

THE

HAGUE CHRONICLE

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HAGUE, N.Y.

TOWN BUDGET FOR 1975

The tentative budget for 1975 provides for expenditures of \$195,195. an increase of \$22,446. over the amount budgeted in 1974. Salaries of elected and appointed officials have been increased about 7%. Increases in the highway budget are due mainly to anticipated mandatory over-time payments and increased retirement benefits.

Despite these increases in expenditures, the amount to be raised by taxes is \$116,081. as compared with \$118,045. raised by taxes in 1974. The decrease results in large measure from a payment of \$25,000. which will be made by Warren County out of surplus income from the county's share of the sales tax.

The public meeting on the budget will be held on November 6th at 7 PM.

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THE BI-CENTENNIAL

The nation's bi-centennial will be celebrated in 1976 with patriotic observances throughout the country. A Warren County bi-centennial commission, made up of two representatives from each town, has been making plans for the past six months. Thus far the plans include the preparation of a "walking map" of the county on which all points of interest both historical and scenic will be designated.

The commission has requested that each town give consideration to what can be done to commemorate the bi-centennial within the town. A com-

mittee for this purpose, made up of Keith DeLarm, Villa Fitzgibbon, Lon Bartlett, Katherine Brook, Mildred Ross, Clifford and Betty Becker, and Adra Seerup, has been formed and at its first meeting a number of projects were suggested and discussed. Before proceeding further, we were asked to poll the residents of the town for their suggestions and opinions. The list of projects discussed by the committee is as follows:

1. Identify places of historical interest with suitable markers. Identify old homes and other structures with family names and dates when constructed. Prepare a map identifying the places so marked.

2. Building or acquiring a suitable structure to house a historical museum and a town library or a building for either of these purposes. There was some indication that a site for such a building was available by gift. Also, that some of the construction work could be provided by volunteer labor.

3. A town beautification campaign with an effort being made to have property owners participate in a "paint-up and clean-up" program with awards for the most improved.

4. Tennis courts to be constructed in the vicinity of the town park usable in the winter-time as an ice-skating rink.

5. Arrange for construction of a band stand in the town park with an effort to program concerts throughout the summer of 1976.

6. Build a decorative entrance to the town park and otherwise make im-

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improvements which will increase its utilization.

The committee has not considered how the project or projects finally elected will be paid for but there are indications that funding is available from several sources. Meanwhile the committee would be grateful for your suggestions and opinions or other indications of your interest. You may address them to the Chronicle and we will see that they are forwarded to the committee.

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MISS BESTE OF HAGUE
as told to
Virginia Shattuck

Miss Mary Cutting Beste was born and brought up in New York City. She attended Miss Spring's School there until the family moved to Summit, New Jersey, because of her chronic bronchitis. In Summit she attended Kent Lake School.

Later she and her sister were sent to Bremen, Germany to study music. At the death of her sister there from pneumonia, she returned to her family in Summit.

Miss Enid Badgley Alden, friend of her sister and world traveler, eventually took Miss Beste under her wing. Together they travelled around Europe and the Bahamas for many years until Miss Alden's mother and stepfather, Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Weir discovered Hague when visiting the Strous family, and decided to make it their summer place.

Miss Beste, who celebrated her 80th birthday in October, has lived in Hague for some seventy years off

and on. She refused to let us list her many contributions to the community, for which she is well known, but the following is a description, in her own words, of her reaction and appreciation of the opportunity of living here.

"In the foothills of the Adirondacks, there is a little town called Hague. It is situated on the shores of one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, deep set like a jewel in the surrounding mountains where game is plentiful and the lake abounds with fish.

"The pioneers who came this way stayed and built their log houses and later on, a little one-room school house. Hague grew and flourished and became a township of splendid people. They had their religious and other differences of course but these seemed to be solved quietly and with ease leaving a feeling of cooperation and brotherhood.

"Then gradually came an influx of other people having heard of the beauty of this lake. Among them came many doctors, captains and generals to enjoy the peace and beauty of this place.

