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State To 1 Center Barriers On Route 22

The center barrier between the east and westbound lanes of Route 22 will be higher soon, when the state completes a planned improvement. According to information released at Tuesday's Council meeting in Scotch Plains, the state is willing to proceed with the improvement.

The added height will be provided from the Green Brook to the Mountainside border. Work will be done at night to avoid interference with daytime traffic. There will be no cost to the municipality.

According to a report from the Police Chief, there have been fatal accidents along the highway in Scotch Plains, involving cars out of control coming across the existing barrier.

In other actions, the Council introduced an ordinance which would provide storm sewers in Hill Road. Councilman Alan Augustine abstained on the action because of personal knowledge of one of the Hill Road families. March 20 is the public hearing, and the storm sewer would involve a \$22,000 appropriation from the capital improvement.

A second ordinance, with the same public hearing date, sets a No Passing zone on Mountain Avenue.

A third new ordinance would appropriate \$4,500 for the purchase of a truck for the Recreation Commission.

Frank Terry was appointed animal warden in a new annual contract. It was pointed out that Township Manager Shirley Capone had checked carefully on several other comparative sources for the same services, and the contract arranged with Mr. Terry was the most profitable to the township by far.

Eleven residents of Grand Street between Union Avenue and Forest Road petitioned the Township Council for improved street lighting in the area. Their petition claimed they were being harassed by strangers attracted by the youth activities at the YMCA, which created "conditions such that we are afraid to leave our homes after dark." They felt the improved street lighting would

serve as a deterrent to crime and a source of increased confidence to the residents.

The PinRose Company, Inc. was awarded the contract for a spring cleanup. The company was low bidder, at \$27,790 for the cleanup.

Councilman Walter Grote reported that the search for a permanent township manager is narrowing. A special committee, called the Manager's Study Committee, had been named. That committee has been working extensively to attract and screen candidates for the position. According to Grote, the committee has come up with names of about 13 people it considers top flight candidates. The Committee will now meet with the Council to discuss the matter, and then interviewing of candidates is expected to begin.

The Building Study Committee is also very busy, reported Mayor William Kitsz. That committee is studying the possibilities for the future of the present municipal building and will soon present a report which will suggest whether the building is useable in the future or not, and if so, in what ways it might best be utilized.

Several residents of the Second Street - Flanders Avenue area were at the meeting, indicating interest in the "topsoil" ordinance. However, they were told that the Council will act very soon. The ordinance has been planned, not around a single person or a single business, but around a local problem, legislators told the residents. In writing the ordinance, the Council did not single out one business, but has considered what conditions would be best for the general welfare of Scotch Plains residents.

Fanwood Municipal Budget Down In '73

Councilman Charles J. Coronella, Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced that the 1973 amount to be raised by taxation for Municipal purposes will decrease for the second consecutive year. This, said Coronella, is consistent with the pledge made by Mayor Trumpp to administer the affairs of the Borough in the most economical and responsible manner and continues a 10-year tradition of Council action to hold the line on the local share of taxes.

The original Budget, introduced on February 14th anticipated an increase in the amount to be raised for Municipal purposes of \$13,390 (or about 2 tax points). However, anticipating a lower school budget than originally introduced and in the light of the introduction of the (Union) County Budget at a lower amount than initially indicated, the amount to be dedicated to the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes will be lowered. Approximately

\$43,000 less is required as compared to the earlier introduced budget resulting in a decrease of approximately \$30,000 as compared with the amount raised for Municipal purposes in 1972. (The amount dedicated to the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes is a fixed percentage of the total amount to be raised in the form of taxes for the Borough, County and School operations). The exact amount of the reduction will not

Two Town Councils Ask \$685,000 Cut In School Budget

Honors For Flo Dwyer

Former Congresswoman Florence P. Dwyer was feted at a luncheon given in her honor by the executive and professional staff of Muhlenberg Hospital on



FLORENCE P. DWYER

Monday. The luncheon was the staff's way of saying "thank you Flo," according to Edward Dailley, hospital administrator.

Mrs. Dwyer was presented with an engraved silver bowl.

Staff members representing virtually every department in the hospital were there to thank Mrs. Dwyer for her 20 years of public service and particularly for the help she has given hospital employees through the years.

In her response, Mrs. Dwyer entertained her hosts with anecdotes reflecting upon her Congressional service during the administration of four different Presidents.

