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15 CENTS A COPY

Rift Widens Squad President Quits

Nick Colarusso quit his post as president of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad Monday night, disgusted with the lack of support for a switch to a coed squad. Colarusso said the squad had met in a private session Monday night, at which time he tried to persuade members in attendance to open the ranks to younger members and to women, in accordance with state civil rights rules and regulations. The squad has just received a complaint of discriminatory action from the New Jersey Director of Civil Rights.

Colarusso said the squad was more inclined towards pursuing the matter further with the Township Council, seeking to obtain their \$3,000 annual budgetary contribution from township funds. Bringing it to the people to get public opinion was the discussion, Colarusso said. Finally, he decided continuation of the argument amidst a group who "just didn't want to listen, wasn't worth getting my blood pressure up."

Colarusso also said he had been very perturbed when he read in the newspapers recently that First Lieutenant Harold Hill, Jr. told Council that the bylaws of the Scotch Plains Squad were changed back in June of 1974 to eliminate the word "male." Colarusso said that indeed a vote had been taken on that question at that time. However, he said that back then Hill had led the local squad to believe that the issue had been defeated. Hill

had claimed that a 2/3 vote of the full membership had been necessary, and that the 5-4 vote would therefore not carry. Colarusso said another squad member similarly recalled Hill telling the membership that the vote had not been carried. Colarusso said the members had not checked the bylaws at the time. If they had, they would have found that the bylaws require only a majority vote for change.

On Tuesday night, the Township Council met in special session with the squad to discuss the monetary allocation, which has not been forwarded to the squad this year. Mayor Robert Griffin said the Council simply outlined the legal requirements to be met for squad to obtain the funds. The squad will have to comply with the law, as it has been interpreted by the Director of Civil Rights.

Board Concerned Over Change In School Payments

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education had anticipated that the Scotch Plains Township Government would continue its payment schedule to schools in the same manner it had been doing, when the Board formulated its budget for the current school year. Therefore, the Board anticipated regular quarterly payments, which were invested until needed, providing interest which was applied toward tax reduction. Instead, the township has changed from regular quarterly payments to monthly payments. The total annual contribution from Scotch Plains totals about \$8 million annually.

The change means a \$30,000 reduction in monies available, according to Michael Klick, assistant Superintendent for Business. Although the Board and the Council had discussed a change, that change was not to be made for the current year, Klick said. Board President Richard Bard said the Council had changed the method to provide more income at the township level.

The board plans to seek a new attorney, working in-house, full-time, for about \$25,000 annually. The Westfield firm of Johnstone and O'Dwyer has been handling school affairs here for several years. The legal involvements have been on the upswing in recent years, and last year's bill to the firm was over \$40,000 according to Bard.

A search committee will be named to interview candidates for the legal job. The Board seeks a qualified lawyer with expertise in school and labor law. Dr. Raigh Carpenter, Superintendent of Schools, reported that a comprehensive evaluation of pupils in the sixth grade plan at Coles School is being initiated, to determine strengths and weaknesses of the educational approach.

Mrs. Roseanne Fleming requested information on a classified advertisement she had seen in a Newark paper, seeking employees for a Hillside firm bearing the name of Clickenger. Mrs. Fleming was told that a complete investigation is underway to de-

termine whether Mr. Clickenger is the same person as the principal of Terrill Junior High, now out on sick leave. "We'll conduct a complete investigation of the possible multiple activities of Mr. Clickenger, and if we find an infraction of rules, it will be dealt with," Bard said.

Frank Festa reported on a comprehensive study he has made of buildings and grounds. He suggested an Ad Hoc Committee be established, from citizens who are well versed in architecture, building codes, construction, etc. to form a list of priorities for school improvements. Bard expressed the hope for many volunteers, who would work closely with Festa and with those familiar with buildings, including principals and custodians.

"These schools are quite run down. We have to determine how they have gotten this way and how to avoid this in the future. We need a program of protective maintenance," Thomas Fallon said.

Festa said not only older, but even newer sections of schools need attention. The high school addition has leaked since it was built, with leaks destroying doorways, he reported. Sidewalks and curbs are generally in decent condition, but locker rooms, particularly at the high school and Park, need attention, mainly due to vandalism. The properties need seeding and a schedule of painting and window cleaning, drainage problems behind Ever-

Two Hundred Citizens Pack Auditorium Master Plan

Council agrees and is doing its best to keep them at a realistic level), requests for a municipal pool and specific neighborhood traffic complaints.

therefore, that our public schools must not undertake programs which intrude into the affective domain, specifically the teaching of values and attitude formation.

This Board believes that our school district must make efficient use of the financial resources granted to them to create a school environment designed to provide the optimum for learning.

Griffin said the Council will wait until they are assured of compliance with state regulations. Griffin has written to the Rescue Squad this week with several requests. He has asked for several items, including bylaws and a record of the minutes of the meeting at which the bylaws were changed. The Mayor also seeks a financial statement and assurances that if the squad obtains township monies this year, there will be no cutbacks in services.

