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Shirley Capone Is Township Manager

Griffin Objects To Action As Lame Duck Decision Binding On New Council

Mrs. Shirley Capone, who serves as Administrative Secretary for Scotch Plains, was named to the post of Township Manager by the Township Council last Tuesday. Mrs. Capone served in the same capacity, for a short-term stint as Manager, early in 1973 before Daniel Allan was selected to serve permanently. Now, Allan has resigned to take a new position in the midwest, with his resignation effective November 29. Mrs. Capone was granted a leave of absence from her regular role as administrative secretary.

Allan's resignation comes just before a new Democratic majority is seated on the Council on January 1, 1975. One of the three Councilmen-elect, Robert Griffin, opposed the naming of Mrs. Capone for an indeterminate period. He wanted the appointment and her leave of absence to extend only until December 31, when the new Council assumes office.

Mayor Walter Grote indicated that although it would have been legal for the present Council to name Allan's replacement now, it is their intention to allow the incoming Council to make that decision. Under questioning by Griffin, he indicated that Mrs. Capone's position would not be a permanent one.

Following a public hearing, the Council voted to amend an ordinance to increase the bonded amount for the Willow Grove sawyers from \$380,000 to \$435,000, and to authorize the issuance of

an additional \$55,000 of local improvement bonds and notes for the installation.

Joseph Cutro of Little Falls Way questioned the Council at length as to whether the additional funding was necessary because of some overlooked item in the original design and was assured this was not the case. He further questioned whether the design consultants, Killam Associates, should receive funds for supervision and inspection, instead of the township engineer.

He was told by Mayor Walter Grote that there are many projects underway in Scotch Plains, and it is common practice for consultants to supervise their own designs. In fact, this is an assurance that the plans are being carried out as intended. The \$55,000 is for construction contingencies and supervision and inspection, Township Manager Daniel Allan told the audience.

End Is Not Yet On Block Party Hassle

Midway Avenue was closed to traffic back in October for a block party to celebrate reduction of speed limits, and the repercussions continue, seemingly unending. During last week's meeting of the Fanwood Borough Council, the subject came up again, dozens of opinions were flung about, and plenty of sharp words were exchanged.

Councilwoman Carol Whittington, who lives on Midway Avenue, had taken the initiative in arranging for closing of the street on a Friday night. Unknown to her fellow councilmen and/or local police at the time, Mrs. Whittington contacted the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, identifying herself as a member of the Council, seeking approval for the block party. Last week, she said that if she had it to do over again, she'd not only take the same action, but she'd plan a bigger and better block party. She and her fellow Democratic Councilman John Swindlehurst both suggested that Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt, who serves as Police Commissioner, was actually the guilty party. Pollitt, who found out about the block party on the afternoon it took place, should have obtained authorization via resolution from the freeholders before allowing the street to be closed off.

"Fascinating," Pollitt commented. "The blame somehow shifts from Carol (Whittington) to Dyke. Carol did it, wrote the letter, hand delivered it, received approval from the county, made arrangements, contacted press and neighbors." Pollitt said that he is responsible for

safety, and did ask for the county's letter and a copy of the resolution passed by the county the night before the party authorizing it, and was told the requested literature was with the county attorney.

Mrs. Whittington said the freeholders "assumed stupidly" that she represented the full Council. "You could have called the block party off, you call the shots as Commissioner," but you stupidly assumed the county was responsible," she told Pollitt.

Meanwhile, the Borough Council wrestles with a bill for overtime extra police, which totals nearly \$300. Pollitt introduced a resolution formally turning the bill over to the freeholders. They should act only upon receipt of a formal resolution from the Borough Council, and they did not, therefore they are responsible, Pollitt feels. The Council members concurred with the attempt to bill the county. Mrs. Whittington abstained on the vote, the other Council members, including Swindlehurst, voted affirmatively. Swindlehurst said he favored the resolution because "it should teach Pollitt a lesson . . . to obtain authorization resolutions from the freeholders."

Opposition Grows To Martine Ave. Widening

Governing Bodies To Be Represented At County Hearings. Public Urged To Attend

As things stand now, Union County has plans to widen Martine and Park Avenues throughout Scotch Plains and Fanwood from the present 40 feet to 46 feet. The governing bodies of both communities as well as Planning Board members, environmentalists, and the general public had planned to be on hand last night (Wednesday, November 20) to register strong opposition to the possibility of a wider Martine Avenue.

There have been evidences of the county intent regarding Martine Avenue for some time, as governing bodies in the twotowns have fought efforts of the county to insist upon a widened street whenever improvements have been made in sections in recent years. However, the recently released county transportation plan provides the most impressive forum for official and concerted registration of opposition and civic leaders expressed their intention to take advantage.

