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It's On Trenton For School Board And Town Councils

The long pending face-off between the Board of Education and the town councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood may take place today in Trenton. The n again, it may not, if the town fathers have their way. A hearing before a Deputy Commissioner of the N.J. Department of Education is scheduled. Fanwood Mayor Ted Trumpp said, however, that the Councils would like to have an extension of time.

"Quite frankly, the two Councils simply don't have 20 dozen people to digest the explanation of the Board of Education within a week's time." Trumpp referred to a 150-page response which the Board of Education has prepared in answer to a 16-page rationale which the two governing bodies have supplied to justify their cut of \$969,000 in the \$13 million budget defeated in a 4-to-1 vote last February.

Trumpp said the 150-page response itself "proved the whole point of why we are in Trenton." If the district has the personnel to prepare a 150-page response and mimeograph it within ten days, he's "glad to rest his case on that issue alone," Trumpp said. He said he and other Council members had requested a copy of the response but none were available, only the attorneys were provided with copies the Mayor said.

Both parties have furnished their written material to state education officials. If a hearing is held today, it has not yet been determined when a decision would be forthcoming on what would be a practical budget for a "thorough and efficient" budget here. However, if a decision is made at the state level to restore the major portion of the budget, municipal officials have hinted strongly that they intend to pursue the issue further, including a court appeal if necessary.

The Council rationale includes a list of personnel which they claim could be eliminated. Included are some teacher aides, administrators, and 34 teaching positions. About \$800,000 of the \$969,000 cut would be due to elimination of positions. Mayor Walter Grote said the Councils had plotted the local district in relation to similar districts around it, and determined that adding another child here or there to classroom sizes would still keep the district well within class sizes recommended by New Jersey Education Association. Therefore, with the elimination of certain teaching positions, the schools would still be within acceptable class sizes.

Although the two Councils formulated a rationale to justify the \$969,000 after the budget defeat in February, the two bodies engaged a professional consulting firm to take a look last month. Grote said the professionals had determined that the \$969,000 was "conservative," and had found that another \$300,000 could be eliminated. However, although the Councils now feel they are in a position to justify \$1,289,000 to be eliminated, they will present their rationale only for \$969,000, as charged by the state.

The Board of Education response claims the 34 teaching posts cannot be removed. The Board indicates that 11 elementary classroom positions have al-

ready been eliminated over the past four years because of declining enrollments, and six general class positions had already been eliminated for 1974-75—the budget in contention.

The Board also defends the local student-teacher ratio of 14.5 as the exact median for all high schools in the county, the 18.2 ratio for junior highs as already higher than the county median, and the 21.4 ratio for elementary as only slightly lower than the county median.

Grote has already taken issue with the use of "medians." They are meaningless, he says. They only prove that exactly half have more, half less.

Does the district have too many administrators and supervisors? The Councils think yes. The Board says no. The Board says Scotch Plains-Fanwood has 30 such positions, contrasted with 37 in Linden and Summit, 34 in Westfield, 49 in Plainfield.

According to the Board response, the local district has the highest per student ratio for child study teams in the county. Therefore, addition of a third team is justified, they claim. The council rationale had proposed elimination of almost a quarter million for a third team because the district is in the midst of litigation in this area.

Teacher aides were included, the Board says, to reflect community sentiment.

Bike Owners In Fanwood — Do You Know?

June 15, 1974 is the last scheduled day to register your bicycle in Fanwood?

Registration is for all bicycles having two wheels with tires 20 inches in diameter or more, and connected by a frame and propelled by human power?

The cost is 50 cents per bicycle and each bicycle is inspected for safety.

That if your bicycle is NOT in good condition, you may still register the bicycle and be given more time to make proper repairs?

Bicycle owners 16 years and over need not take a safe driving test?

After June 30, all bicycles ridden on Fanwood streets by Fanwood residents must be registered or they will be operated illegally?

Register your bicycle June 15, 1974 at LaGrande School parking lot, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The National Safety Council estimates that for every 100 people there are 40 bikes. This means about 3,800 bikes in Fanwood. Is yours one?

Upon registration, all bikes will be put into a computer in the county which will aid in re-

Deadline Extension Voted For Flood Control Project

Parenti Is Named By New Association

Lt. Anthony J. Parenti, safety officer for the Fanwood Police Department, has been elected to the presidency of a new association, the New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association.



LT. ANTHONY J. PARENTI

The group has been formed to work toward uniform traffic laws and enforcement procedures in the communities of the state, and to emphasize the encouragement of traffic safety in school curriculums and at young ages for children.

