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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1974

Highway Problems Feature Councilman Augustine's Final Listening Post

Problems of roads and traffic and property maintenance in the northwest corner of the township led off last Saturday's Listening Post, the last to be presided over by Scotch Plains Councilman Alan Augustine.

One citizen proposed that a left-turn green arrow or a delayed green be included as part of the Park Avenue-Mountain Avenue intersection. They noted that there is considerable difficulty for any motorist making a left turn off of Park Avenue in either direction during the morning and evening rush hours. A second subject discussed concerned the possibility of extending the cul-de-sac on Sycamore Avenue thru to Front Street. In discussing this subject the poor condition and potential health hazard from one property in the area was brought to light. This property maintenance problem was referred to the Building Inspector and the township's Health Officer. The two road items to the Traffic Safety Officer and to the Planning Board. As Councilman Lawrence Newcomb noted the possible extension of Sycamore Avenue is an item that should be considered by the Planning Board during its current updating of the Scotch Plains Master Plan.

Other items discussed during Saturday's session included progress on the Myrtle-Front St. - Valleycrest Sewer Project, progress is slow, but underway on the Valleycrest and Catch bas-

ins on Cecilia Place, one installed; plans for revising and improving the flow thru the weir on the Cedar Brook, being reviewed by the township's interim engineer, Mr. Luster; and several school budget related items, with all citizens present supporting continued opposition to the School Board's '74-'75 budget.

At the conclusion of the session Mayor Walter Grote as well as several of the citizens present commented on this being Councilman Augustine's final Listening Post as a Councilman. Mayor Grote noted that since he and Mr. Augustine activated the Listening Post four years ago Councilman Augustine had not missed a single session. Augustine thanked those present for their kind remarks, noting that during the four years some 410 citizens were logged in a having come to Townhall with their problems at a Listening Post session. Augustine said he felt the Listening Post provided an important channel of citizen communications, one that generally has resulted in actions satisfactory to the citizens involved. An important point in an era when so many were disenchanted with government he felt.

Finds Slocum House Requires Shoring Up For Municipal Use

Board Of Ed Meets Tonite

A Special Public Meeting of the Board of Education of Scotch Plains-Fanwood will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12th, in the auditorium of the Terrill Junior High School on Terrill Road, Scotch Plains for the purpose of awarding bids for heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment and materials.

Following the Special Public Meeting, the board will conduct its monthly Agenda-Setting Session on December 12th in the board room located at 2650 Plainfield Ave., Scotch Plains.

Bike Ordinance Effective Jan. 1

Bikes can be registered now at Police Headquarters, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. However, before coming to register a few important facts must be known. Make, color, serial number, wheel size and etc. All bicycles operated after that date must be registered and if operated at night must have a white light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the rear. The ordinance goes into effect January 1, 1975.

If any questions or regard to provisions of the Ordinance, please call Police Headquarters 100-7100, ask for Traffic Safety Bureau.

and this will lead to situations in which Board and administration are unable to work effectively. We have got to have the feeling that our ultimate purpose is to help the students. That said, noting that the Board is being placed in a position of being unable to do the job because of public opinion in the township in a good, clean, straightforward way in accordance with national definitions.

Tyson said the harassment takes the form of petitions before the state commission, constant requests for advisory information from the board and administrators, critical letters to board and to the press. The costs to the district in terms of top level administrators and the board Attorney in meeting these requests and appearing at hearings is considerable, and it is

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Christmas Week Issue

The TIMES will publish on Tuesday, December 24 instead of Thursday, December 27. Delivery for all copies will be Friday, December 27.

Council Is Expected To Announce New Tax Assessor For Fanwood

If officials of the Borough of Fanwood should decide to use the recently acquired Slocum home for a municipal facility, such use could only be made after considerable shoring up of foundations. The Council has made public a report from Benoit and Goldberg, a Union, New Jersey architectural and engineering firm, detailing structural feasibility.

The largest room in the house, the main-floor living room, is capable of supporting office uses, but would require reinforcement of joists for public assembly use. Similarly, other areas of the house such as the library, dining room, and some bedrooms, would be structurally suitable for office use.

However, there are other areas which would require work. A second room over the first-floor library, for example, has a 47-pound per square foot capacity, since a girder is substantially underweight. Another bedroom, over the dining room, will accommodate only 33 pounds per square foot - substantially below requirements for office use.