"Hague is still a community where men own their own land, build their own houses and raise their own families. Each person knows his neighbor and each child his schoolmates. If anyone is dishonest, word gets around quietly. There is no jail in Hague.

"The foundation for this peaceful atmosphere was laid in the one room schoolhouse and continues in the present well-equipped modern one. I am glad the proposition to abandon the local school for a larger one in Ticonderoga was defeated. This would have entailed much hardship for the children in winter. And reducing taxes for new comers would prove a false economy if it introduced a new element in the Town of Hague producing the kind of atmosphere which people came here to escape."

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ETTA ELETHORPE

Mrs. Etta Elethorpe died on September 24th at the Westmount Infirmary. She was born in Crown Point, the daughter of the late Ida and Charles Thrasher, and celebrated her 95th birthday on June 29th. She and her late husband were long time residents of Hague.

Survivors include a daughter, Lydia Hall of Lewis, two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Wilcox and Regan Funeral Chapel in Ticonderoga on September 27 with burial in Hague Cemetery.

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SANTINA POLINO

Mrs. Santina Polino, wife of Tony Polino, passed away at a Buffalo Hospital on September 14th. She had been ill for some time.

The Polinos came to Hague about ten years ago from Babylon, New York and own and operate the Village Store on the corner of Routes 8 and 9N.

Survivors include a son, Thomas, of Westlake, California, a daughter, Mrs. Elaine Teska of Bluepoint, N.Y., and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga on September 17th with burial at Valley View Cemetery.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

More than thirty members and guests attended the meeting of the Hague Historical Society on October 16th.

A committee was appointed by the president to determine whether the heirs of the late Myrtle Wells do intend to make a gift of the Wells home to the Historical Society, and conditions which may be attached to the gift, and whether or not the Society

should accept the gift if offered. The committee was directed to submit its report at the next meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Crabos presented a program on Hawaii which they had visited earlier this year. About 350 beautiful colored slides which the Crabbs had taken depicted the mountains, beaches, horticulture, people, churches and topography of the several islands which they visited. Pictures of the many waterfalls and of both active and inactive volcanoes were of especial interest. As one person remarked, "It was almost like being there."

The next meeting will be on November 20th when the program will be presented by Mr. Wilford Ross and his daughter, Mildred. The subject is "Graphite" and Mr. Ross, who lived in Hague during the period of its history when Graphite flourished and then died, is unusually well qualified to deal with this subject.

The following meeting is scheduled for December 18. The program for this meeting will be presented by Miss Lona Bartlett who will display her collection of Christmas Seals and antique Christmas cards and tell us of their history. She has requested that members bring to the meeting any old cards or Christmas seals which they may have.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the town board was held on October 8 with all members present.

Effective January 1, 1973 the town approved a non-contributory retirement plan for its employees who meet necessary qualifications. Retirement benefits are paid out of a fund administered by the state but paid for by the town. The supervisor advised that under revised accounting procedures which will become effective in 1975, payments by the town into the fund will be made currently instead of about fifteen months in arrears as at present and this will require

payment of about \$10,000. in May. Approximately nine employees are covered by the plan.

Michael Fitzgerald who constructed the stone wall at the new bathhouse was commended by the Board for the excellency of his work.

John Dumas who is with the Warren County publicity department appeared at the meeting and advised the Board of steps being taken to publicize Warren County and asked for suggestions of what could be done to attract more tourists to Hague. Some of the suggestions discussed were the establishment of bicycle trails, more snowmobile trails with a link-up of the Hague trails with those in the southern part of the county, sponsorship of a sports car race, and possibly competitive meets for skiers. The Board indicated to Mr. Dumas that Hague needed more exposure in the county literature and would like to be identified as a place of historical interest. The Bi-centennial celebrations in this country in 1976, the summer Olympics being held in Montreal also in 1976 and the winter Olympics being held hopefully in Lake Placid in 1980 should bring an influx of visitors to the northeast and that Hague could expect its share of tourist business.

