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THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1973

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Fanwood Council Hits Revaluation Figures

In 1971, the borough of Fanwood conducted a borough-wide revaluation of real estate, utilizing a professional revaluation firm, North American Revaluation Company. Last week, the Borough Council went on record in opposition to the job done by the revaluation firm, which is one licensed by the state.

According to the complaint letter sent to the state director of the Division of Taxation, a sufficient number of objective errors and mistakes were made in the company's work to require Fanwood to conduct a complete mathematical check of every property in the borough, a job which required hiring of outside help. The errors were primarily related to calculations and assessments on land itself, an area in revaluation which does not involve subjective factors concerning the interiors of structures. After checking all assessment cards for arithmetic mistakes and 80 percent of the cards for depreciation and other factors, the borough found an error rate of 5 percent on mathematics alone and another 5 percent on transcriptions. The total error rate exceeded 10 percent, with one-half of one percent falling in the "substantial mistake" category, meaning that the error affected the assessment by more than \$1,000.

"Based on this experience, our Borough feels that the work product of this company is lacking in the professional standards reasonably expected of revaluation firms," the letter stated. "Hopefully, the standards and qualifications your office will establish under the statute will take into account the fact that municipalities should not be expected to double-check the work of a revaluation firm and that if errors occur, the same should be rectified immediately by the firm," the statement concluded. According to Councilman

Charles Coronella, chairman of the Finance Committee, there is now general equity in the borough on the tax books in the opinion of the committee. However, if anyone has questions, they should feel free to contact the assessor, Coronella, or any other councilman. If a citizen, after utilizing these means, still feels his taxes unfair, he has the right to appeal to the county taxation board.

Councilman Stephen Ritter pointed out the public service project performed by Scout Robert DeSousa, who compiled a list of street signs needing attention.

Robert McGuiness wrote to the Council complaining of the dirty appearance of the center of town. The Public Works Department has a weekly litter patrol to try to clean up any areas of unsightliness, and citizens are urged to call attention to any specific areas within the scope of the borough.

Paul Hedrich complained of conditions attached to recent approval of his application for a variance to permit a restaurant at 133 South Avenue. The Council has required a sprinkler system. Hedrich pointed out that not a single restaurant in any adjacent towns has such a sprinkler, which would cost him \$9,500. He would never have more than 16 in the diningrooms. It would be the only such sprinkler in the community, he said. The Council informed him he could appeal the conditions before the Board of Adjustment.

period, and if possible, have them remain at home unless it is absolutely necessary to be out.

The Police Department is going to do all they can to prevent damage and will prosecute all persons apprehended to the fullest extent of the Law.

It is believed that, with the help of all of the Community working together, this can be an enjoyable Season rather than one of destruction.

Note From The Chief

Chief Joseph Powers today issued a Notice to All Residents that we are approaching the Annual Halloween Season and there is usually an increase in Vandalism at this time.

He is requesting that all parents be more aware of where their Children are during this

To Close On Monday

The Scotch Plains Municipal Building will be closed on Monday, October 22, which is Veterans Day.

DEADLINE CHANGE

Because of the Veterans Day Holiday on Monday the Deadline for News Releases in our Oct. 25th Issue will be tomorrow, Friday, October 19th.

Council Asks Better Communications On Flood Hazards

Letter Asks Congressmen For Periodic Reports On Government Actions

Scotch Plains wants better communication with its federal representatives when it comes to potential flood hazards, and the Township Council emphasized that desire in a letter which has been sent to Congressman Matthew Rinaldo and Senators Harrison Williams and Clifford Case. The letter requested improvement in programs and better communications. It stressed the local need for knowledge of pending legislation and progress reports on flood control issues, and urged that congressmen report periodically to the affected municipalities. A positive informational program should be adopted by the Army Corps of Engineers in reporting progress of the Green Brook river basin program, the letter suggested.

Township Administrator Daniel Allen reported that the township has been reimbursed for \$8,500 of the \$14,000 application made to the federal government for debris cleanup and other disaster emergency expenditures associated with the August 2 floods. Allen said the township will appeal the items disclaimed by the federal government. The approximately \$14,000 application has been approved by the state Civil Defense unit. Allen pointed out that a supplemental application for \$19,000 to cover other street cleanup and repair projects associated with the floods has been made.

