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Proposed Board Would Place Under Town Manager

The Scotch Plains Township Council and the Board of Health met on Monday, and agreed on a proposal which would place supervision on board employees within the responsibility of the township manager. At present, the Board of Health employs a full-time sanitarian, a part-time health officer and a part-time plumbing inspector. Until now, the three have reported to the Board, which only meets once a month.

Despite discussions at the meeting Monday night regarding an alleged intent of the Township Council to remove autonomous status from the board, Mayor Robert Griffin reported Tuesday night that there is no such intent on the part of the Council. . . Griffin said he is not aware of any reports that council is under pressure by local businessmen to reduce powers of the sanitarian because of complaints he has signed against them.

All seven members of the Board of Health concurred in an opinion, that, although the manager may be supervisor of the employees, the Board should retain its authority to adopt its own ordinances, without involvement of Council. Various board members pointed out the desirability of having autonomy, stating that it enables the board to enforce and set health standards effectively.

Walker of 745 Jerusalem Road addressed Council regarding a problem he is having with golf balls from Scotch Hills Municipal Course. It seems that some local golfers have imperfect aim, and 745 Jerusalem Road is bombarded from time to time with the results of the golfing errors. Walker and his landlady both complained that they have had broken car windshields, car windows, and house windows. The landlady has lived at the location for 33 years, and said the offenses have been a source of irritation for all that time. She claimed that she has lost 20 windows in her home over about a 20-year period, and that the replacement charge is at least \$5 each time.

While there is a fence separating the neighborhood from the golfers, the fence dips behind some trees where Walker lives, providing insufficient protection for that particular home.

By law, the responsibility lies with the golfer, but Walker pointed out that he has gone to the golf course once or twice to try to place the financial blame, particularly in one situation where an expensive windshield was shattered, but finding the golfer to accept the responsibility is an impossible task.

Mayor Robert Griffin said the placement of the fence is the responsibility of the Recreation Commission, and said Council would see that the situation is rectified in the immediate future. Councilman Noel Musial indicated a concern for the public safety facet of the question, noting that a child could be hurt by a flying golf ball.

Among new ordinances and resolutions prepared was one that would vacate public rights to portions of Cliffwood Street, Lincoln Avenue and Jefferson Avenue in Kramer Manor Park, with public hearing scheduled for October 21. Another new ordinance would vacate Park Place.

Council set October 21 for a public hearing on three ordinances to amend portions of the land subdivision ordinance. One sets fees of \$25 for submission of a sketch plat for a minor subdivision, with the purpose of recovering some of the costs incurred in reviewing subdivision proposals. A second sets fees for site plan review - \$50 per \$1,000 square feet, with a maximum fee of \$500. This ordinance has a November 18 hearing. A third changes the zone of the Scotch Plains-owned Annex Building on Second Street from Public to Business. Council repeated the voting pattern which occurred when this ordinance was introduced last month. Councilman Larry Newcomb voted against the zoning change, as did Councilwoman Ann Wodnenski. Newcomb said there had been a recommendation from the Recreation Commission for use of the land, and in light of the fact that the Jaycees are undertaking a study of the recreational needs of the entire community, he could see no reason to reduce or limit the activities of the Jaycees, favoring leaving the zoning change for future consideration. Mrs. Wodnenski has argued that it would be remiss to zone this property for sale, since she favors its use by teenagers of the community. A teen center had been recommended. Council has indicated its intent to sell the building, along with several other township-owned parcels, for realization of tax income on the unused properties. Councilman Noel Musial offered the opinion that the annex would be too costly to renovate properly for teen-center use.

Council will recommend to the state Department of Transportation the designation of a stop street on Birch, at its intersection with Portland Avenue.

A contract was awarded to John Andrusky for the furnishing of laborers to rake and load leaves at \$7.75 per hour on week-

PTA's Distribute Questionnaire

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA Presidents are distributing to the parents, through the PTA's, a questionnaire relating to a proposed "Philosophy of Education" by the Board of Education Policy Committee.

The Board of Education is requesting parental input. Parents are requested to fill out questionnaire and/or comments and suggestions on a separate sheet of paper.

Any parent who has not received a copy of the questionnaire by October 10th may obtain one at the office of any school in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Parents are requested to kindly return questionnaire in an envelope to their child's school within seven days of receipt.

Teacher Group Asks Meeting To Discuss Education Philosophy

Plan Demonstration In Advance Of Board Meeting To Demonstrate Concern

The philosophy of education introduced by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education last month continues to draw reaction from several community groups, promising extensive discussion at next week's formal meeting of the board. Tonight, when the Board meets for its agenda-setting session at Muir School, teachers plan a demonstration in advance of the meeting to illustrate their concern over the new philosophy.

