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Fanwood Council Says Budget Surplus Is Only \$50,000, Not \$185,000

Last week, Richard Bard, a candidate for the Board of Education, asked the Fanwood Borough Council whether it did, indeed, have surplus funds with which to pay Fanwood's portion of the 1974-75 school taxes still uncollected. The Board of Education President claims the borough has \$185,000 with which to pay the funds restored by the N.J. Commissioner following an appeal.

Finance Chairman Charles Coronella said the borough had \$50,000 in surplus as of the adoption of a tentative three-month budget for 1975. The borough is using all possible surplus funds, and "this is rock bottom, less than the borough accountant wishes to see in there," Coronella said.

Mayor Ted Trumpp emphasized that the budget figure presented to the public may be the maximum figure for borough operation, necessitating going to Trenton for approval of an emergency appropriate in the event of need.

"Then please write to Mr. Ferguson and notify him," Bard asked.

Councilman Van Dyke Pollitt noted that there is also a balance in capital surplus of \$27,000, and the borough has been admonished to keep that figure there. "We have no sneaky accounts, no sneaky line items, bank accounts, nothing with bucks in it for emergency items," Pollitt said.

The Council approved an ordinance setting salaries for borough officials for 1975. They are: Collector, \$6,600; Assessor, \$5,100; Clerk, \$6,600; Attorney, \$3,000; Director of Welfare, \$1,000; Magistrate, \$4,500; Engineer, \$7,000; Superintendent of Public Works, \$17,160; Inspector of Buildings, \$2,400; Borough Administrator, \$7,590; Deputy Borough Administrator, \$4,400; Treasurer, \$9,350; Court Clerk, \$4.40 per hour; Chief of Police, a range of \$17,300 to \$19,000; Captain, \$16,907; Lieutenant, \$15,741; Sergeant, \$14,866; Class A, Patrolman, \$13,852; Class B, Patrolman, \$12,718; Class C, \$12,718; Class D, \$12,340; Class E, \$11,333; Probationary, \$9,200.

Mayor Ted Trumpp named Robert Butler of Tillotson Road to membership in the Transportation Advisory Committee of the county. He will be Fanwood's

Board Plans Final Action On Policies

The first half of the policies in Section G Personnel will be presented for final action at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education public meeting, February 20th at McGinn School at 8:00 p.m.

Three revised policies will be up for adoption on second and final reading. They are: GAD - Professional Development Opportunities - revised to bring in line with state law and allow for expenses to be paid for staff officially participating in the NJ EA convention, within budget limitations. Supersedes policy dated May 21, 1964. GAE - Complaints and Grievances - revised to grant employees not party to a negotiated agreement, the right to file a grievance, according to state law. The accompanying Rules and Regulations stipulate the procedure to be used. Supersedes policy dated

representative on the county transportation group, and will represent the count on traffic planning. Craig Hudson of Russell Road was appointed the borough representative to the Central Jersey 4th of July Committee of Plainfield. Councilman John Swindlehurst and Joseph Steiner were appointed to represent the community on a committee seeking funds for community development from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Henry Piekarski was cited by Mayor Trumpp for his years of service as a member of the fire company and captain for three years. He has chosen not to seek reelection. Robert Rau was named deputy chief of the fire prevention bureau, replacing Donald Springer, who was also praised by Trumpp. Rau, a Fanwood native, has been a fire department member for over 25 years, and is a charter member of the Rescue Squad.

Raymond P. Manfra was granted tenure as superintendent of Public Works, after serving five years in the slot.

Councilman Pollitt singled out retiring police chief Joseph Gorsky, noting his great pride in the professionalism of his department, and his role in nurturing a syndrome of dedicated service in Fanwood.

In outlining the 1974 police report, it was pointed out that the department handled 887 more calls and complaints than they did in 1974.

The Council has appropriated \$4,000 to the Citizens Advisory Committee studying the Slocum property for its potential as a site of new municipal facilities. The committee will engage necessary services to determine cost studies of the various alternative uses of building and/or grounds.

June 30, 1966. GBI - Personnel Records - revised to provide for the release of personnel records with the knowledge of the employee involved. Supersedes policy dated March 17, 1960.

Five policies will be offered for revision on second and final reading. Three are being superseded by policies described above. The other two deal with provisions covered in negotiated contracts.

There will be no further policies presented for Board action until after the elections and reorganization of the Board of Education.

Council Denies Plea For Condominiums In Lake Avenue Area

Developers Hint Decision Will Be Appealed To Courts

By STEVE REISS

The Scotch Plains Town Council denied the application of developers to construct a 121 unit residential condominium bordering Lake Avenue and the Lehigh Valley Railroad, Tuesday night.

The developers, Richard Schneider and Alan Schulman, requested that a use variance be granted so that the apartments could be built in what is now an M-2 Industrial Zone.

Robert Spencer, attorney for the developers, indicated that the decision would be appealed to the courts.

