



SCOTCH PLAINS

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TAKING THE OATH...Edward J. Saridaki, Jr. of Scotch Plains, left, is sworn in as the newest member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education. Also taking the oath of office are incumbent board members Morris H. "Butch" Gillet of Scotch Plains and Mrs. Jessica D. Simpson of Fanwood. The three board members won election during the April 16 school board election. Administering the oath of office is Assistant Superintendent for Business and Board Secretary Richard J. Marshall, right.

MR. MARSHALL PROVIDES FINAL SCHOOL ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. Saridaki Takes Oath as New School Unit Member; Mr. Gillet, Mrs. Simpson Begin New Terms

Board Members Reelect Dr. Donald E. Sheldon, President; Mrs. Lillian Dettmar, Vice President

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Three members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education were sworn in May 2 during the board's reorganization meeting at the Evergreen School.

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Board Secretary Richard J. Marshall administered the oath of office simultaneously to incumbents Morris H. "Butch" Gillet and Mrs. Jessica L. Simpson and newcomer Edward J. Saridaki, Jr.

Board President, Dr. Donald E. Sheldon, and Vice President, Mrs. Lillian M. Dettmar, who was absent, were both reelected by a unanimous vote following nominations by Mr. Gillet. In addition, board member Albert J. Syvertsen was nominated

by his colleague August L. Ruggiero and unanimously approved to continue serving on the Union County Educational Services Commission's Representative Assembly.

The Times was named by the board as an official publication for all district legal and public notices for the 1996-1997 school year.

Reporting on the results of the April 16 school elections, Mr. Marshall confirmed that Mr. Gillet received 1,440 votes and Mr. Saridaki garnered 1,157 to win the two available Scotch Plains seats on the board. They had been challenged by Mrs. Gail Schoenbach, who captured only 27 votes less than Mr. Gillet in the race.

For the Fanwood seat, Mr. Marshall reported that Mrs. Simpson received 514 tallies. Challenger, Mrs. Victoria C. Manduca, drew 427 votes.

Mr. Gillet, a resident of Scotch Plains for 27 years, was reelected to his second three-year term on the school board. He currently heads the negotiating team for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association contract.

Mr. Saridaki, who is employed as Financial and Network Controller of a Springfield-based children's book publisher, serves on the district's Technology Task Force, the Citizens' Budget Committee and the Strategic Planning Team.

Mrs. Simpson, who has lived in Fanwood for 11 years, is also beginning her second three-year term. Originally appointed to the board in 1992 to fill a one-year vacancy, she was reelected in 1993. She currently chairs the board's Policy Committee and serves as the board's representative to the Delegate Assembly of the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Like Mr. Saridaki, she is also one of 36 members of the Strategic Planning Team.

The board adopted its existing policies, rules and regulations, along with educational programs previously approved. Officials also approved their

schedule of meetings. Agenda setting sessions are held the second Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m., with regular public meetings held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 p.m.

All meetings are held in the administration offices, located at Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street in Scotch Plains, of the Evergreen School.

The board discussed clarification for the public regarding executive session, which is held at 7:30 p.m. just prior to the board's regular public meetings. There has been some confusion, explained Mr. Ruggiero, since the meeting is opened publicly but for the sole purpose of announcing that the board is going into executive session.

Board Attorney Casper P. Boehm recommended distinguishing the executive session from the regular meeting in public notices by stating that "the 7:30 meeting will open publicly but the board will be holding executive session, and a separate public meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at which time action may be taken."

There was a brief discussion concerning language in the board's agreement to retain the legal services of Mr. Boehm for the 1996-1997 school year. Mr. Syvertsen motioned that the board table adoption of a resolution executing the agreement with Mr. Boehm because fees had not been spelled out in the resolution. Mr. Saridaki seconded the motion which was rejected by the board, 5-2.

Mr. Ruggiero, noting that in previous years negotiated compensation for the attorney has appeared on subsequent personnel lists following approval of the agreement, offered a "friendly amendment" to the resolution that approval be "subject to mutually agreed upon compensation to be negotiated and approved by the board."

The revised terminology was unanimously endorsed by the body.

Scotch Plains Council Favors Settlement With Elizabethtown Water Over Rate Hike

Residential Rates to Increase 20.38 Instead of 29.6 Percent; Fire Hydrant Service Rate Rises 9.5 Instead of 29.6 Percent

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

Scotch Plains' officials have received word of a possible settlement on its rate dispute with the Elizabethtown Water Company on the utility's proposed rate increases from its representative, Donald Dudley, of Analytic Resources, Inc. of Wall Township.

Analytic Resources has been retained by a coalition of communities including Scotch Plains to fight proposed increases in water rates by the utility.

Under the terms of the proposed settlement, Elizabethtown has agreed to a 20.38 percent rate increase for residential water service, a decrease in the proposed 29.6 percent hike. The rate for fire hydrant service would rise 9.5 percent instead of the originally proposed 29.6 percent.

