

SCOTCH PLAINS LIBRARY
1927 BARTLE AVE
SCOTCH PLAINS N J 07076
ATTN: MR. TURBAN

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 15, NO. 33

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1974

15 CENTS A COPY

Board Of Education Plans To Accommodate \$969,000 Budget Cut

In response to Joseph Nagy of the Association of Good Schools, Acting Superintendent of Schools Dr. Perry Tyson indicated at last Thursday's Board of Education Meeting, that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system is currently planning operation for the coming year with a budget minus \$969,000 from the \$13 million they proposed earlier this year.

Currently the Board and the Town Councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood are awaiting a ruling from the State Commissioner of Education concerning a Board appeal that the entire cut be restored. The Town Councils cut the Board's proposed budget last February following a resounding rejection by voters of the \$13 million educational pricetag. A state decision could restore all, some, or none of the cut amount.

At the time the town tax rates had to be set this year, the budget dispute was unresolved, and so both town councils set rates in line with the reduced school budget. "We have said to principals and budget managers," commented Tyson, "that they may not order more than 75% of the budgeted supplies." Too, no new positions are being filled and for those whose positions may be eliminated by a state decision, Tyson said that, "We have notified them that their jobs are in jeopardy."

Tyson, who had taken over the responsibilities of Superintendent of Schools since Fred J. Laberge suffered a heart attack, was officially named Acting Superintendent at an additional \$300 a month, retroactive to when he first assumed those duties on July 1. District director of the sciences, Donald Peck, will take over Tyson's duties as Acting Assistant Superintendent for Instruction at an additional \$200 a month.

Tyson noted that, "The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association had mailed letters to all citizens and used the Board of Education bulk mailing permit." The association, which represents local teachers, wrote Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents about their concern over the budget cut. Following citizen's complaints over the legality of such use, Tyson said that a check with the postal authorities revealed that only the Board may use the bulk mailing permit. Tyson said that the association had paid the bulk mailing charge. But former Board member

Richard Bard asked, "Is the board going to go after the Teacher's Union to pay the remainder of the bulk mail?" Tyson said that he had not considered that alternative.

Bard asked also, "Has the Board looked into early medical retirement for the Superintendent?" questioning if the Board knew when Laberge would return to work.

Mrs. Leonia Reilly, Board Vice-President, said that such consideration, "is premature at this time."

Included under the Superintendent's report, Tyson further reported that Terrill Junior High School had received "renewed approval" following state evaluation. "The approval, however, is contingent upon action taken on recommendations by May 31, 1976." The recommendations concerned correction of deficiencies with fire extinguishers, flooding, lighting and ventilation, and grating. Park Junior High School has been chosen for state evaluation this year.

Tyson also announced that the public will learn the results of the 1973 educational assessment test by December. School officials are currently analyzing local results.

Among vouchers approved for payment was a bill from Sleepy Hollow Inn, a \$97 amount for a two month period. This expenditure was questioned by Philip Labasi, board member, and Mrs. Mary Hancock of the Alert Parents for Good Schools.

Michael Klick, Assistant Superintendent for Business said that the Board's charge account at the restaurant-tavern is used for board dinners held before board meetings, and is used by the Superintendent when interviewing job candidates for the district.

The Board will advertise for the sale of Essex Road property behind Terrill Junior High School which it will sell for a minimum of \$40,000. The Board acquired the parcel of land in the late 1950's or early 60's at a price of \$7,500, Klick noted.

Scotch Plains Police Warn On Mini-Bike Regulations

The Scotch Plains Police Department today announced that Mini-Bike Violations as listed below under Title 39 of the Motor Vehicle Laws of the State of New Jersey will be enforced with particular attention to the indiscriminate use of Mini-Bikes on the Public Streets of Scotch Plains.

Juveniles will be charged with Juvenile Delinquency if in violation of said Laws and parents will be subject to a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Law for allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a Motor Vehicle on a public Street.

Parents are once again being asked to cooperate in this matter as enforcement of above problem can only have the desired effect if persons concerned fully understand the responsibility involving both the Juvenile and parents relative to Mini-Bike Violations.

"All Motor operated Vehicles of the Bicycle or Tricycle type, whether the motive power be a part thereof or attached thereto, and having a saddle or seat with driver sitting astride or upon it or a platform on which the driver stands."

Mini-Bikes are therefore legally classified as Motorcycles and as such are subject to all the Rules and Regulations covering same. They must be Licensed, Inspected and operated by a Licensed Driver in order to be operated on a Public Highway.

Controversial Code Of Ethics Ordinance Defeated In Fanwood

O'Neill Is New Finance Director

Dennis F. O'Neill, Scotch Plains' newly appointed Director of Finance, began his employment with the Township August 19, 1974



DENNIS F. O'NEILL

Mr. O'Neill was formerly with the City of Hackensack, N.J. as Assistant Municipal Comptroller, and was selected by Municipal Manager Daniel R. Allan from over 20 applicants who applied for the position.

Mr. O'Neill resides with his wife in Bogota, N.J., but expects to relocate in the Scotch Plains vicinity very shortly.