The 3-2 vote was straight along party lines. Democrats Robert Griffin, Noel Musial and Anne Wodjenski voted against the variance. Republicans Walter Grote and Lawrence Newcomb voted for it.

The approved resolution stated that "The granting of the variance would substantially impair the intent and purpose of the zone plan and scheme of the Township of Scotch Plains" and that it "cannot be granted without substantial detriment to the public good" and "without substantial detriment to the public health and general welfare."

Councilman Grote challenged the resolution. "The present Master Plan is many, many years old and has never been fully implemented."

He noted that the consultants hired by the council favored the building of condominiums. He labeled the section of the resolution calling the proposed 15-acre development detrimental to the public good, health and general welfare as "statements not backed up with fact."

The resolution stated "Housing needs of the residents of Scotch Plains and the surrounding area will not be met by the proposed project because of the high cost involved. More specifically, houses in the \$50,000 to \$75,000 range will not meet the housing needs of a great segment of the population," and that the development would bring about traffic congestion.

It also stated that the area is "ripe for industrial development. Campus-type industry and other permitted uses are functionally appropriate and feasible for the premises in question." Grote criticized these statements noting that since he had moved to Scotch Plains, it has been said that the area was ripe for industrial development.

"The next stage after ripe is something we all know about," he commented.

Councilman Newcomb termed the denial unfortunate. He said industry in that area would make Scotch Plains "the kind of neighbors that some of our neighbors

senior citizens centers, renovation of historic properties, or water, sewer or drainage improvements.

have been to us." He cited the Westfield dump as an example.

Newcomb noted that the developers were prepared to make an investment of approximately \$9 million with ratables between \$5 million and \$6 million.

"I don't see any \$9 million businesses on the horizon," he said.

Township attorney Lewis Markowitz stated that to approve any variance on grounds that it would be a good ratable is illegal.

Councilman Musial stated that the developers "had failed to convince me that industry could not be attracted to the site."

He said that people living in such a complex would lack community identity. "They are people without a town," he commented.

Musial said the residents would not shop or dine out in Scotch Plains. "They are physically too far removed."

Councilwoman Wodjenski said "This to me is a most unsuitable site for the money."

The condominium units would range in price from \$55,000 to \$65,000 for a one-bedroom unit and \$65,000 to \$75,000 for a

two-bedroom unit. The Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment approved the zoning variance by a 3-2 vote at its Dec. 19 meeting.

The present M-2 industrial zoning permits office buildings for executive, engineering and administrative purposes; scientific or research laboratories; any light manufacturing, processing, packaging or assembly use, research, laboratory, warehouse or other similar industrial uses.

Robert Jenny, director of public safety for Clark, read a letter to the council from Clark's mayor, Bernard Yarusavage.

The letter stated that Clark officials were not opposed to the condominiums but were concerned about traffic congestion and flooding.

The letter closes, "We prefer the residential development as opposed to industrial development because we feel industrial development will bring even more problems to the area, including such things as noise pollution, more truck traffic and possible depreciation of property values of adjoining properties."

Fanwooder Is Named By County Board

The Union County Planning Board held its first meeting last Thursday concerning Department of Housing and Urban Development funds to be available to the county, and Joseph Steiner, the Fanwood representative named just the night before by Mayor Ted Trumpp, assumed temporary chairmanship of a committee of community representatives. The county has very recently been alerted that it qualified for federal assistance in community development funding.

To date, 16 of the 21 communities in the county have indicated agreement to share in the funding in exchange for planning for some form of low and middle income housing in the county.

Time is of the essence, since the 16 municipalities, which include Scotch Plains and Fanwood, must prepare and approve a three-year plan for community development projects by March 1 to continue the county eligibility.

The meeting held on Thursday, February 13 was an informal gathering, which was to be followed by a formal public hearing slated for Tuesday, February 18, at which citizen groups and the general public will have an opportunity for input in the form of views on community development projects.

Since Scotch Plains Township Council had a caucus session on Thursday, February 13, no representatives were able to attend. From Fanwood, Steiner was joined by Councilman John Swindlehurst. Steiner indicated that the county eligibility will be to the tune of about \$770,000 for Union County for the first year. The funds are not divided up evenly, community by community, nor are project decisions made on the basis of population distribution. Instead, Steiner said, the county planners have indicated that the monies will be applied where they will provide the most benefit for the most people.

Steiner said the representatives were asked to peruse an idea list of possible projects within the county, and a discussion was then held concerning the potential application of the funds.

Flood control was the most popular area, Steiner said, and there were indications of possible flood control improvements in the Fanwood-Scotch Plains vicinity, which would benefit local residents. Fanwood's representatives plan to talk to community representatives from Plainfield and Scotch Plains in the near future in hopes of arriving at a mutually desirable project for which to apply.

The federal community development funds can be used for local projects such as parks,