Oops! They'll Dance On Mar. 25

The annual dinner-dance to benefit a children's nursery school in Montazzoli, Italy will be held this year on Saturday night, March 24 at Martinsville Inn, Martinsville.

In a feature story carried in last week's issue of "The Times" it was incorrectly stated that the dance would be held on March 25.

be known until more accurate figures are received from the County and a final resolution of the amount to be cut from the School Budget is made.

Unfortunately, continued Coronella, the ability of the Borough and County to hold the line does not mean taxes will not increase in Fanwood in 1973. The reduction on the 1973-1974 School Budget by the two Councils only lessened the amount of the increase as compared with the current (1972-1973) budget.

Coronella stated that at the March 14th meeting of the Fanwood Council he would introduce a motion to lower the dollar amount dedicated to the Reserve

Matter Will Probably Go To Trenton For Final Decision By Commissioner Of Education

Can the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district maintain its existing level of education for a price tag of \$11,384,732 in the 1973-74 school year? That is the \$11 million question now facing the Board of Education. The Board was handed the reduced figure by the combined Councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood last Monday night, 27 days after voters had given the proposed budget a sound defeat at the polls. The original budget was presented at a figure 11 percent over the previous year. As trimmed by the Councils it would be five percent higher.

The Councils of Fanwood and Scotch Plains voted to eliminate \$685,000 of the \$1,207,380 increase proposed by the Board. Now, the Board has a 30-day period in which to study the impact of the cut upon the level of education, and to make a decision. The Board may decide to live with the reduced budget, which was the route chosen three years ago when a large cut was taken from the budget. In that case, decisions will have to be made on just what areas of the budget are to be trimmed - a decision which is usually the ultimate responsibility of the Board, arrived at after consultation with the superintendent.

If however, the majority of the Board decides that the cut cannot be accepted, they may elect to seek a hearing with the New Jersey Commissioner of Education in Trenton. The Commissioner, when he presides at such school budget appeals, hears the rationale from a governing body regarding their decision to cut the budget. The members of a local governing body, as well as the general public, are permitted to attend such appeal hearings. Next the Superintendent customarily addresses the Commissioner, pointing out the reasons why the Board finds the reduced budget unacceptable. The Commissioner then makes a ruling based upon the presentations. Although the local school district has never had occasion to date to seek relief in Trenton, other school districts which have taken such a route have, almost overwhelmingly, had at least some of the cut money restored.

Heretofore, New Jersey Education Commissioner Carl Marburger has been the presiding official at the budget appeal cases. However, the New Jersey Legislature failed to confirm Governor Cahill's reappointment of Marburger, and he has notified Cahill that his resignation will be effective April 30, but that he would take a month's accumulated vacation before that date, thereby leaving his post on March 30.

Cahill has named Edward Kilpatrick to the strictly temporary position of acting commissioner, but it has been stressed that Kilpatrick is serving

only in the interim until a replacement for Marburger can be found. Therefore, some knowledgeable local sources have pointed out, the climate and the situation in Trenton is quite unpredictable this time around, in the face of an absence of a permanent commissioner. Whether this will or will not affect the decision of the local board is not known.

A single sentence has been released by the Board regarding the Councilmanic action. It states, "The Board is studying the implications of the combined Council's recommended budget cuts. Upon completion of our study, the Board will release their findings."

In hearing appeals, it is the responsibility of the Commissioner to insure that enough money is available for maintenance of the existing budget. He is not expected to hear rationale for improvements, however.

The most recent annual budget had included, for the first time in several years, some areas of improvement in the school program. Driver education had been proposed for reinstatement at the high school level, while the majority of the improvements had been planned at the elementary level, to coincide with the opening of a new school and four new elementary additions next September.

The improvements had included an expanded music and art program, elementary librarians at each school, two more classes for handicapped children, a third child study team, more teacher aides to improve lunchtime and play period conditions, more library books and texts, and more monies for an athletic program, primarily for a junior high intramural sports program.

The two Councils may designate what budget area (current expense or capital outlay) is to be trimmed. They specified current expense. Capital outlay represents only \$56,200 of the total. The governing bodies may go no further, however, in specifying particular areas.

As cut by the Councils, the amount to be raised by taxation would now stand at \$9,711,670.