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## Board Of Will Try Budget I

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education set a date of Monday, December 29, 8 p.m. specifically for the introduction of a tentative 1976-77 school budget. When the time came, board members, the Superintendent of Schools and the secretary to the board arrived, as did four members of board families, one teacher, one administrator and three reporters. At 9:30 p.m., having taken no action on budget introduction, board members approved a motion to continue the meeting on Tuesday, December 30, and the meeting was adjourned. Not a single board member was willing to move temporary acceptance of the budget.

Why the failure to obtain a motion for introduction of the budget, which is usually a routine step, taken in January, and followed by public hearings on the tentative budget, with an eventual second board vote on the final figure to appear on the ballot for February budget elections? Apparently, at least some board members were nervous about the legal ramifications of some of the financial moves they would be making, and they wanted legal advice before proceeding. Midway through Monday night's meeting, the board voted 6-3 to attempt to locate one of their attorneys. The session was stalled for over half an hour as the board secretary telephoned, attempting to find a lawyer. The search was unsuccessful, and the recess followed.

The first clue to the complicated financial deliberations came when the Superintendent sought board approval for a move to borrow tax anticipation notes to raise \$88,000 to offset the deficit in the debt service portion of the current year's (1975-

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76) budget, a deficit which occurred when the state failed to produce \$88,000 of debt service state aid which had been anticipated here. It was Carpenter's thought that the board would move to borrow now, then meet the debt obligation with an additional tax burden of \$88,000 next year. Carpenter indicated, when questioned by board member Vincent Shanni, that he has looked for many months to find this deficit money. The \$88,000 deficit in the debt portion of the current year's budget is but the tip of the iceberg. The district anticipates a total deficit of over \$300,000.

The board finally voted a refusal to Carpenter's request. Board members Thomas Fallon, Frank Festa, Vincent Shanni, Philip Labasi and Richard Bard voted the denial, while board members Henry Schwiering, Darrell Brownawell, Robert Carlson, and Robbie Mason had favored the tax anticipation notes - with an added stipulation that

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## Binding Arbitration Key Issue In School Board Negotiations

Tama Traberman, chief negotiator for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association, sought to get the Board of Education to accept findings of the forthcoming factfinder's report, sight unseen. Mrs. Traberman said the teachers would be willing to abide with whatever the factfinder decides if the Board would do the same. Mrs. Traberman and Association President Michael Louten both noted that the Board and the teachers had chosen the same factfinder, when offered a choice of three factfinders.

Board of Education President Richard Bard declined the offer from the two teacher representatives. Binding arbitration was called a major factor to differences between staff and board by Bard. The Board and the teachers are slated to meet with factfinder on December 30.

"Be assured that S.P.F.E.A. stands united, determined for a fair settlement, not a settlement that demeans us," Louten told the Board.

Following the board meeting last week, Mrs. Traberman expressed distress at "the Board's seeming unwillingness to accept the Association's proposal as a means of reaching settlement now." She said state law provides avenues by which contract disputes can be settled, of which Fact Finding is the culminating step. "It seems now, from the

public position of the Board members, that the Fact Finder's report, far from serving as an instrument for resolving differences, will serve only as an exercise in futility. This is a deplorable state of affairs," Mrs. Traberman said.

In response to a board question as to whether the Association would continue negotiations while at impasse, Mrs. Traberman said the Association negotiated all through the fall months to no avail and had been informed by the mediator that the Board was unwilling to move from positions held back in October. The mediator had also indicated that the positions could not serve as basis for resolution of differences.

It is the Association's view that the proposal for both sides to accept, in advance, the fact find-

## Plains And Fanwood Plan Reorganization On New Years Day

### New Postal Rates Begin Tonight

Domestic postage rates, including those to Canada and Mexico, are scheduled to go up Wednesday, Dec. 31, as has been announced previously.

Mail to and from overseas military post offices is not affected by the change in international rates, as the rates are the same as domestic ones.

**First-Class Mail Letter Rate.** The first-class letter rate is increased to 13 cents from 10 cents for the first ounce or fraction, and 11 cents from 9 cents for each additional ounce, through 13 ounces. Pieces weighing more than 13 ounces are subject to the priority mail (heavy pieces) rates.

