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Turnouts Light For Final Discussion

About a dozen residents joined officials from PATH and Fanwood for a discussion over the potential effects of PATH service upon the borough of Fanwood. Concern over parking spaces and retention of the small town atmosphere in Fanwood had led Robert Butler of Tillotson Road, a private citizen, to seek a question and answer session.

According to both Butler and Mayor Ted Trumpp, PATH representatives left a strong impression that Port Authority is concerned only with rail service. An application for federal funding for the high-speed transit loop which would run from Newark to Plainfield is now pending before the Urban Mass Transit Agency in Washington, and PATH's involvement would be only with the actual rail service, and not with the traffic, parking, and other sideline concerns which would accompany the new service.

The responsibility for parking facilities, etc. would be purely up to the communities, Trumpp emphasized. "Through the years, all the people involved in government and planning have tried to keep Fanwood as it has been, and we're not trying to turn it into a metropolis," he said. He also said he didn't see any "1,000-car parking garage on the horizon." Discussion of parking and traffic problems at one recent council meeting had included mentions and/or suggestions of two-tier parking facility, perhaps to accommodate 1,000 cars, and it was this suggestion which had led to the citizen concern.

Governing Bodies And Board Of Education At Impasse On Budget

Mayor Ted Trumpp labels the current "impasse" situation on the school budget "traumatic," and Mayor Walter Grote of Scotch Plains says it is most regrettable that no resolution can be reached among three governing bodies elected by the same public at large. Both men refer to the current state of limbo which exists in the matter of the school budget. For the first time in the history of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, a local Board of Education has declined to accept the cut proposed by the combined governing bodies of Scotch Plains and Fanwood and, at this writing, a resolution of the problem will be made via the appeal process.

In February, the public voted down a proposed school budget of \$13,809,000 by a 4-1/2 to 1 majority. After consideration of the budget and the vote, the combined councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood voted unanimously to cut the budget by \$969,000. By law, the governing bodies may set the amount to be raised by taxation for school purposes, but the Board of Education has the option to study that figure and, if the figure is deemed too low for maintenance of the education in the district, the Board may appeal to the state commissioner of education for restoration of some or all of the cut dollars. This year, the Board of Education saw fit to seek such restoration. There is a stopping point on the road to the state commissioner in Trenton. The Councils and the Board may seek the services of the county superintendent as a mediator of sorts. Both sides would present their position to the county superintendent.

County superintendent... satisfaction can be... the county level, it elimin... lengthy wait for an appoint...

One resident had claimed he attended a presentation by PATH in Elizabeth and had heard of such a possibility.

When and if PATH is approved by the federal government, Fanwood would have to study many alternatives, and these studies would be undertaken both at the strictly local level and in concert with other communities along the PATH route, Trumpp stressed. There are committees planned from the several communities to consider parking, drainage, and other considerations.

Butler said PATH projectors foresee an increase from 600 to 1,700 commuters over the next twelve years. Some of this traffic would probably represent commuters now using Netherwood, Butler predicted, since Netherwood will be closed when PATH service is initiated. Butler said discussion of where the 400 cars now using Netherwood would go, or park, was "kicked around quite a bit," with no definitive answers. He expressed a conviction that Netherwood commuters would not "back-track" to Plainfield station, as some PATH officials predict.

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for a hearing at the State level. There has been reluctance expressed by the Councils at meeting with County Superintendent Dr. West. While the Councils have not refused to seek settlement at this mid-point, some Councilmen have questioned the possibility of objectivity with an educational administrator as the intermediary. Ferguson said the board finds it difficult to understand such reluctance, since West would act only as a mediator. "In no way does he make any decision or is any of the discussion held binding on either party unless mutual agreement is reached," Ferguson pointed out. Negotiating with the aid of the county superintendent is recognized as an informal process and the board views such action as a positive step forward and in the best interest of the entire community," he said. The superintendent's role is that of a mediator who would seek avenues toward mutual agreement. Attempts are being made

\$1,372,253 Municipal Budget Is Approved By Township Council

Listening Post

Both the Scotch Plains Township Listening Post and the Board of Education Listening Post will meet this Saturday.

To avoid conflict the Board of Education Listening Post is scheduled for 9 a.m. till 10 a.m. and the Township Listening Post from 10 a.m. till Noon.

For those anxious talkers who might like to really be heard, it is now possible to scurry to the Board Listening Post in the Choral Room at the High School and then on to the Township forum in the Council Chambers.

GOP's Seek Candidates For Council

G.O.P. Chairman Pierce De Gross has announced that the Candidate Recommendation Committee will meet on April 9th to interview persons interested in running for the Township Council on the Republican ticket this year.