At the PTA level, presidents of PTAs throughout the district are in the process of distributing questionnaires about the philosophy of education to parents. Parental reaction and comment are solicited in the questionnaires, which should be returned to the schools within seven days of receipt. Any parent who has not received a copy of the questionnaire by Friday may obtain one at the office of any school in the district.

At the high school level, the Executive Board of the PTA, with a membership of 21, including five staff members and sixteen parents, has taken a position urging that the Board of Education rescind its introduction of the new philosophy, providing for establishment of a means of community input involving staff, parents, and students in discussions of a new philosophy. The Executive Board position statement takes note of the controversy within the community over the philosophy.

Michael Lauten, president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association, similarly called for a new approach to the setting of a philosophy. Lauten said the philosophy is of major concern to the staff, which is responsible for its implementation. He indicated that the philosophy which had been in effect here for the past few years was established as a result of a study over a year's period, with students, staff, parents and Board members meeting weekly, often between 7 and 8 a.m., to study the facets of the philosophy.

Lauten expressed frustration at the manner in which the Board of Education has ignored the teaching staff in regard to the philosophy. Lauten said his group reacted immediately when the new philosophy was introduced (an "open" letter to the Board appears within these pages), and said that Board response to SPFEA's concern to date has been statements at PTA meetings and in newspapers that "Cloud" the real issues. Lauten charged that recent comments by Board members regarding the role of the state teachers' organization included statements made completely out-of-context. He further claimed that Board President Richard Bard's explanation that concern over teaching of values meant the teaching of "programmed" values such as

those available in the form of 50 or so "programs" developed by the state Department of Education, had absolutely nothing to do with the real issues of philosophy in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. SPFEA is concerned about the issues, and also about the manner in which the philosophy was developed and introduced, Lauten said.

"Certainly I agree that the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic belong in a statement of philosophy in some way, but there is a great deal more to a complete education for every child," Lauten said.

The SPFEA President challenged the Board members who approved introduction of the new philosophy, claiming that they are not living up to their own Code of Ethics in failing to involve the community in formulation of a new philosophy. Lauten cited the Code of Ethics, which states: "I will help to form policies and plans after endeavoring to consult, as much as possible under the circumstances of the moment, with those who will be affected."

"I am urging that we all sit down together, confront the real issues, and come up with a philosophy statement that truly reflects the input of all representative groups, Lauten said.

Dr. Reigh Carpenter, Superintendent of Schools, urged staff to become interested and to react to development of a philosophy. In a letter to all staff members, Carpenter stated: "Since the Philosophy of Education of any school district is the heart of its operation and its very being, the Superintendent urges all staff members to study and review the philosophy proposed by the Policy Committee of the Board and to take every opportunity to react and to offer personal and professional input toward the final document. As a member of the educational profession, you have a responsibility to understand thoroughly the very basis upon which your school district determines the direction

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Library Closed Columbus Day

The Fanwood Memorial Library will be closed Monday, October 13 in observance of Columbus Day.

EARLY CLOSING For Next Week's Issue

Because of the Columbus Day holiday on Monday all advertising and news copy must be in our office by noon Friday, October 10, 1975.

days and \$8 per hour on Saturdays. Fred Lombardo, who heads the Public Works Department, emphasized that these employees would only be used during the height of the leaf season, when extremely heavy leaf fall necessitated additional men. Most of the work will be handled by men in his department, he pointed out.

Council approved an ordinance which adds \$5,600 to monies previously appropriated for storm sewers on Myrtle Avenue and Valleyscent Avenue. In another action, Council voted to accept the storm sewers.

"Welcome Night" At F.S.P. Art Association

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Art Association will hold a special "Welcome Night" meeting on Wednesday, October 15, at 8 p.m. at the Fanwood Community House (Fanwood Railroad Station). Highlighting the meeting will be Mr. Howard Arnold, the founder and long time member of the Association. Mr. Arnold has exhibited in many areas including the Philadelphia Museum of Fine Art, Montclair Museum, Yonkers Museum, Art Center of the Oranges, Westfield Art Association, Artist Guild of New York City (one-man exhibit of oils) and the American Water Color Society. He has received many regional awards including the silver medal for excellence presented by the National Ship Craft Guild in 1965 and the bronze medal in 1969. He has also received awards from the Art Center of the Oranges, Plainfield Outdoor Art Festival, Westfield Art Association, (first and popular awards), and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Art Association. He is a member of the American Water Color Society, the New Jersey Water Color Society, the Salmagundi Club of New York City, and many other organizations. Mr. Arnold is also represented in "Who's Who in American Art."

The public is invited to attend this special meeting and the Art Association welcomes all new and prospective members.