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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1975

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New Assessment For Slocum Committee

Days will not be dull for the Citizens Advisory Committee named by Mayor Ted Trumpp to study the potential of the Slocum House. Having completed their review of the possibilities and forwarding a recommendation in record time, the citizen group has been called upon to continue their volunteer advisory work. The Finance Committee and Mayor Trumpp met to review the findings of the citizen body, and voted to ask the group to pursue recommendation made in their report, i.e., a cost study should be considered to verify proposals made by the group.

The Citizens Advisory Committee has been asked to develop reasonable cost for the following options:

1 Construction of New Facilities -

(a) Construction of new facilities on the Slocum site, to house borough administration, Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Police Department.

(b) Construction of new borough facilities on Slocum site to house administration and Police Department, in conjunction with new facilities at 130 Watson Road to house Fire Department and Rescue Squad (the later to be of block or a pre-built construction).

(c) Using the existing Slocum home to house administration, while building new facilities on the property to house Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Police Department and legislative functions.

(d) Using existing Slocum home for the borough administration, with new contiguous facilities on the property for the Police Department and legislative functions, plus new facilities of a block or pre-built nature at 130 Watson Road to house Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

While the Committee concentrated only on the Slocum pro-

perty in its first assignment, they are asked this time to also render an opinion on the desirability of locating all borough facilities at their present location at 130 Watson Road, providing new housing for them.

The Finance Committee expressed the hope that the next report could be completed by March 15, 1975. The Council would then identify the alternatives that appear most feasible. Under discussion is the possibility of providing residents with a mailer describing the alternatives, with a brief description. Residents would indicate a preference on a postcard to be returned to government officials. It is presently thought this would be a more effective indicator of community sentiment than placing the question on a ballot at a general election, since the total percentage of the citizens who vote is relatively low.

The Citizens Advisory Committee, which is chaired by James Russell, may solicit professional assistance in developing the requested data, with such expenditures approved by the proper authorities in advance.

State Historians Meet And Tour Scotch Plains

On Saturday, January 18th, 193 members and guests of "The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey" met in the Municipal Building Court Room and Stage House Inn for their general quarterly meeting. There were 50 different Historical Societies represented at the meeting, of a total group of 120. The League was formed in 1966 to help share ideas, information and to provide a common front for Historical Societies and those interested in research, preservation and geneology to pool their efforts and talents.

The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood was the host organization and altho just taken in as a member organization have had considerable exposure to the association, with Mrs. Leonard Sachar being the current Treasurer and former Secretary to the League and Mr. Charles Detwiller a former director. The quarterly Meeting was held in Scotch Plains once before in 1968, hosted by the Plainfield-North Plainfield Historical Society.

The theme of this meeting was "A Preliminary Conference on Preservation" and the main speaker, Mr. David Poinsett, Supervisor of the Historic Sites Section of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Poinsett spoke on the role of his Dept. in assisting with advice, setting up surveys and his role in listing sites with the National and State Registers. He also moderated a most informative panel of experts and persons with experience in guiding their towns and Societies in Historic Preservation. The other speakers were: Mr. Frederic Detwiller, an Architectural Historian with the Society for

Preservation of New England Antiquities, who showed slides of various restored buildings in the New England area, illustrating adaptive uses to help justify and pay for their continued preservation. Also, he spoke of new technical methods of Sray, paint analysis, etc., used by the New England Society in their assisting others and in restoring the some 68 properties directly under their care throughout New England, from Connecticut to Maine.

Mrs. Constance Greiff, of Princeton & Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission, spoke on the role of the National Trust in giving assistance in initial planning for preservation programs, and the necessity of having professional guidance early in the project. She also reviewed various funding programs and how and where to get names of consultants.

Mr. Joel Freser, Director of Management & Budget of the City

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School Board Moves To Reduce Teacher Aide Coverage

Watch Fanwood Build A Budget

Inflation - recession got you down? Wondering how to make ends meet, and your budget stretch? Perhaps your own personal financial picture won't seem so bad if you watch a municipality in action, building a budget for an entire town for an entire year.

The Fanwood Borough Council has opened its budget sessions to the public this year. The action continues this Saturday, January 25, from 9 to noon at the Community House at the railroad station. Municipal departments take turns presenting their cases to the budgetary powers that be, and it makes for some fascinating listening.

Planning Board Elects Officers

The regular meeting of the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains was held on January 20, 1975 at 8:15 p.m. The following new officers were elected: Michael Cornacchia, Chairman, Polly Kremer, Vice-Chairman, Bernard Mondi, Secretary.

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19.

A revision in the by-laws was read for the first time and will be voted upon at the next meeting.