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green need attention, and an investigation of productivity of buildings and grounds personnel is in order, Festa concluded.

October 7 and 15 have been set for public input sessions on the school budget for next year.

Board members expressed pleasure at the "open" and "candidate" presentation made by Carpenter in forwarding to the Board his recommendation of Peter Karycki as Acting Assistant Principal at Terrill.

Carpenter will recommend additional cuts for the 1975-76 school year, to accommodate the \$275,000 gap which has resulted from reduced state aid, and the board will make public its intent upon studying his recommendations.

Vincent Shanni continued his press for an improved inventory system. He claims the in-district inventory system being developed by Assistant Superintendent for Business Michael Klick is not progressing quickly enough. While awaiting an inventory system, the district is spending tens of thousands of dollars unnecessarily, Shanni ventured.

Free Flu Shots For Seniors

The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission and Scotch Plains Board of Health announces that free flu shots for Senior Citizens will be administered between 1-2 p.m., Thursday, October 2, at the Towne House in Green Forest Park off Westfield Road, Scotch Plains.

Any Senior Citizen, regardless of whether they belong to the Golden Age Group or not may avail themselves of these free flu shots on that day.

Claim Plan Would Change Area's Residential Character

The message to the Planning Board was loud and clear on Monday night, as about 200 residents gathered to have a say on possible revisions to the community Master Plan. Although there were dozens of changes recommended in a professional planner's report which was the basis for discussion, comment centered very strongly upon a single area of Scotch Plains, and a single zoning change. Residents of the south side more emphatically do not want multiple-family dwelling at the Rahway Road-Raritan Avenue corner.

The Planning Board has not yet taken a position as a body on a new Master Plan. To date the planners have studied the suggestions of Dean Boorman, the professional planner, and the opinions of an Ad Hoc Committee - a broad-based group of citizen representatives. The session held Monday night at Park Junior High was another step in the gathering of opinion - the first of many sessions to be scheduled in the future.

The area which drew the crowds is a 94-acre tract at Raritan and Rahway, where Boorman recommends zoning for townhouses - four to an acre. The total number of housing units possible on the 94 acres would be 375. The location, land values and density would dictate luxury townhouses at the site, it was indicated.

Southside homeowners zeroed in on many questions in voicing opposition. Traffic was one. With 375 more housing units and a potential two cars per unit, there would be a major buildup in traffic potential for the main roads serving the southside, people felt. Cooper, Rahway and Raritan would eventually have to be widened, it was said.

Nancy Naragon of 1645 Rahway Road claimed an additional 375 families would change the character of the southside. "The amount of traffic allowed now at peak times is ridiculous," she said. She pointed out that Edison is planning low income housing on Inman Avenue, which would bring even more traffic to the area. "I oppose widening and improving of these roads," she said. Another resident argued for children in the area. Widening of Raritan and/or Rahway would provide a highway from Clark to South Plainfield, and children would be "jailed in their backyards," she said.

Widening of Raritan, Rahway and/or Cooper Roads would not serve those who reside on those streets, according to Andy Pastor of 1100 Cooper. Make them toll roads if they are widened, and apply them toward tax reductions, he said.

Flooding was another question raised. Betty Kuchaver of Concerned Citizens urged strong consideration of flood impact in any changes in zoning. She said a professional planning study of ten years ago had indicated that the northside had been overbuilt. Pastor advised the Planning Board to focus on the flooding problems of the northside,

rather than develop the southside for multi-family housing, which might bring accompanying flood problems there.

Retention of the rural, residential character of southside Scotch Plains was of concern to homeowners. Milton Powell of 14 Indian Run challenged the "townhouse" designation for the area. The actual zoning designation would only specify 12 bedrooms to an acre, he said. He questioned why anybody feels a need for luxury housing. If there is such a demand, put this type of housing where it will not destroy the basic character of one-acre zoning, he said. Southside residents have paid high prices for their homes and will band together to protect these neighborhoods, he warned. While the state may press communities to provide varied housing, including multi-family, he has never heard of the state pushing for luxury housing, Powell said.

Joseph Perillo of 1081 Raritan Road said the changes are not wanted by homeowners, but by two developers. He claimed the developers would have land worth \$280,000 instead of the \$100,000 it is now worth if zoning changes were made. Survey neighborhoods, see if the people want change, he asked.

Boorman and Sid Graybar, a local developer, both argued that there is a need for luxury townhouses. People whose children are grown no longer want the responsibilities of lawn care and maintenance, they said. Dan Bernstein, attorney for Graybar, said there are residents who would

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Plains Gets New Engineer

Scotch Plains Municipal Manager, James J. Hauser, has announced the appointment of Edward Bogan of Somerset, New Jersey, as Municipal Engineer, effective September 29, 1975.

Mr. Bogan has been an engineer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey since 1969 to the present time. He is a graduate of Newark College of Engineering and a member of the American Society For Civil Engineers.

Mr. Bogan is replacing Mr. Richard O. Luster who has been the interim part-time Municipal Engineer of Scotch Plains since October, 1974.