

The Hague Charter

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES

EDNA FRASIER Elected

The Annual Meeting of the School Board was called to order at 7:30 P.M. on May 2. Town Supervisor Tom Smith was elected chairman of the meeting.

Mr. Meala reviewed the 1972-73 budget, item by item, with comparisons with the 1971-72 budget. Mr. Smith then opened the meeting for questions from those in attendance.

One matter of particular concern was the balance of \$40,500. being carried over from the current year. Mr. Connery stated that this balance came from various items which the Board had expected to spend but which, in fact, were not spent. Principal item was \$19,000. which interest and principal on the bond issue to cover cost of addition to the school but which had not been spent because the bonds had not yet been sold. The salaries of teachers was about \$7000. under the amount budgeted. This came about through retirement of several teachers who had drawn relatively high salaries being replaced by new teachers at lower salaries. Other items of lesser amounts made up the difference. In point of fact, therefore, actual expenses in the 1971-72 year are expected to be about \$42,500. with expenses of \$410,374. being budgeted in 1972-73.

Mr. Meala reported that currently there are 97 students in the school. Assuming the same number is enrolled next year, the cost per pupil will be about \$2080.

After approximately an hour of discussion, voting on the budget proceeded. With personal registration in effect, each voter was required to sign the register. This caused considerable delay and it was not

The election of Mrs. Edna Frasier to membership on the Board for a five-year term received 129 votes to 69 for Mr. Seerup who was the only other candidate. One ballot was void.

(OPEN LETTER TO THE SCHOOL BOARD)

May 16, 1972.

Mr. Ralph J. McKee
President, Hague School Board
Hague, New York.

Dear Mr. McKee:

I would like to bring to the attention of the Board a number of matters which in my opinion call for corrective action.

1. A substantial number of voters legally qualified to vote in school elections were denied the right to vote in the annual school district election on May 2nd because they had not registered in person. These persons were unable to register because they found it impossible to be in Hague on either April 15 or 25. My wife and son were among those who were disenfranchised.

I am sure that most people would agree that personal registration is desirable. But personal registration could have been adopted without disenfranchising any voter. It was within the power of the Board to include on the register all voters all persons who had been previously registered for any election held at any time within two years prior to the preparation of the register, and since the Board also had the power to remove from the register the names of 11 persons "who are known to be deceased, or who have moved out of the district, or who otherwise are not qualified as school district electors" the Board could have assured itself that only qualified

1. The Board of Assessment Review should immediately take steps to include on the register of voters, the names of all qualified voters, whether or not they registered in person on April 15 or 25.

2. The budget was submitted in such form as to compare expenditures proposed in 1972-73 with expenditures which had been proposed a year earlier. Such comparisons tend to mislead and confuse. A more meaningful presentation would be one which compared proposed expenditures with actual expenditures of the previous year. I urge the Board to present next year's budget in this form.

3. To have questions and answers on the budget and the vote on the budget and board member election all on the same evening is impractical. Personal registration procedures are cumbersome and time-consuming and caused unnecessary hardship and inconvenience. The vote on the budget took about one and one-half hours with many persons standing in line for an hour or more. The Board member election took another hour. Many persons who voted on the budget did not stay to vote on the Board member election and many who voted in the Board member election did not vote on the budget.

I suggest that an evening be set aside for questions and answers on the budget to which those persons interested in the budget would have ample time to question Board members. I believe it would also be worthwhile to invite candidates for membership on the Board to this meeting to answer questions as to their qualifications, policies, etc. I suggest further that voting on the budget and the Board member be held on the following day with the polls open from noon until 8 P.M.

I plan to publish this letter in the June issue of the Hague Chronicle and will be glad to include in the same or subsequent issue a copy of such reply as the board desires to make.

Sincerely yours,
Emil Seerup (signed)

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BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEETS

The Board of Assessment Review met with the two town assessors on May 11 to discuss procedures to be followed on Grievance Day which will be held this year on June 20 from 4 P.M. to 8 P.M. All complaints are

to be made in writing on forms which may be obtained in advance from the assessors or will be available on the date of the hearing. Hearings will be held at the Town Hall and are open to the public. While it is not necessary that a complainant appear in person, it is mandatory that his complaint be in writing and sworn to before a Notary Public.

The assessors have advised that this year changes were made in assessed valuations of improvements in 58 instances; no changes were made in land values. Increased value of improvements for the entire town was put at \$250,000. Assessed valuations are fixed by the assessors at 50% of 1967 market values determined either by replacement costs, selling price, or amount of income which the property produces.

Notices have been sent to all persons whose assessed valuation has been changed from what it was in 1971-72.

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CITIZENS GROUP OF HAGUE TO MEET ON JULY 20

The Citizens Group of Hague will hold its annual meeting at the Hague Town Hall on July 20 at 8 P.M. Officers for the coming year will be elected. Among other items on the agenda will be the question of whether the organization will continue to financially support the Chronicle.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board met on May 9 with all members of the Board present. In the absence of the Town Clerk, Mr. Demmo acted in his stead.

Mr. Streeter appeared and spoke of the dangers from power boats to children swimming at the town beach and urged the Board to install a buoy line which would have the effect of keeping boats out of the beach area. After some discussion the Board authorized its Town Park Committee to arrange for a suitable buoy line. Mr. Cobb was delegated to procure the necessary materials and Mr. Belden agreed that employees of the highway department would see that the line is installed.