Scotch Plains and the other dozen or so communities paid \$4,000 to join the coalition in order to fight the rate hikes proposed by Elizabethtown. Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins indicated that Scotch Plains "will no longer continue to object to the proposed settlement."

"The Township of Scotch Plains will not interfere with the proposed settlement," according to a statement from township officials.

In other business, while the special use permit application for Ginamarie's Restaurant will be on the agenda for Tuesday's public meeting of Township Council, the council decided at Tuesday's Conference Meeting that no action will be taken on it.

The matter will be referred to Building and Zoning Officer Robert LaCosta for further review and comment. The office of Township Attorney Donald T. DiFrancesco will send John Serra, the owner of Ginamarie's, a letter outlining the problems with the application, officials said.

The public hearing on the application for a special use permit on April 23 was the lengthiest and most controversial to date, officials said. The special use permit ordinance was passed approximately three years ago. It has subsequently been amended. After approximately a dozen objections turned out on April 23, it was decided to table the application until the Tuesday, May 14 meeting.

Ginamarie's is located next to the CVS Pharmacy on East Second Street and Park Avenue. Ginamarie's was seeking permission to serve food and beverages on an outside patio area located behind the establishment. Live or piped-in music will have accompanied the dining.

According to Mrs. Judith A. Babinski, Assistant Township Counsel, if Mr. Serra wished to serve liquor outside he would have to apply for another liquor license as the service of alcoholic beverages on the patio would not be considered an expansion of the existing liquor license.

Neighbors objected to what they feared were safety and noise issues as well as the serving of alcohol.

Mr. Atkins has written a letter dated May 1, 1996, to Mr. Serra the proprietor of Ginamarie's wherein he requested Mr. Serra furnish specific details on his plan.

"Your application cannot receive consideration for any type of decision making unless these details are supplied first," he stated in the letter.

Mr. Serra had requested outdoor seating for patio dining with easy listening live music.

Seating was to be for a maximum of 28 people on the patio. The restaurant can hold 100 people inside.

Mr. Serra has reserved the right to serve beer, wine and cocktails outside.

The council acknowledges receipt

of a proposal by Killam Associates, a Millburn consulting engineering firm, regarding possible modifications to the existing detention basin and storm drainage facilities at the Shirewood subdivision site off Terrill Road.

The basin has been the subject of complaints by residents in the development regarding functionality, safety and appearance.

Killam Associates' report is dated April 18.

"For these reasons, the Township Council is interested in investigating alternatives for eliminating or, at the very least, modifying the existing on-site storm water detention basin in order to enhance the aesthetics of the area, and possibly reclaim some of the land for other uses," according to the report.

Killam is proposing further studies

at a price of \$5,000. The studies will be completed and a report issued within 30 days after the council votes on the project. The council will vote on whether to approve the project at a future meeting.

Mr. Atkins said that in an effort to keep costs down, the Township Engineer Dennis Harrington, along with employees from the Department of Public Works, will assist with the work.

The Fourth Annual Freddie Spencer Memorial Bicycle Race will be held in the township next Sunday, May 19. The race is now part of the "Garden State Cup," officials explained.

The Garden State Cup consists of a series of races. The course through downtown Scotch Plains is characteristic.

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Borough Council Agrees to Pay for Study On Historic Nature of 1888 Circa Cabin

Old South Avenue Property Owners Offer to Pay \$1,000 of Cost to Remove Structure

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council held prolonged discussion over whether to assist in the relocation and storage of a log cabin presently located on private property on Old South Avenue during its May 1 conference meeting.

The property owners want the structure removed from their premises and said they will donate \$1,000 of the cost. The cabin dates from 1888 and was built for the Columbia Exposition held in Chicago in 1892.

Borough Engineer Richard Marsden explained the cabin was moved to its present site some 65 years ago. He went on to explain the

cabin was part of a milling exhibit at the 1892 fair.

In fact, Mr. Marsden said that all the logs used in construction are exactly the same size and were made by a machine.

He noted many changes have been effected in the cabin since its original construction, for example a mortar and stone fireplace has been added, the roof has been restored with shingles added. The 12-by-15-foot cabin rests on cinder blocks.

Mr. Marsden has consulted an historic preservation engineer who indicated he would undertake a one-day study of the cabin and offer his opinions, conclusions and recommendations as to whether the cabin is of historic value and worth being preserved.

The expert's fee would be \$700, said Mr. Marsden. The study would also include any recommendations for repairs.

The Fanwood Historical Preservation Committee has advised borough officials that the cabin should be dismantled with each log being cataloged and placed in storage to be reassembled at a later date at the council's discretion.

Council President Bruce H. Walsh, a member of the historic committee, said he was a strong proponent of the idea. Councilman Walsh was countered by Councilmen William E. Populus, Jr. and Andrew J. MacDonald who said they were opposed to the idea.

