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County Planning Board Offers Proposal For Area Flood Control

The Union County Planning Board has released details of a plan which could result in flood relief for the vulnerable northwest quadrant of Scotch Plains within a year. The plan, which results from a feasibility study long awaited by local authorities, calls for two detention basins. One would be located in Tract 19, a section of Plainfield just across Terrill Road. The second would be placed within Scotch Plains in the Park Junior High athletic fields. Cost of the dual basins has been set at between \$2 and \$3 million.

The plan calls for use of some of all of the playing fields, which now serve for physical education, baseball, soccer, football and physical education for Park and the new School One on Willow Avenue. Under the construction plan, one alternative calls for lowering of ten of the 13 fields by a depth of three to five feet, with a three-foot dike to be built around the basin, at about \$630,913. Another alternative would utilize the full 13 acres of available land between the two schools, with the 13 acres to be recessed by one to five feet, with a five foot dike around the detention basin. This approach is estimated to cost \$509,646.

The feasibility study which forms the basis for the plan finds that a pair of detention basins should relieve flooding as severe as that which occurred on

August 2, 1973. During that flood, citizens who live near the Cedar Brook were particularly hard hit. Many of them subsequently formed the local Committee of Concerned Citizens, an organization which is concerned with all local flooding problems. The Cedar Brook is one source of extensive flood trouble in Scotch Plains, the Green Brook another. The detention basin plan would relieve flooding of the Cedar Brook, a brook which flows along the boundary of Fanwood and Scotch Plains between Midway Avenue and Second Street. What would be the impact of the detention basin upon Park Junior High's fields? The study says that under each alternative, the fields would be useable for

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Board Of Education Planning Study Of Education Philosophy

The Board of Education meets Thursday night, October 16 at which time the Board has announced that some motion will be forthcoming that will postpone action on adoption of a new "Philosophy of Education." S. P.F.E.A. is concerned about what that motion will be. We are hopeful that the Board will withdraw the proposed philosophy rather than simply tabling, or postponing it. Tabling or postponing its adoption means that it could be brought up again for adoption on second reading. Whereas, withdrawing the philosophy would mean that the eventual philosophy could not be adopted until there were two separate readings. At this point, withdrawal would be a better indication: 1) of serious intent to involve community, staff and students; and 2) that the input of these representative groups would be reflected in the final document.

Michael Lauter, President of S.P.F.E.A. stated, "I left last Thursday night's Agenda-Setting meeting with an uncertain feeling. I would hope the Board is moving toward withdrawal of the philosophy. However, I did not get that impression from remarks made at the meeting. Since there has already been an attempt to "cloud" the issues, I guess I'm just a little cautious. I sincerely hope that we are not in for another surprise at the October Public Board Meeting."

"As a result of remarks made by some Board Members at the Agenda-setting meeting, I am even more concerned about the probability that a proposed "philosophy committee" will include only those names submitted by

Board members. I am hopeful that the proposed committee include representatives from the public, staff and students that each group elects to represent it. Whether one serves on the committee or not should depend on how each group selects their own representatives rather than whether a representative's viewpoints agrees, or disagrees with the Board's philosophy. All representative groups in our democratic way of life function in this manner."

"As a result of events during the last few days, another major area of my concern, involves the role of students. Board Members have asserted that the Association is working in collusion with the Student Government, or some other student groups. Nothing could be further from the truth. Usually one avoids even a denial of such an assertion, since a denial can give recognition to statements that do not deserve any attention at all. However, some of that pride can be swallowed when it comes to discussion of the role of the students. They shouldn't be caught in the middle of this controversy, instead, it is their welfare we are working for."

"Generally if a member of the public and certainly a public servant like a Board Member, had information that a staff member has been in violation of the Educational Profession Code of Ethics, that it would behoove that person to make known the specifics to the proper authority. Broad statements publicly accusing an entire group of unethical conduct serve no useful purpose." "Some have stated that this might be another attempt on the

Swindlehurst Quizzed On Campaign Position In Fanwood Meeting

Leaf Pick-up Is Set For October 20

Leaf pick-up will start on or about October 20th, 1975. The Department of Public Property expects to pick leaves up dependent on the weather on every street.

Bagged leaves are discouraged but will be taken. Leaves should be placed at the curb in windrows.

No foreign material (such as twigs, branches, bottles) should be mixed with the leaves. These objects can cause injury to the men and also damage leaf collection equipment.

Fanwood Plans "Assurance" For Senior Citizens

Fanwood's senior citizens will soon be able to avail themselves of a very new and a very personal form of "social security" in the form of a Security for Senior Citizens program now in the planning stages. This program will provide daily communication between the senior citizens and the desk officer at the Police Station. Participation by the senior citizens will be voluntary, and the schedule is subject to change at any time.