The governing body approved an ordinance which appropriates \$3,000 for preliminary engineering and a feasibility study for a meter pit to be installed replacing the existing pit at the Lamberts Mill pumping station. Another ordinance given final approval amends the zoning ordinance. A recent fullscale zoning amendment inadvertently changed lot designations from 60 foot to 90 foot frontages in Virginia Street, and the latest ordinance corrects the error.

King Street was designated a through street by resolution. It

was emphasized that the legislation is not intended to increase speed on King, but to make possible stop signs on the intersecting streets. Patrols will continue and the speed limits remain the same.

Two citizens were appointed to the Union County Solid Waste Study Committee. Brewster Burns, the township engineer, will serve on the technical subcommittee and James R. Reynolds on the advisory subcommittee.

James Grimstead was appointed Alternate Number 2 to the Board of Adjustment. Grimstead, who lives on Hunter Avenue, holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Virginia State and is a sanitary specialist. He assumes the term of Dr. Humphries, which extends until December 31, 1975.

The Council voted to hire William A. Ryback for architectural and engineering services for the proposed expansion of the Public Works building. The total for the engineering services approved was \$1,950, which includes \$1,300 for plans and specifications and \$650 for field inspections.

Raindrops Kept Falling On His Head

The citizens were nestled all snug in their rows, the press was settling into the amazingly comfy new yellow leather seats at the press table, and the Scotch Plains Township Council was preening at their attractive new dais in the spanking new Council chambers. The occasion was the very first meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council in the new Municipal Building on Tuesday night. As the Mayor read his announcements, slowly but surely was heard the steady drip, drip, drip of water falling directly atop the Mayor's head.

Mayor William Kitsz left his seat sedately, officials scrambled for a pail to catch the dripping water, and the press and public watched in horror as a large wet smear spread across the ceiling of the new chambers. What could it be? A faulty air conditioning fan was the first thought. The second thought was more noble in concept. Could it truly be a sign from the heavens? A "baptism" if you will? Were the heavens, indeed, singling out the Municipal Building for a nod of congratulations?

No such luck. One floor up, two smiling young maintenance men were busily engaged with a floor scrubbing machine, giving the second story floors a going-over. Somehow, somewhere, there's something that drips through.

Just one of the "growing pains" one expects to encounter with new construction.

In Case Of Fire

Township Manager, Daniel R. Allen, announced today that the Scotch Plains fire alarm system will be out of service beginning on October 19, 1973. According to the Township Manager, a remote console board in the Police Department within the new Municipal Building must be installed for the fire alarm system. Also, the alarm system console will be returned for minor modifications, at no expense to the Township, to the manufacturer. It is expected that the system will be out of service for approximately three weeks. All fire alarm system pole boxes will be covered with protective bags and be marked as temporarily out of service. Home and business alarms will operate on a separate alarm system.

During the three weeks the alarm system is out of service, the Township Manager reminds all citizens to call 322-7100 for Fire, Police, and Ambulance calls.

Bike Auction On Oct. 27

On Saturday, October 27, 1973 at 10:00 a.m. Scotch Plains Township will hold an Auction Sale of over 50 Bicycles that have either been abandoned, recovered after theft, or found within the confines of the Township and have been in the possession of the Police Department for at least six months. The Sale will be conducted at #444 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, adjacent to the Municipal Building, under control of the Police Department. Proceeds of sale to be paid into the Municipal Treasury. Terms Cash. All sales final. Authorized under the authority of N.J. S. 40 - 47:20.

Board Of Education Announces Agenda

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight, October 18, at Terrill Junior High School.

The agenda will include Committee reports (Community Relations, Policy, Financial and Budget, Legislation, Buildings and Grounds, Personnel, Student Affairs, Liaison with Planning Board). This will be followed by announcements, which will include acknowledgement of receipt of letters, including one from Mr. Joseph D'Annunzio regarding disposition of School One property, letters for and against lunch policy, a letter from UNICO, and letters from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Council of PTAs regarding construction at Park Junior.

Included in the report from School Superintendent Fred J. Laberge will be a statement regarding a petition from the Learning Disabilities Association to the N.J. Commissioner of Education; a request for a change

in number of credits for high school graduation to meet a change in state requirements; a recommendation for application for 100 percent funding for a Career Education course in Health Occupations, and a recommendation for a Home Economics teacher at Park Junior High.

The Superintendent will present a report on construction at Park Junior High.

Following the disposition of personnel matters, there will be recommendations for an organizational change in the business office due to Program Budgeting; a recommendation for School Board Liability Insurance, and a recommendation for approval of change orders on school construction.

The meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.