Councilman Walsh said he would like to see the cabin relocated next to the Carriage House to serve as a "Fanwood Room."

He made an impassioned speech on the necessity of preserving the past. Councilman Walsh argued that the log cabin would serve as an attraction which would bring visitors into the borough.

Mr. Marsden admitted that he would like to see the cabin placed on a concrete base near the Carriage House.

Councilman MacDonald stressed that the log cabin had no particular connection to New Jersey and was not by definition a true log cabin, as it was machine made.

Councilman Walsh said the monetary expenditure was comparatively

small and that he was confident the Historical Preservation Committee would raise the necessary funds for the project. Councilman Populus said he felt that the money could be better spent elsewhere such as on Fanwood's parks.

Councilwoman, Mr. Karen M. Schurtz, said she was for the project with the reservation that efforts be directed toward first preserving and utilizing the Carriage House.

The council voted to expend the sum of \$350 for the study. Mr. Marsden will report back to the council on the study.

A special meeting was held prior to the regular agenda setting meeting to enact an ordinance prohibiting building or construction within 50 feet of any natural gas, petroleum, oxygen or other flammable pipelines. The ordinance became effective immediately.

A lengthy discussion was held on drafting a new employment practices manual which is now required of the borough by the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund. The council was unable to reach any conclusions on the subject and has scheduled a special meeting

for Thursday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The new employee practices manual must be delivered to the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund by Saturday, June 1.

Also discussed were the results of a recent space study conducted by the borough.

Questions were raised as to the conclusions reached by the individual who performed the study. Council members were convinced this individual did not seem to take into account alternative ways to use the existing space.

The council may hold a special meeting on the space study in June.

The council has held off approving fire department procedures with respect to fire inspections and fee increases until more information is available.

Steven Davis and Mrs. Colleen Huehn have been appointed Tax Collector and Deputy Tax collector, respectively.

At its next public meeting, tonight, Thursday, May 9, the council will award a bid for construction of an addition to the Public Works building

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Township Planning Unit Discusses Special Use Permit Applications

Hearing on Plan to Relegate Planning Boards Set for July 11 at Kean College

By AUDREY KAPLINSKY
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Planning Board on Monday reviewed, commented and made recommendations pertaining to three special use permit applications that will be considered by the Township Council this month.

It was noted the permit of Emanuel Barone of Barone's Deli & Caterers, located at 417 Park Avenue, is a renewal from last year. The applicant is seeking permission to place outdoor seating in the front and rear of his property, limited to two tables of four seats each in the front and two tables in the rear of the property, through Tuesday, December 31. This application will be considered at the Tuesday, May 14, officials noted.

Extreme Cuisine, located at 503 Park Avenue, has also applied for a permit to have outdoor seating in front of the establishment. This application will also be considered at the council's meeting on Tuesday night.

Richard Roberts, Ltd., of 373-375 Park Avenue, has applied for a permit to display planters, weathervanes, decorative flags and plants outdoors at the front and rear of the store. This application will be considered at the

council meeting on Wednesday, May 29, officials said.

The board discussed special use permits in general. Board Vice Chairman Sal Lauro suggested that specific beneficial standards be met by the applicants for these permits. He implied that a "checklist" should be applied to the review of these permit applications. The checklist could include: Hours of operation, number of seats, landscaping, lighting, noise level, etc.

Board member Joseph Doyle stated that if permit standards were established they would be "beneficial, not restrictive" to the downtown area.

Board member Robert LaCosta noted these types of permits are seasonal and are inherent and apply to the present applicant, not a successor business.

Board member and Township Councilman Robert E. Johnston commented that each special use is unique. The special use permits are referred to the board for comments, not standards, he said.

Board Chairman George Tomkin agreed that each permit must be handled on an individual basis.

Mr. Lauro reiterated the importance of having standards for the per-

mits and suggested the board members, as well as the council, consider this.

It was noted prior to the council approving an application for a special use permit, the council seeks comment and recommendations, when applicable, from the Zoning Administrative Officer, Township Engineer, Director of the Department of Public Works, the Police Chief or Traffic Officer, the Fire Chief, the Health Officer, the Board of Adjustment, Township Manager, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, the Downtown Advisory Committee, Environmental Commission or the Planning Board.

Mr. Lauro's suggestion of specific standards regarding the special use permits, in general, will be discussed at a future meeting.

In other business, officials noted that the New Jersey Builders Association recently revealed its official Land Use Regulatory Reform proposal. This proposal would give more power to the Department of Community Affairs and relegate planning boards to hear preliminary plans.

Board members noted if this were adopted, the participation of plan-

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COMMUNITY OBSERVANCE...The Evangelical Church Chorus of Scotch Plains sings during the May 2 observance of the National Day of Prayer held at the Village Green next to the Scotch Plains Municipal Building. The event was supported by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerial Association. The ceremony was led by local clergy members.