**Card Rate.** The rate for postal and post cards is increased to 9 cents from 7 cents. The double card rate is increased to 18 cents from 14 cents (9 cents each portion).

**Business Reply.** The fee for a piece weighing 2 ounces or less is unchanged (5 cents). Pieces weighing more than 2 ounces are charged a fee of 8 cents (unchanged) plus the first-class postage rate. The same business reply fees apply to business reply pieces mailed at priority rates.



er's report, is a position taken in a spirit of concern for children and school system. Mrs. Traberman called the Board reaction in temperate and unfortunate, and an indication of "a lack of commitment to the acceptance of the fact finder's recommendations. She urged the community to let its voice be heard in behalf of peaceful resolution of issues.

### No New Faces On Either Council - Few Committee Changes Anticipated

Just a few short hours after Bicentennial Baby New Year makes his debut, the politicians and the political-watchers of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will gather at their respective municipal buildings for festivities which mark the beginning of a new governmental year. For the first time in many years, there will be no Council changes in the ranks, so observers will have to resign themselves to looking to appointments and/or the inaugural speeches for news.

In Scotch Plains, there was no election for Council members this fall, so all five familiar faces remain, with the same three-two Democratic majority. The annual reorganization session starts at 1 p.m. Traditionally, the mayor of Scotch Plains is elected from amidst the five-man Council each New Year's Day. Undoubtedly, the choice will be one of the three Democrats - either incumbent Mayor Robert Griffin or Councilman Noel Musial or Councilwoman Ann Wodjenski. The Republican minority includes Councilmen Walter Grote and B Lawrence Newcomb.

A host of appointments will be made on New Year's Day. Appointments to boards and commissions require Council approval, while appointments to committees are choices of the Mayor alone.

This year, a new Mayor will recommend a new six-year member of the Planning Board, to fill the seat now held by Planning Board chairman Michael Cornacchia. Two alternate members of the Planning Board, Paul DeFrancesco, Jr. and John Falco, also complete terms.

On the Board of Adjustment, Rudolph Beisser completes a three-year term, leaving an opening there, while two alternates, Bernard DiBattista and Thomas C. Douress, finish terms.

William H. Burke finishes a five-year stint on the Library Board, and Mrs. Ann Donnelly another two-year term on Local Assistance. Mrs. Ronald Katims and Andrew Meadows round out their five-year terms on the Recreation Commission.

All members of the Environmental Action Advisory Commission are up for appointment, as are all members of the Industrial Commission, the Commission for Preservation of Historic Sites, Inter-Municipal Group for Better Rail Service, and Assessment Commission. On Green Brook Flood Control Commission, Noel Hipkins, Nicholas Migliaccio and Lawrence Newcomb complete

terms, and on the Building Committee, Roy Currie and Bruce Bond finish three-year terms.

Scotch Plains customarily hosts guests, municipal employees, press etc. at an Open House at Scotch Hills Golf Course each New Year's Day. Undoubtedly following the reorganization formalities. This year, in honor of the Bicentennial Year, things are a bit more elaborate than usual.

The Fanwood elections this fall returned three incumbents for another term in office. Mayor Ted Trumpp, beginning another term, will undoubtedly provide Fanwood residents with information and a time schedule for construction of a new municipal facility when he delivers his inaugural address. The past year has been highlighted by discussion of the municipal building issue, and it promises to draw interest in Fanwood in the New Year.

Trumpp is a Republican, as are the two Councilmen returned to office - Robert McCarthy and William Winey. The Fanwood Council continues with a 5-2 Republican majority, with John Coulter and Charles Coronella filling the other G.O.P. Council seats. The remaining seats on the seven-member governing body are held by Councilman John Swindlehurst and Councilwoman Carol Whittington. Swindlehurst ran against Trumpp for the Mayoralty in November, losing by a slight margin. If he had won the Mayor's seat, he would have resigned his Council post. Two other Democrats, Ben Kuklo and Pat Dunn, challenger Winey and McCarthy and lost.

In light of the nation's Bicentennial, the year promises to be an exciting one in the two communities, with separate and joint celebrations dotting the 1976 calendar. A New Year's reception will include hot wassail cider and a town birthday cake, entertainment and a showcase of area talent at the Scotch Hills Clubhouse from 2 to 5 p.m.