

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 16,

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1975

15 CENTS

Board Uses Use Of Public Buildings To Summer School Corp.

The Board of Education has denied permission to Summer Sessions, Inc. to run a summer school in the public school buildings, as they have for over a decade. Instead, the Board planned to meet last night to discuss the possibilities of Board sponsorship of a summer school. Permission was denied by a five-member majority, which included Thomas Fallon, Frank Festa, Phil Labasi, Vincent Shanni and Richard Bard.

Heretofore, a nonprofit private corporation directed by administrators from the district has run the summer school. The corporation, Summer Sessions, Inc., planned that this would be their final year of sponsorship and suggested that the Board plan to take over the operation next year.

Summer Sessions, Inc. had been the subject of an investigation by the county prosecutor, following a request for same from Alert Parents -- a citizen group here. The investigation yielded an opinion of no criminality. The decision to deny permission to the corporation after questioning of Henry Bluhm, Chairman of the Board of Directors, as to whether he felt that postponing decision for one week on a Board-vs.-Summer Sessions basis would jeopardize organizing the school.

Richard Bard, Board President, was of the opinion that the district has the time and talent to provide a board-sponsored school. If the school charges tuition (which was charged by Summer Sessions, Inc.) the school cannot be state accredited. Bard claimed Westfield sponsors a tuition school.

Brownawell, voting against the denial, felt it jeopardized the op-

Fanwood Council Seeks Mail Ballot Opinion On Slocum Property Costs

The Fanwood Borough Council will conduct a mail survey in late June or early July, seeking citizen opinion on the expenditure of around \$800,000 for a municipal complex on the Slocum property on Martine Avenue. The Council argued the relative merits of the mail ballot over a referendum next November, with the Republican majority of five opting for the former. The Republicans claim waiting until November would delay the project and would possibly add to construction costs.

The two Democratic members of Council favor putting the issue on the ballot in November, claiming this would provide a more representative sampling and that voters should express views on such a large expenditure.

A Citizens Advisory Committee has been studying the possible uses of the Slocum property for several months and, with advice from professional architects, has recommended a plan for a new building on the site, for a cost of approximately \$832,000. The final report of the committee listed a range of plans, differing from each other in minor details. The recommended plan calls for razing of the existing Slocum home. Studies showed insufficient support in the home for use as administrative offices.

The mail survey will show all plans and provide citizens with a choice.

It was reported that the Union County Planning Board is

opportunities for children who might attend this summer. He favored one more year of Summer Sessions, Inc. So did Robert Carlson, who said he had no doubt the Board is unanimously in favor of eventual Board sponsorship, but nobody has convinced him it could be done this summer.

Robbie Mason, also voting in favor of Summer Sessions, noted that there are no funds budgeted for board operation this year.

Early this week, Bluhm reported that the corporation had been dissolved and will no longer be in a position to provide a summer school program.

Mr. Bluhm pointed out that the non-profit organization had only one goal since its beginning eleven years ago -- that goal was to provide a summer school experience for children of the community. Bluhm said that the program could only be held if the school board allowed the corporation to use the school buildings to house the summer session. "Since the majority of the Board, at its meeting of May 15th, saw fit to deny us the use of school facilities for this coming summer and since there is no way that we as a group can provide a program without proper

studying the Midway Circle area as one of two sites to be considered as potential detention basins to alleviate flooding along the Green Brook. The site has been suggested for Fanwood in a flood control study some years back, but was never started. The county planners are also looking into use of Park Junior High field for similar purposes.

The Council approved an ordinance providing for cooperation with county and 15 other municipalities in a \$150,000 engineering study of Cedar Brook flooding, which monies are part of a \$600,000 federal cooperative community development fund.

Council introduced legislation which sets \$30,000 for engineering work on piping of Robinson's Branch between LaGrande Ave. and the railroad. This ordinance and a second ordinance introduced to appropriate \$25,000 for

Residents Again Push For Flooding Help

EARLY CLOSING
For
Next Week's Issue

Because of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday all advertising and news copy must be in our office by noon Friday May 23, 1975.

facilities, we had no choice but to dissolve our corporation."

Bluhm said he and other members of the Board of Directors hoped to Board of Education would accept the responsibility of providing a summer school experience for the children. "It's a very worthwhile program," he said. "It meets the needs of not only those students who require remedial work, but it also provides opportunities for those students who seek enrichment and advanced courses."

Bluhm added that he and the other directors wished to express their thanks and appreciation to the community for these many years of support and particularly to those who volunteered their services in order to make the program as successful as it was.

200 Greet Former Plains Officials

It was a very warm and nostalgic evening on Friday, May 9th, as over 200 people met to express their appreciation for the contributions of three past mayors and a former town-Councilman.

