



SCOTCH PL

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CREATING HAVOC...Citizens who expected last Saturday's wind and rainstorm to equal the intensity of the previous one were relieved that the flooding and damage was minimal by comparison. This picture shows a Fanwood patrol car blocking the intersection of Herbert and Martine Avenues, where a limb fell from a tree impeding traffic.

Board of Education Decides to Keep District's Schools Open April 1, 2 to Make Up Snow Days

Mrs. Lillian Dettmar Seeks Legal Ramifications for Using In-Service Days

By MICHELLE L. POIDEVIN
Specialty Writer for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education adopted a revised version of the 1995-1996 School Calendar proposed by Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carol B. Choye, with special consideration to "Project Graduation" during its regular public meeting of January 25.

Dr. Choye noted the board needed to find a way to compensate for the school closings on November 7, December 19 and 20, and January 8, 9 and 12. She initially recommended that, since two snow days were already scheduled in the calendar, four days could be made up by using the two staff development days of Tuesday, February 20, and Monday, April 8. The school year would also be expanded to include Thursday and Friday, June 20 and 21.

She said that she was opposed to replenishing the make-up days dur-

ing the April vacation because there probably would not be a full staff or student body and it would not be educationally sound.

Board member Richard R. Meade asked Dr. Choye if the schedule she proposed for making up these days would have an impact on "Project Graduation," an event which preserves the safety of high school seniors after their graduation. He also asked Dr. Choye if there would be a way in which teachers could make up their "in-service days."

Mrs. Gail Moser, a Fanwood resident and planner of "Project Graduation," asked the board in a public session to seriously consider the importance of the safe celebration. She explained to the board she was speaking on behalf of the senior class of the current year and years to come in her desire "to keep students safe and together, as it is a dangerous night for high school seniors."

Dr. Choye clearly noted her enthusiasm and support for "Project Graduation" and suggested alternatives which the board would have to consider if there were more snow days added to the school calendar. She noted the board might have to become involved with helping to fund the event or that those who are planning the event would have to try to find another location for the celebration.

Mr. Meade continued to press the issue of teachers replenishing their in-service days. He wanted a fixed day in the school calendar to be retained.

Board member Mark W. Koster noted he was supportive of Mr. Meade's suggestion but he thought the board would be losing sight of their academic focus in deciding at that specific time.

Board Vice President, Mrs. Lillian M. Dettmar, advised allowing Dr.

Choye to research legal ramifications of requesting the in-service days to be replenished.

She said, "We must give her the leeway she needs."

The board voted to maintain the current scheduled day for staff development training by a unanimous vote with an abstention by Mr. Koster.

Concerning the school calendar, the board voted to allow school to end on Wednesday, June 19. Instead of adding June 20 and 21 for replenishing snow days, the board decided to keep school open on Monday and Tuesday, April 1 and 2. The board also advised that February 20 and April 8 would also be school days.

The board also decided on next year's school calendar which also required 180 school days. The calendar indicated classes would begin on Wednesday, September 4. Thursday and Friday, November 14 and 15, would replace the original dates of November 7 and 8 for the New Jersey Education Association Convention days. Christmas vacation would take place from Monday, December 23, through Wednesday, January 1.

The spring recess would be celebrated from March 24 through March 31. The calendar indicates that February 18 and March 31 would be used as staff development days.

Board members, Mrs. Jessica L. Simpson, asked Dr. Choye if she would consider moving the graduation date to Wednesday, June 19, in order to "lock in" a specific day scheduled for "Project Graduation."

Board member August L. Ruggiero suggested allowing Thursday, May 23, to be a holiday which would give students a four-day Memorial Day weekend. He added that June 19 would be the last open school day for students.

Dr. Choye listened to the strong approval of board members to Mr. Ruggiero's suggestion and noted she wanted "whatever is the best instruction for our children."

The board voted to adopt Mr. Ruggiero's proposal with the amendment that other snow days would be made up by using the spring recess and May 23, before extending the school year to June 20 and 21.

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FIREMEN WOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO FIREHOUSE

Township Council Introduces Amendment in Policy Regarding Emergency Calls During Storms

Ordinance Introduced for Irrigation System Costing \$147,800 at Scotch Hills Country Club

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specialty Writer for The Times

Seven resolutions or ordinances were introduced at Tuesday's meeting of the Scotch Plains Township Council. These included:

- Introduction of an ordinance regarding the installation of an irrigation system at the Scotch Hills Country Club. The irrigation system will cost \$147,800.

Funding for the project will come from various sources including a \$75,000 state grant. Township Man-

ager Thomas E. Atkins said no taxpayer money will be used in the project and no debt incurred.

- Introduction of an ordinance amendment pertaining to the fire department and its response to calls during winter emergencies.

If firemen are unable to get to the firehouse during snow emergencies, fire department personnel using a department pick-up truck equipped with a plow will be authorized to plow them out.

Mr. Atkins stressed the job will be handled by the firemen themselves with no municipal or private contractors' plows being used.

A resolution establishing a 1996 holiday schedule for municipal employees was introduced. Township employees will work Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, in exchange for Friday, July 5. Mr. Atkins emphasized this action is not creating an additional holiday. He also said the arrangement is "more cost effective."

A resolution appointing Theodore Bassman as an alternate to the Green Brook Flood Control Commission.