A resolution identifying the Scotch Plains Ad Hoc Citizens' Committee was introduced and passed. Following are the members of the Ad Hoc Committee: Chairperson Ruth Gastel, Co-Chair: Rev. Bob Shoesmith, Dr. Marvin Agran, Daniel Bernstein, Esq., Norbert Bernstein, Joseph D'Annunzio, Charles Detwiller, Hugo Diaz, Mary Fedowitz, Lydia Flagg, Charles Komorowski, Betty Lindner, Mauro Checchio, William Murray, Donald Naragon, Willard Reese, Chester Ring, Neva Sachar, Calvin M. Schwartz, Arlene Siegel, Gabriel Spera, Manya Ungar. David L. Johnson, representing the Recreation Commission, Robbie Mason, Board of Education, Noel Musial, Town Council, Michael Blacker, Township Manager. The following Municipal Agencies have not yet appointed a representative: Board of Adjustment, Building Committee, Industrial Committee, Union County Solid Waste Advisory and Technical Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee is charged: "To study and evaluate the Master Plan revision proposals, prepared by Dean K. Boorman, Planning Consultant of Boorman and Dorrain, Inc., and to report the findings and recommendations to the Scotch Plains Planning Board preceding the Public Hearings on the Master Plan proposals."

The Ad Hoc Committee will have their first meeting during the first week in February.

Total Now Includes Sixty Eight Aides In Ten Schools

Teacher aides in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district may be working less - and some of them may be working not at all - after February 1. On that date, a general cutback in aide services takes effect to reflect the reductions in the 1974-75 school budget mandates by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education.

At the present time, a total of 68 teacher aides work a total of 249 hours daily in 10 schools.

Some of them provide lunchtime supervision in conjunction with other chores. Others perform a host of services, including clerical, secretarial, and classroom assistance for teachers. The cut will mean 100 less hours of teacher aide service weekly, or 40 percent less service.

Superintendent of Schools Perry Tyson said last week that the reduction will be reflected at all 10 schools. However, the goal will be continue to maintain 50-to-1 ratio for lunchtime supervision at the elementary level. At the present time, it is anticipated that the reduction could mean job losses in some cases, reduction in hours in others.

When lunchtime supervision aides were hired last year, it was felt it would be difficult to get aides to work for only an hour daily, so approximately a four-hour stint was set up to encourage applicants. The remaining three hours were spent in clerical and other activities. Reductions might be possible in these schedules, Tyson said.

Mrs. Reilly tried to initiate legislation to reinstate the Listening Post instead, but the Board negated her efforts at rule suspension, wanting more discussion of new public input measures.

The Board voted, on a split vote, to cancel the practice of opening the meeting to the public for question on the agenda for a half hour before the start of the 8 p.m. meeting. Lack of interest was the reason offered. Robert Lariviere asked for initiation of another forum for public comment. He suggested following the pattern of town councils in opening the meeting for discussion on issues, similar to public hearings on ordinances, then closing it before the vote. Voting against the change were Mrs. Reilly, Mr. Brownawell and Mr. Chamberlin.

Joseph DiRienzo of Fanwood questioned the board regarding spending of the \$714,000 restored to the 1974-75 budget by the state commissioner. With indications of appeals by the governing bodies, DiRienzo wanted to know where the Board of Education

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Communities To Appeal State Board Restoration Of School Budget Cut

Scotch Plains Township Attorney Louis Markowitz announced on Tuesday that an appeal has been filed with the state Board of Education by the combined governments of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, seeking relief from the ruling by New Jersey Commissioner of Education Fred Burke to restore \$714,000 of the \$969,000 cut from the 1974-75 school budget by the Councils.

Markowitz said the governing bodies will also seek from the state board a stay to prevent the spending of the \$714,000 until the appeal process at this level is exhausted. Markowitz said the appeal was filed with the state board on January 20, fulfilling the legal requirement that such a move be made within 20 days of notification of the Commissioner's ruling.

Preliminary drafts of the appeal material have been prepared, and Markowitz will meet today, Thursday, January 23, with Edward Beglin, attorney for the Fanwood Borough Council.

"We do not think it is proper that any money be spent at this time, since the matter is not resolved," Markowitz said. He said he has no indications of how long it may be before any ruling is received on the request for a stay on spending.

The Board of Education at

this point is abiding by the latest legal ruling - that of the restoration of funds by the Commissioner - and has begun spending at the restored rate.

At the Tuesday meeting of the Scotch Plains Council, Councilman Noel Musial served for Mayor Robert Griffin, who was

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Ferguson Out Of Board Race

Charles Ferguson, President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, announced last week that he is no longer a candidate for re-election. Earlier, Ferguson had filed for the March school board elections, seeking both a three-year term and an unexpired two-year term. He had said, however, that he wouldn't run if a contest developed.