The three seats to be contested this year are currently held by William Kitz, Albert Theurer, and Alan Augustine who were elected in 1972 to serve two terms. Mr. Augustine, who has served since November 1970, will seek re-election this year while Mr. Kitz, who was first appointed to the Township Committee in March 1966, and Dr. Theurer, who has served since January 1, 1967, have informed local G.O.P. leaders that they will not seek re-election to fourth terms.

Anyone interested in joining Councilman Augustine on the Republican ticket is urged to contact Kay Gresh, Lucille Marciale, William Coulbourn, Dick Hatfield, Larry Newcomb, Walt Grote or Al Theurer for information about next Tuesday's meeting.

to set a date with the county superintendent now.

According to Mayor Trumpp, the community overwhelmingly voted no on the budget and, in his view, the Board of Education has acted in a manner which is unresponsive to the electorate. "We have come up with a figure which we feel is a fair figure and they know it," Trumpp said. They, in turn, had absolutely no figure to offer in return in an effort to agree at the local level. Mayor Grote expressed the same opinion. It would have been to the advantage of the community for the Councils and the Board to sit down and hammer out a solution without attorneys

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Tax Rate Not Certain Till School Budget Is Settled

An audience of twelve, several of them township employees, watched as the Scotch Plains Township Council gave final approval to their 1974 municipal budget. Only two questions came from the public on the budget, which increases by \$50,813 over the 1973 budget.

The budget was the effort of new township manager Daniel Ailan. The bulk of the increase can be attributed to salaries, which increased by \$126,706. The salary bumps were offset by a \$56,300 decrease in the amount budgeted for capital improvements, and \$15,128 drop in municipal debt service.

The budget calls for \$694,110 to be raised by taxes for municipal operations, (down by \$3,839 from 1973), and \$678,143 to be raised by taxes for the reserve for uncollected taxes (up \$54,633). The raise in the reserve for uncollected taxes is attributable to the estimated increase in sales, at a rate passed upon a 6.5 percent rate.

No tax rate has yet been struck for Scotch Plains, since the school budget is still unsettled. The local municipal tax rate will be 6.6 percent per \$100 valuation, an increase of .25.

The capital improvements for 1974 include construction of storm and sanitary sewers, street improvements, and improvements to many streams within the community. Some major improvements within these categories benefitting citizens

for years to come may be bonded, and a substantial number of Capital Improvement Projects in 1974 will be financed from Federal Revenue Sharing.

The salary increases for the most part provided for raises of approximately 7 percent. In addition, several new positions were authorized or upgraded in order to assist in operations of the Police Department, Municipal Court, Scotch Hills Country Club, Civil Defense, Department of Finance, and Board of Health. A major item in the budget is the funding of Traffic Safety Bureau for the township - with the bureau to be in operation in 1974.

The general revenues anticipated for 1974 show a marked increase over 1973, with a total of \$2,452,562 anticipated, in contrast with \$2,335,205 last year. Among the areas of increase planned for in the budget is \$657,416 in state aid taxes (versus \$619,805 last year); a \$5,000 increase in sewer service charges, a \$10,000 jump in interest on investments, etc. The surplus account jumps from \$775,000 last year to \$835,000 this year.

Plains Councilman Urges Public Attendance At Flood Control Hearing

Councilman Larry Newcomb, Scotch Plains' representative to the Green Brook Flood Control Committee, urged public attendance at a hearing, to be held at Plainfield High School at 7 p.m. tonight, by the Army Corps of Engineers. The public hearing is scheduled to further acquaint local citizens with the four alternative proposals for flood relief in the Green Brook Valley.

The alternatives involve a number of different approaches, including levees, dams, a diversion tunnel in Scotch Plains, and other downstream changes, with all four plans to have the same flood control effectiveness according to the Army Engineers.

Within a short time, the 13 communities involved along the Green Brook and on the Green Brook Flood Committee, must arrive at a mutually agreeable choice from among the four plans. Newcomb personally finds the Plan 4, involving a diversion tunnel on the north side of Route 22, as the most acceptable for Scotch Plains. He plans to say so tonight at the hearing. However, his views will be his own. As yet, the township has not reached an official municipal posture and Newcomb and Mayor Walter Grote urged citizens to express their views on the choices very soon.

The two officials urged that citizens who live in flood prone areas of Scotch Plains make a special effort to attend the 7 p.m. meeting tonight. A Listening Post is slated for this Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers, and citizens may make their views known then, as well as by telephone to Council members.

In Today's
TIMES
Map and Complete
Text of the
**FANWOOD
ZONING
ORDINANCE**
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