Any senior citizen interested in the Assurance Program is asked to register with the Police Department, giving name, address, phone number and any special information or problems which may help to aid them. Also included on the registration form is the time of day that is most convenient for the Desk Officer to telephone the senior citizen.

A list of all registrants will be maintained, and each registrant will be called at the time specified daily. The Police will insure that the citizen is in no difficulty or distress. If the senior citizen does not answer the telephone, a radio car will be dispatched at once to check on the person's well-being.

Senior citizens interested in being included are asked to call Councilman William Winey at 232-2915, or the Police Department Desk at 322-5000 to provide registration information.

part of the Board to "cloud" the real issues, and/or possibly to alienate the staff and the community. I am hopeful that the subject of students reaction was not used for this purpose."

"I am hopeful that Thursday night's Public Board Meeting should provide us with some answers to the real issues."

DEMS Say Referendum Would Insure Economical Fanwood Facility

The Fanwood Borough Council was at it until midnight last Wednesday . . . which surprised nobody, considering that the meeting was the final one before election day. At issue in Fanwood is a battle between the two parties on a single issue - whether or not Fanwood will have a new municipal building, and if so, how that building will become reality.

Last Wednesday night, men representing the volunteer fire company and the Rescue Squad took issue with Democrat John Swindlehurst, who is challenging Mayor Ted Trumpp in the run for the mayor's seat. Swindlehurst and his Democratic cohorts seeking Council seats, Patrick Dunne and Ben Kuklo, are pressing for a non-binding referendum which would give the voters a say on a municipal facility. The three concur that there is a need for improved facilities for police, fire, and squad. Recently, within the pages of the Scotch Plains "Times," the Democratic slate took out an advertisement showing a TajMahal with two "fat cat" type politicians, suggesting that the Republicans running for Council are going ahead with an elaborate new municipal building without concern for the dollar. Running with Trumpp are incumbent Councilmen Robert McCarthy and William Winey.

James Russell, who headed the Citizens Advisory Committee to study the possibilities of a new municipal building on the Slocum property purchased by the Borough last year, (a group which unanimously recommended razing of the home on the property and construction of a new municipal building there, and which included Dunne) told Swindlehurst that the advertisement was "inaccurate, offensive, in poor taste, and an insult to the volunteer services." He said, "It is time to stop using the volunteer services for political purposes."

Jeffrey Manuel, a member of both fire company and Rescue Squad, asked that Council forget differences and put together "the building we all know we need." Manuel said every candidate has assured the emergency services that a new facility is needed.

Robert Rau, Jr. also spoke representing Rescue Squad and Fire Company. The two services are not political, and do not want a "bar, pool table, social hall," he said. They do need three bays to house three fire trucks. Rau said all emergency service members received a letter from the three Democratic candidates stating that they were not opposed to a new building. He asked Swindlehurst why the advertisement suggested Democratic opposition to a building. He also asked whether the Democrats favor construction of a building if voters registered a

"no" in a referendum on the issue.

Swindlehurst said he is not opposed to a new building for Fanwood, but wants a referendum on the question. If the voters turn it down, he would be "perse no" opposed to construction of any new facilities. When asked whether he meant a binding or a non-binding referendum, Swindlehurst said that any true politician is bound by any referendum he puts up. Addressing himself to a referendum, Swindlehurst said it is the question of cost which would have value on a referendum. In the event of a turn-down on a referendum, Swindlehurst said it would be his view that the borough would not build on the Slocum property, that the Slocum property would have to be sold, and that the borough would have to build "right here" (the present Borough Hall), using the present building to provide needed facilities.

Swindlehurst asked Rau whether he had so little faith in his fellow citizens that he felt they would not approve construction of a new facility. Swindlehurst has that faith. He thinks that with a referendum as a vehicle, the borough would be provided with the most economical facility, and that this is the method which should be used, just as the Board of Education seeks voter approval with a top dollar figure on school construction.

"If voters turn down a referendum, you would then leave us with these two garages (Rau referred to the present municipal building and accommodations for one fire engine at the Borough Garage).

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Will Hold Bicycle Auction

The Scotch Plains Police Department will offer for sale at Public Auction bicycles which have been either abandoned, recovered after theft, or found in the township and have been in their possession for over 6 months.

The sale will be conducted on Saturday, November 1, 1975 at 10:00 a.m. at the rear of the Municipal Building. Proceeds of the sale will be paid to the Municipal Treasury and all terms are cash, and all sales final. Authorized under N.J.S.A. 40:47-20.