Mr. Bassman is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Mayor Alan M. Augustine called his credential "outstanding."

Another resolution authorized the Mayor and Township Clerk to sign a Risk Management Services agreement with AGA Risk Management.

AGA will assist the township in its dealings with the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund of which Scotch Plains is a member.

The professional service resolution by public contract law is not subject to bid. AGA will be paid a sum not to exceed \$22,486.

Kenneth Anderson and Joseph Doyle were appointed as alternates to the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board, respectively.

Mayor Augustine also appointed Mrs. Marcia Anderson as Township Representative to the Recycling Association.

The council passed a resolution congratulating Richard Heffner on having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Richard's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Heffner, witnessed the ceremony.

The Mayor listed the demanding requirements necessary to attain the rank. These include obtaining Boy Scout 21 merit badges of which 10 are required, and to be a leader of a troop or a patrol.

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Utilities Authority Presents Plan If Courts Rule Waste Flow Invalid

Unit Would Seek \$28 Million Loan From Freeholders

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specialty Writer for The Times

The Union County Utilities Authority presented a contingency plan at last week's Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting as an emergency recourse for keeping the county's incinerator in operation in lieu of challenges in the federal courts which threaten waste flow controls by states.

Should the House of Representatives fail to introduce waste flow legislation and if the courts rule waste flow invalid, the authority's General Council John Coley said the authority would ask the Freeholders to consider a \$28 million loan over the next six years.

Executive Director Jeffrey Callahan explained this year's portion of the loan would be \$4 million with \$6 million to be included in the county's 1997 budget followed by \$6 million in 1998, \$5 million 1999, \$5 million in 2000 and \$2 million in 2001.

When questioned by the Freeholder, Mrs. Linda DiGiovanni, the Chairwoman of the board's Finance Committee, as to how the board could fund \$4 million with its \$274 million budget just having been unveiled earlier in the day, Mr. Coley suggested an emergency appropriation could be developed.

In addition to the contingency loan, Mr. Coley advised the board of the deficiency agreement the board agreed to in 1991 which would require the county to pay back \$35 million of \$283 million debt should the authority not be able to meet its financial obligations.

Freeholder Vice Chairman Henry W. Kurz said the county's "Triple A" bond rating would almost certainly be lowered should the authority not be able to repay its bonds.

"This is going to affect our bond rating big time," he emphasized.

Freeholder Daniel P. Sullivan said, if the county's bond rate were to drop, the interest on the outstanding bonds would increase, as well.

Mr. Callahan said Mayor J. Christian Bollwage of Elizabeth announced, at the authority's hearing in December for an increase in its tipping fees, that the city would solicit bids to dispose of the city's solid waste out-of-county. Mr. Callahan called the threat "a direct challenge" to the county's solid waste plan. Elizabeth, which accounts for about 40 percent of the waste flow in the county, is pressuring other municipalities to do the same.

The United States Senate has passed waste flow legislation while the House is reviewing similar legislation. Mr. Callahan said most of the legislation under consideration grandfathered existing contracts such as the one the utilities authority has on its plant with Ogden Martin Systems. One bill expected to be introduced possibly as early as this week would protect counties, with outstanding bonds on incinerators, to disallow out-of-county disposal of solid waste until after the debt is paid off.

Another bill, called the Interstate Ban Bill, being pushed by midwestern states, would restrict the amount of solid waste they receive from other states. This bill has not moved forward since some states, including New York, want to continue out-of-state dumping.

The authority receives its revenue from a 20-year agreement with Public Electric and Gas Company for the sale of electricity, created by the combustion of the trash into ash, and miscellaneous funds collected during the latter stages of the construction of the incinerator. Mr. Callahan

said these funds were intended for the stabilization of rates. Tipping fees from the haulers are the third source of revenue.

Due to the depletion of funds in the stabilization account, in part from the lower than expected revenues from the sale of the electricity, the authority last year took \$1.5 million out of its stabilization fund to compensate for the lost electrical funds. Mr. Callahan said the authority also has to raise its tipping fee for haulers dumping at the incinerator by \$3 a ton.

Mr. Callahan explained that, under a Supreme Court settlement in 1994, the judge in the case ruled, without specific federal legislation, waste within states cannot be barred from being shipped outside the state.

The authority's goal is to drop tipping to \$60 per ton in order for the Union County Incinerator to become

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NEARING FLOOD STAGE...Those persons who expected Saturday's rain to equal the previous week's storm were relieved when flooding was minimal. Scotch Plains streams came within inches of overflowing but were fortunately contained.

DEADLINES HELP PAPERS SERVE YOU

Those preparing press releases for submission to *The Westfield Leader* or *The Times* are reminded all copy should be in the hands of the Editor at 50 Elm Street, Westfield, by 4 p.m. on the Friday before the Thursday on which they wish it to appear.

Leader releases also may be mailed to Post Office Box 250, Westfield, 07091, and Times releases to Post Office Box 368, Scotch Plains, 07076, to meet the above requirements.

For events which happen the weekend prior to publication, press releases should reach the Editor by Monday of the week of publication at 10 a.m.

Obituaries will be taken until Tuesday at 5 p.m.

For events which are planned weeks or months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

The above deadlines are meant to enable us to prepare your copy carefully.