Early Wednesday afternoon, Union County Safety Officer Walter Gardiner said he expected that the public hearing (slated to begin at 8 p.m. on November

20 in the County Courthouse) would have to be continued on Monday night, November 24 and possibly again on Tuesday, November 25 in order to assure all those who wished to speak that they would be provided with a five-minute opportunity. If a person does not attend tonight's hearing, but wishes to attend if the hearings are continued on Monday and Tuesday, he may come on those nights and will be afforded an opportunity to speak.

Gardiner said county planning officials are now cognizant of the fact that the two communities of Scotch Plains and

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New Safety Council Gets Earful From Shady Lane Residents On Speeding

The Public Safety Advisory Council has not been in operation for very long in Fanwood, but it proved its worth as a focal point for citizens interested in safety during a recent meeting. A strong and very genuine concern brought approximately 50 Shady Lane residents to the Public Safety Advisory Council (PSAC) on Thursday. Their concern was the amount of traffic and the high speed at which it travels on Shady Lane, an exclusively residential street. As one citizen put it, the homeowners want solutions before a fatal accident occurs, involving a child.

Traffic Safety Officer Lt. Anthony Parenti guided extensive discussion of the hazards and possible remedies, and the following steps will be taken as a positive direction toward control on Shady Lane:

1. Traffic counters will be placed on the street for a week to determine direction and numbers of traffic.

2. Lt. Parenti will check into the accident record on the street.

3. The curvature of the street will also be looked at with a possibility of institution of "no left turn" into Shady Lane from Martine Avenue.

4. A warning program will be instituted with the residents themselves recording license numbers of speeding vehicles. The Police Department will then send a warning letter to the motorist and his license number will remain on file.

5. A committee will be formed, including Safety Officer Lt. Parenti, five Shady Lane residents and three PSAC members Charles Smith, Al Lindgren and Len Zuckowski. This committee will work to rigidly enforce the posted limit.

In light of the discussion regarding problems of excessive speed on Shady Lane, PSAC members felt that comparable problems might exist on other streets of the borough, and the council recommended that summonses be given to motorists driving above posted speed limits throughout the borough.

The meeting was led by PSAC Chairman Charles Smith and,

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DEADLINE CHANGE

Next week's issue of the TIMES will be published on Wednesday, November 27. Advertising and news copy should be in our office on Friday, November 22.

Inflation has brought about the need for more funds, not any oversight in design, it was said. Bids were higher than anticipated and there was a slight change in scope of the job.

Council approved an ordinance to rezone Lot 11, Block 44 from P-Public to B-1. This is the property of the former School One on Park Avenue. The rezoning permits the Board of Education to go ahead with sale of the property, as has been planned. Profits realized will be directed toward additional improvements at Park Junior High School. The B-1 zoning allows professional and office buildings, multiple dwellings and residential. There had been considerable comment regarding senior citizen housing on this site during the recent political campaign. This would be a permitted use under the B-1 zoning.

Councilman Alan Augustine met recently with approximately 70 members of the Scotch Plains Golden Age group to discuss such housing. He said many expressed

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From the audience, many voices chimed in on the controversy which became a campaign highlight. Joel Bolton of 413 Midway Avenue claimed that if a Republican had done the same, there would be no furor. He felt the speed limit would not have been lowered if it had not been for Mrs. Whittington.

Ralph Lanuto of 359 Midway Avenue said the party was one of the nicest things that ever happened in the neighborhood.

Karl Samse of Madison Avenue said his gripe was not with the party, but the time and location. You don't close off the busiest street at the busiest hour, you move around the corner, he said.

Michael DeLisi of Farley Avenue pointed out that flyers were distributed to only the neighborhood, whereas the inconvenience was suffered by all.

As questions continued, Mrs. Whittington said she first contacted freeholders' secretaries seeking the permission. She then delivered a written request, as directed, to the home of one freeholder. She signed the letter Councilwoman. Although the Council met in agenda session following her actions, she said she did not feel it necessary to tell the Council, since it didn't fall within their aegis. Late Thursday night, Mrs. Whittington received a call from Joseph Komich of the county Road Department, telling her appro-

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Free Inoculations For Senior Citizens

Senior citizens will be provided with free flu shots by the Scotch Plains Board of Health today, November 21. The influenza vaccine will be given to those of 62 years and over.

Shot location will be All Saints Episcopal Church, 559 Park Avenue, between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

The Township Council is underwriting the cost of this program in order to protect its older residents who are likely to be more seriously affected if they contract this disease.