In several areas of the large home, floors would carry weights to meet the Standard Building Code of New Jersey, but would not comply with the National Bureau of Standards requirements. The architects indicate that shoring would be necessary in the basement to compensate for understrength girders.

Alterations to the second-floor framing would be difficult, since removal of finished surfaces is indicated, however, suspended ceilings could conceal much of the installation of reinforcement.

As the Council discussed the report during the agenda setting session on December 12th, Councilman John Boudleret pointed out the further study needed. Still to be studied are such items as the siting of the building plant, the roof, the wiring, etc.

The design of the home was last summer when former Mayor Clarence Slocum and his wife sold it and moved. A citizens committee has been named to study the project and to recommend possible uses. A Municipal building is among the considerations.

Charles Morlock was expected to be named permanent assessor in Fanwood last night. Council members voted during Monday night's agenda session that they anticipated the Morlock appointment during the regular Monday Council session on Wednesday.

Mr. Morlock has been tax assessor in Bellevue Heights. He replaces Arthur H. Davison, following his unexpired term on July 1. Davison is now associated with Union Township.

Humane Society has been contracted by Fanwood. That contract has increased by \$400 for next year - to a total of \$3,500. The Humane Society may still be considered if the Council so decides.

The long-awaited speed limit reduction on Midway Avenue was expected to be reduced officially from 47 to 35 miles per hour. State authorities have been checking the ordinance, which has held up implementation until the present time. The speed reduction is the specification of a total

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DECA Studies Municipal Government

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Chapter of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) is conducting a Youth Government Study in Scotch Plains. Over fifty high school students are participating in the project. The students signed up for municipal jobs if their interest in order to learn about the job duties and responsibilities. The project is planned by DECA with Major Betty and Mrs. Barbara Morlock, Manager.

In December 1st and 13th, the students spent the entire morning with the Municipal Office to find out the job duties and responsibilities. The Municipal Office is being studied in the project including the Mayor, City Manager, Police, Judge, Clerks, etc. Most of the job duties are working with three students explaining their functions and duties.

The purpose of the project is to allow students to learn about certain job duties related to their career interests, to encourage students to look toward Municipal Government for possible future career opportunities, and to arouse civic awareness among students, encouraging them to see the operations and problems within their community.

On December 17, the climax of the project will be a simulation of a Youth Government Day. The details will be worked out this week. On that day, or during that week, students will actually participate in the job with the employees. For example, students will sit in the court with the judge, patrol with police and conduct Municipal meeting.

Tyson Sounds Alarm On Public Hostility To Board Decisions

Dr. Fern Tyson, Acting Superintendent of Schools here, has spoken out in opposition to community opinion which could threaten the "very precious thing we have in this community - the schools and the way in which we are able to operate them." Tyson has voiced his concern to all staff in the district, speaking at a general staff meeting recently.

Tyson cited Alert Parents and the Municipal governments as particular areas of concern - the governments because the tax taker for a \$494,000 budget without a real program and experience in determining what that was suggesting, and Alert Parents for support of the government, staff and a general management of administration.

While he is not confined to enter the political arena generally, Tyson feels the threat to the educational future of children here is sufficient to justify his public expression of concern. In a national, his worry is the long-range effect upon what we are able to do for the children, he said.

Dealing in on his objections, Tyson cited the manner in which questions are being raised. The Alert Parents seem to be dedicated to good schools, but they work in a fashion which in any large will lead to a reduction in quality. He welcomes criticism, he said, and has offered to work with Alert Parents in a meaningful study of the efficiency and fiscal responsibility of the local district in comparison with similar districts. However, it is his feeling that Alert Parents fail to attempt to find answers and solve

problems here before making their complaints to the press and to the state. He also faulted the public support of a recent plea from the Board of Education, noting that the 1974-'75 school budget at the same level, which the Council set for the 1974-'75 budget - that is a figure reduced by \$244,000 from the original figure offered to voters.

In the present economy, with inflation facing everyone, it is outlandish and unrealistic to assume that the district can continue the same educational offerings and programs at the same dollar figure. Financing is one of the major issues in all school districts at the present time, and one of the surest ways to reduce quality is reduction of the dollar amount, Tyson said. He challenged all other public institutions to live with the same budget next year as they have had for this year.

Tyson feels a direct effort is being made on some with the community to gain control of the school district. That attempt is being made by a general management of administration and Board of Education, he said. He very definitely feels that his best judgement, which is being seriously attacked,