The event took place at the Sulpher Springs Inn, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. The former officials honored were:

William Kitz - served township almost seven years between 1966 and 1974 as a town-Councilman and Mayor for three years.

Thomas Santo Salvo - appointed to town-Council in 1966 and served until 1969. During that period he was elected Mayor in 1968.

Albert W. Theurer - completed eight years in December 1974 during which he served as Mayor for two.

Alan Augustine - appointed Councilman in 1970 and served as Deputy Mayor in 1974.

These four men of distinction were presented with engraved silver pitchers as a token of appreciation.

Among the dignitaries present were State Senator Peter McDonough, Assembly Candidate Donald DiFrancesco and Republican Municipal Chairman Richard Hatfield. A telegram of congratulations was sent by Congressman M.J. Rinaldo to the four men.

The Chairman of the happy affair was Mr. Jim Reynolds, also of Scotch Plains.

Heavy Rains Last Week Stir Old Floodwater Fears, Say Improved Communications Needed

Residents of the north side of Scotch Plains, where flooding frequently occurs, were back once again to the Township Council, following a very heavy rainfall last Tuesday evening. They want improvements. They also want improved communication and availability of municipal personnel.

Charles Doyle of Cecilia Place said homeowners in the "northwest corridor" of Scotch Plains are desperate and fear that they will lose their homes every time it rains. He decried the lack of speedy action. "Let's get together with Plainfield, let's get going. We need action now," he said.

Mrs. Betty Kuchaver of 1774 Mountain Avenue claimed that during the height of the storm, she could not contact officials. She also questioned why no flood alarm was sounded, and why Byrd and Catherine Streets were not sandbagged, as had been specified in plans.

Mrs. Eva Finkel said people's life savings are in their homes, and they want leaders with foresight, not hindsight.

Mayor Griffin indicated that Tuesday's flash rainstorm had not been predicted and authorities weren't expecting it. Therefore, the Public Works people had left for the day. The Township Manager, returning to his home in Newburgh, turned around and came back to Scotch Plains, staying to survey dangerous sites, Griffin reported. He indicated that officials had been out, in various locations around Scotch Plains.

As for the flood alert, Griffin said the "red ball" alarm, mounted in the Green Brook across Route 22, was inoperative, either because a tree fell on it or because children sit atop it to fish. Griffin said the Township had been trying to find flooding solutions, and has had a flood control committee since 1969, has sent representatives to HUD meetings seeking financing for costly improvements, etc.

Robert Jones of 850 Raritan Road criticized the flood alert "red ball" as well as the full complement of "red balls" for signaling emergency help, located throughout Scotch Plains. He suggested the Township sell all the red balls and put the money toward flood improvements.

In other actions, the Council engaged in a flurry of comment once again concerning legal fees. This time, the Council had voted to remove the legal bills from the bill list before it was submitted for Council approval. This was done because one Democratic Council member was absent, leaving a two-two split, which would have resulted in failure of the bill list to carry, had the Republicans voted no due to legal fees.

At issue are attorney's bills for \$60 to \$75 per hour, which Republicans feel is excessive. The last attorney received \$35 per hour for his services. Councilman Larry Newcomb said he had read of nationally prestigious legal firms charging such rates, but doesn't feel Scotch Plains' legal problems are sufficiently involved to require this expensive a cost for attorneys.

Council gave final approval to an ordinance appropriating \$18,000 for purchase of equipment for the Township. Two new ordinances, with June 3 public hearings, call for appropriation of \$28,100 for a trailer type leaf vacuum machine and amending of a previous ordinance of agreement with the county for cooperative participation in a community development revenue sharing program, under which the Township hopes to receive federal aid in storm drainage.

Marion Clark was named to the Bicentennial Committee, representing Senior Citizens, and Sylvester Ward representing Scotchwood Masonic Lodge.

Two local young people were cited by Council for achievements. James Bowman was recently named one of the twelve most outstanding DECA students in the nation -- the second student from New Jersey to be so honored. He was student mayor in the Youth in Government Day and headed tour guides when the Municipal Building Open House was held last Spring.

Walter Grote, son of Councilman Walter Grote, was also honored. His father abstained on the vote. Grote was recently voted amateur wrestler of the year in the metropolitan area by the Metropolitan American Athletic Union. He has represented the U.S., wrestling against Russians and Mongolians in recent months and is one of the outstanding wrestlers in the country.

Elizabeth Harding of 532 Forepaugh Avenue presented a petition from residents of Forepaugh and Warner seeking paving.

School Board Meeting Date Is Changed

Shortly before press time, this paper was notified that the Special Board of Education Meeting set for tonight, May 22, has been cancelled.

Richard Bard, Board President, said complexity of problems facing the Board and need for legal research mandated the de-legal research mandated the decision.

The Board was scheduled to act on Summer School and to consider engaging former directors for teaching posts.

Continued On Page 19