Heretofore, similar organizations of safety officers existed on the countywide levels. The larger scope afforded by a statewide group is expected to provide the potential for greater standardization of the profession and more cooperation between departments in traffic safety.

Parenti has been a member of the Fanwood department for 18 years. He holds a degree in Police Science from Rutgers and has been safety officer in Fanwood since 1967. He is a past president of the Union County Traffic Officers Association.

Plains Girl Saves Brownie

Miss Ellen Raymer of Scotch Plains has been cited with saving the life of a local Brownie Scout. Ellen, a Senior Scout and Co-leader of a Brownie troop, had been attending a backyard swim party. One of the youngsters upon jumping into the pool began having difficulty. Ellen, realizing this, jumped into the water fully clothed and pulled the child to safety.

turn of stolen bicycles when found.

The ordinance requiring registration becomes effective June 30, after which date violations will be enforced by police.

Originally, the June 15 registration was to have taken place at Borough Hall. LaGrande lot represents a switch in location. See you there . . . on your biket

Citizens' Group Changes Mind About Effectiveness Of Original Program

The Scotch Plains Township Council voted last week to grant an extension on the completion date for an elaborate flood control project designed to relieve flood-prone areas in Scotch Plains. Just as they voted the delay to Conti Construction Company, Hugo Diaz, president of Concerned Citizens (a citizens group concerned with flood problems) told the Council that the Concerned Citizens don't want the project after all.

The project under discussion is not the elaborate Green Brook improvement anticipated for many communities, to be built by the Army Corps of Engineers. Instead, it is an improvement dating back to before last August's severe flooding. It is a jointly funded project being undertaken by the state and the township to cure flooding along the north side of Route 22.

Diaz noted that he had originally favored the project. However, ever since last August's floods, the Green Brook has been filled in with sediment and water being re-routed across Route 22 to the northwest quadrant of Scotch Plains could no longer be carried by the Green Brook, he said. The waters would be carried from the Green Brook to the Cedar Brook.

"When Route 22 acted as a detention basin, we got flooded out," Diaz said. "Now, the water would be channeled faster into the Green Brook. In doing something good in the name of flooding, you would actually be endangering the northwest sector."

Diaz asked for reexamination in light of topographical changes resulting from August, 1973 floods.

Mayor Walter Grote assured Diaz that he would refer his concern to hydraulic experts and would seek an opinion.

Diaz was praised by several councilmen for his efforts on the Green Brook Flood Committee. He was responsible for initiating a subcommittee to seek short range solutions for area communities until long-range improvements can be completed.

The request for an extension of the completion date was necessary, according to Conti Construction, because of material shortages, November 1 instead of May is the new date.

The Council granted permission to Coastal Group Management Corporation to erect an eight-by-eight foot sign, illuminated from within, at 2510 Route 22, to mark a Burger King Restaurant. The proposed restaurant has occasioned considerable objection from neighborhood residents. The sign approval was recommended by the Board of Adjustment, which body found that

it would not be detrimental to health, welfare, or safety of residents.

Councilman Larry Newcomb voted affirmatively for the sign, but only because the sign itself is not contended by the neighbors, who object to the entire concept of the restaurant, which is already decided, he noted. Newcomb is opposed to the restaurant, but the sign is only secondary, he felt. Councilman Albert Theurer voted negatively. He does not favor the restaurant, and feels the sign doesn't have to be as large. It detracts from the neighborhood to have such a big sign, he said. The sign will be at the front of the restaurant and no higher than the restaurant to avoid it shining above into the residential neighborhood. The Burger King will be located in a B-3 business zone.

The Green Forest Park tennis courts would be resurfaced under provisions of an ordinance allocating \$15,000 from revenue sharing for this purpose. In a similar ordinance, another \$15,000 would be appropriated for construction of a park storage house at Kramer Manor. The house would be located near the tennis courts, and would also come from revenue sharing. A third new ordinance calls for resurfacing of Senger Place and installation of curbs and parking lot around the northside fire house. Cost would be \$20,000 from revenue sharing. The three ordinances have a June 18 public hearing.

The Council, Manager and Planning Board will review a recommendation from Mrs. Arlene McKenna of the Environmental Commission that a noise control ordinance be adopted.

Freeholders In Fanwood Tonight

The Union County Board of Freeholders will be accessible to local citizens tonight, as they hold one of their regularly scheduled meetings in Fanwood Borough Hall.

The freeholders recently adopted a new meeting approach, moving out into the various county municipalities for meetings.

The time is 8 p.m. — the address is Watson Road.