozowski expressed hope that the commitment by the State Department of Transportation would solve the flooding problems caused by Route 22 in the near future. She also commented that much of the "flash flooding" could be alleviated if catch basins were cleared promptly during heavy rainy periods, not only by the Public Works personnel, but also by the residents in the neighborhood.

Other matters brought before the Committeemen were questions on the status of petitions for sidewalks on King Street and storm sewers on Myrtle Avenue; the status of "Clean Up Week"; road improvement on Raritan Road near Martine Avenue; speeding on Westfield Road and Morse Avenue; the Township's position on a gasoline storage tank at Park Junior High School.

One resident criticized recent snow removal operations on Birch Street and suggested an ordinance banning street parking during snow emergencies.

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