Mr. Streeter also pointed out the dangers to children and other pedestrians from speeding cars on Route 3 in the school area and on Route 911 adjacent to the town beach and town park. He also referred to burglaries and other wrongdoing which he felt

was occurring, however, on a basis of police protection. He proposed that the town employ the services of a year-round policeman who would be expected to enforce the speed laws and provide some protection to persons and property. The Supervisor pointed out that the current budget is adequate to cover the costs of a police officer for the summer months and the Board is now seeking an acceptable candidate but that there are no funds to provide any additional protection services. The Board agreed, however, to take the proposal under consideration and will endeavor to determine what the community desires.

The Board's Building Committee reported no action on the construction of offices for the assessors and justices; the Police Committee reported that it is considering four applications for the position of summer policeman; the Truck Committee has a proposal to purchase a new truck out for bids; and the Road Committee has an appointment with the County Superintendent of Highways to survey roads and reach some conclusion as to what road repairs will be made. The Supervisor advises that the budget contains only \$7,000. for road repairs and improvements.

Applicants are being sought for summer help to mow lawns and do other clean up work at the Town cemetery, park, beach, and Town Hall. (As a matter of information when all lots in the cemetery had been disposed of and the cemetery completely utilized, the cemetery company dedicated the cemetery to the Town and it is now responsible for its care and maintenance.)

The Supervisor discussed town ordinances which are now in effect or under consideration which pertain to sewage systems, disposal of used cars, building permits, and house trailers and stated there was no effective means by which these ordinances have been or are being enforced. He stated that it was necessary that the ordinances be enforced and asked the members of the Board to give the matter study. The subject will be discussed at future meetings.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on June 9 at 7:30 P.M.

ASSESSOR NOMINATING PETITION FILED

A nominating petition has been filed on

resignation of Clinton Reader last March 1. If successful in the June Primary, Mr. Bolton will be the Republican Candidate in the November election.

BURNING REFUSE

This is the time of year when there is a large assortment of leaves, twigs, branches and other garden debris which has accumulated over the fall and winter months. Disposition poses quite a problem.

If you have the time and the patience most of the material can be used to make compost which when suitably decayed produces an excellent organic fertilizer. Or, the material can be taken to the Sanitary Landfill where the town will dispose of it. But most of us will want to get rid of it quickly by burning.

The current laws concerning burning provide that any responsible person may apply for a permit to burn by filing an application in written form with the State of New York, Department of Environmental Conservation. The application is to be filed either with Clyde A. Black the local Forest Ranger, or with Robert Hoyt. On filing the application Black will make an examination of the premises where the burning is to take place and of the material to be burned. If he is satisfied that the burning will be conducted safely and the smoke will not interfere with neighbors, a permit to burn leaves, grass, and limbs, not exceeding 6 inches in diameter, will be issued for a specific date or specific dates.

Large scale burnings by motels or other commercial establishments can be filed and processed by Black but the actual permit will be issued only by headquarters office in Albany. Application forms can be obtained either from Black or Hoyt.

The town has received a permit from Albany to burn on only the second and third Wednesday of the month. Since only leaves, grass, limbs and brush may be burned, it is essential that this be separated from other debris and for this purpose the town has provided suitable areas for dumping this material.

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Mr. Black has been Forest Ranger covering the Town of Hague for the past five years. He is also a member of the Hague Fire Department and serves on its Board of Directors. He operates a state-owned truck on which he carries a tank of water, a pump and other fire-fighting equipment. The truck is radio equipped through which he is in touch with other fire-fighting trucks and the fire tower on Black Mountain. The fire tower on Swede Mountain has been inoperative for the past two years and is slated for demolition. In its place aerial surveillance is maintained by light aircraft which patrols the northern part of Warren County and part of Washington County.

Mr. Black is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to fire patrol work, he patrols the state lands in the area, sees that parking areas are properly maintained, issues permits for signs, assists in the enforcement of the hunting and fishing laws, engages in search and rescue operations for persons missing, and in the winter he maintains snowmobile routes and patrols these routes which are on state lands. In addition, he maintains and services his equipment at the department headquarters in Warrensburg.

Mr. Black attended New York State Ranger School which is a part of Syracuse University and attended Paul Smiths Forestry School. He is married and he and his wife, Elizabeth, have two small daughters. The family resides on a twenty-acre wooded place on New Hague Road.

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HEAR CALAMITY STRIKES LAKE GEORGE

Approximately 5300 gallons of No. 2 home-heating fuel overflowed from a tank truck and into English Creek. Most of it found its way into Lake George, a mile away.

Return to:

The Hague Chronicle
Box 101 - Hague, N.Y.

The oil reached the lake during the early morning hours of May 19 and within an hour the state and federal agencies rushed into action. A screen was placed across the mouth of the brook and an absorbent compound was placed on the upstream side to catch oil still being washed down the creek. Cleanup operations went on during the week-end with pumps sucking up oil and scum from the surface of the lake. Eventually all of the sand on the Lake George Village beach will be removed and replaced with fresh sand. Hopefully the work will be completed before the beach officially opens on June 15.

Fortunately for us, a wind from the north prevails for most of the day of the spill causing the oil to travel south. No evidence of the oil has been reported in the Hague area.

A second event causing alarm was the discovery of an algae bloom first noted when the water assumed a brownish color on May 16 and gave off a fish and odor taste. From an aerial survey it was noted that the phenomenon extended over wide areas, all of which, however, were south of the Narrows.

One scientist attributed this condition to an excessive amount of phosphate in the water combined with other factors such as lack of wind and high water. He stated that recent tests established that there were 6 mg. of phosphate per gallon of water in the north half of the lake and 2 mg. in the south half. If and when it gets to 10 mg. algae blooms are likely to occur.

No effective practical means have yet been found whereby phosphates can be removed from water. It is not removed in the normal sewage treatment processes. The solution is to keep it out of the water in the first place.

WATER TEMPERATURES IN THE BROOK