The position of Director of Finance was created in the Administrative Code adopted by the Township Council at its reorganization meeting of January 1, 1973, and has been filled by the Manager until Mr. O'Neill began his employment. The Director of the Department of Finance serves as the Chief Financial Officer of the Municipality and supervises the work of the Division of Treasury, Division of Assessments and Division of Tax Collection.

Mr. O'Neill is a graduate of Rutgers University with a B.S. in accounting, and certificates in Municipal Finance, Electronic Computers, Current Fund Accounting and Capital Trust Fund Accounting. He is now continuing studies at Rutgers in order to complete state required courses resulting in Certified Finance Officer's license.

Expanded Registration

Registration has been expanded with extra hours for the Fall General Election. Eligible citizens may register from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at:

SCOTCH PLAINS MUNICIPAL BUILDING - August 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26, 27, 30; October 1, 2, 3, 4, and at the SOUTH SIDE FIRE HOUSE - September 10 from 7 to 9 p.m.
FANWOOD BOROUGH HALL - August 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26, 27, 30; October 1, 2, 3, 4, and at the FANWOOD LIBRARY - 2-4 p.m. - September 10.

Pollitt Explains Traffic Radar Is Not Regarded As A Revenue Producing Agent

BY: FRED HONOLD

Mayor Theodore F. Trumpp cast the tie breaking vote at last Wednesday's town meeting on August 14 that defeated the controversial Code of Ethics in a 4 - 3 decision. The vote came after nearly 8 months of discussion, during which time the code was amended to exclude local policemen and firemen. Under the code, borough officials and employees would have been required to disclose possible conflicts of interest.

Opposed to the measure with Trumpp were Republicans John M. Coulter, Robert J. McCarthy, and Van Dyke Pollitt. In favor of the code were Democrats John Swindlehurst and Carol G. Whittington, who had proposed the code as a plank in her election platform, and Republican Charles Coronella.

"Fanwood runs its municipality on very few paid people, and many, many volunteers," said Trumpp. While noting that, "Most of the paid members of the town have been exempted from the code," Trumpp felt that the code, enacted, might discourage borough citizens from accepting appointments to unpaid positions on local boards and committees. "If any one can bring up legislation restricted to the seven of us," commented Trumpp, referring to the six councilmen and mayor, "I would be in favor of this."

Mrs. Whittington, for long the leading supporter of the code, stated that, "This ordinance was good before it got chopped to death." She asserted the public favored such a code, and mentioned that while the Councilmen had shown concern for the employees who would have been included under the code, "None of you have considered the public trust."

Pollitt, acknowledging he "had been known to be a major and outspoken advocate," of the ordinance, said that he had heard, "no public clamor," for the code. "Many have indicated that they don't want this piece of legislation . . . I will take them at their word." Pollitt and other council members said that legislation was pending on the state level which would supercede a local ethics code.

Reading from a prepared statement, Coulter said, "I believe we have emasculated the ordinance to the point that we are picking on some people." Coulter went on to say that he realized, "codes of ethics are popular these days . . . But," he concluded "I see no sense in flagellating each other with some sort of guilt complex." Coulter is Chairman of the Public Works Committee.

McCarthy concurred with Coulter, saying that the ordinance in its present state would have minimal effect.

Swindlehurst expressed the view that the ordinance was "good legislation," and said that review of borough conflict complaints

should be kept on the local level and not yielded by the state. John Manfra, representing the Public Works employees, commented from the floor that, "It is my understanding that three other departments have been eliminated from the code. We plead to the council to defeat this ordinance."

"At the agenda meeting we had a rather ringing session about radar surveillance," commented Pollitt. Questioned by Swindlehurst at the agenda meeting as to a police policy on surveillance and summonses, Pollitt responded Wednesday that "The police have a clear policy to enforce the law." He stated that "Radar is not a tool to increase the coffers of the community. And Pollitt finished by saying, "We will never establish a quota system for our borough."

In response to Patrick Mc Hugh of 2 Shasta Pass, Pollitt denied that police were lax in ticketing drivers exceeding Midway Avenue's 35 to 40 m.p.h. if drivers maintained a speed under 50. McHugh questioned the policy of radar 50% of the time on town corridors (county and state maintained roads), in view of the fact that county statistics show that 95% of all borough traffic moves along North, South, Midway, Martine, La Grande Avenues, and Terrill Road.

Joseph Parry of 311 North Avenue praised the Police Department asked that "everybody play it a little cool and not let things get out of hand. The dispute over radar shouldn't be politicized." His remarks were greeted by applause from the 40 member audience.

John Mulholland of 136 Russell Road, while also commending the police for a fine performance, took issue with Parry's statement. "I think it is only proper that people can talk out and give their opinion without fear of incrimination." Mulholland said that citizens should feel free to inquire, question, and to "air" such issues in the open.

The council voted to obtain a Superior Court ruling on which of the lowest bidders is best qualified to handle the Tillotson - Glenwood Roads storm sewer construction.

Borough Engineer Richard Luster had questioned the experience and equipment of each company. The low bidders are S and P Construction Co. of

Continued On Page 6