The Superintendent of Highways announced that the town will again plow and sand the county roads and plow State Routes 9N and 8 as heretofore.

The Board approved the purchase of an automatic sander at a cost of \$2246. T and T Equipment Company was the successful bidder. The sander is available immediately and will be mounted on the new truck which has now been received. Bids will be solicited for the sale of the 1970 truck which the new one has replaced.

Mountain View Road and some of the roads in Sabbath Day Point will be approved during 1975 under the Donovan Plan under which the state pays 50% of the cost. Later these roads will be black-topped, also under the Donovan Plan. Unless the location of the Sabbath Day roadbed is determined

by the time construction is to begin, the roadways will be dead-ended with no access to Route 9N on the south end.

The state has given the town permission to inspect its own vehicles and certify them as being in compliance with safety requirements.

The Board formally approved the use of the old landfill area as a depository for junk cars. Anyone having a car to be junked should call the Highway Department during working hours at 543-2211 to make necessary arrangements.

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ELECTED HOME BUREAU CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Adra Seerup of Silver Bay was elected Chairman of the Warren County Federation of Home Bureaus at its annual fall meeting on September 25. She will serve for two years beginning January 1, 1975. Mrs. Martha White and Mrs. Margaret Nielsen of Hague were appointed Chairman of the Community Service and Consumer Education Committees respectively.

The Home Bureau Federation was formed in 1919 when the first state organization of homemakers associated with the Extension Service of the New York State College of Home Economics at Cornell University was founded. The Extension Service is a public agency and is tax supported while Home Bureau is a private agency supported by dues paying members. In 1956 by law the two organizations were separated and Home Bureau continues to operate as a private agency of homemakers whose purpose is to maintain the highest ideals of home life and to improve community life. In pursuit of these purposes the organization seeks to develop individual leadership qualities and to fulfill creative qualities which are inherent in every woman.

The Hague Chapter was originally associated with the Extension Service but in 1970 it officially severed this relationship and became Mohican Chapter of Home Bureaus.

was chairman for the first two years and Mrs. Seerup has been chairman since. The chapter now has 41 members, twelve of whom are residents of Ponderoga. Membership is open to all women in the area. Meetings are held from September to May at the Hague Baptist Church Annex on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

There are fourteen chapters in Warren County with over 300 members. The Eastern District which includes Warren County has over 6,000 members and there are over 19,000 members state-wide.

Home Bureau members subscribe to the following creed:

"To maintain the highest ideals of home life; to count children the most important of crops; to so mother them that their bodies may be sound; their minds clear; their spirits happy; and their characters generous.

"To place service above comfort; to let loyalty to high purpose silence discordant notes; to let neighborliness supplant hatreds; to be discouraged never.

"To lose self in generous enthusiasms; to extend to the less fortunate a helping hand; to believe one's community may become the best of communities; and to cooperate with others for the common ends of a more abundant home and community life.

"This is the offer of the Home Bureau to the homemaker of today."

Not a bad creed for all members of the community.

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WHAT IS A CORD?

Firewood is generally purchased by the cord or part-cord. But there seems to be some question as to exactly how much you get in a cord and this could be important when comparing prices.

The state law provides that a cord of wood shall measure 128 cubic feet,

well stacked. The law provides further that with the exception of kindling, "when such fuel wood is sold, it shall be accompanied by a bill of sale bearing the name and address of the seller, the name and address of the purchaser and the quantity of wood contained in the delivery in terms of cords or fractional parts thereof or the unit of measurement specifically agreed upon. At the time of delivery such bill of sale signed by the seller shall be given to the purchaser specified thereon."

In most instances a cord is understood to be four feet high and eight feet long. To become a legally defined cord, therefore, the depth should measure four feet. But four feet pieces are too long for most fireplaces and consequently some dealers refer to a "face cord" as measuring 4 by 8 feet with the depth ranging from 14 to 24 inches depending upon the length of the sticks cut by the woodmen. According to the Glens Falls Post-Star this type of cord may also be described as a "fireplace cord" while the legal cord is described as a "loggers cord".

While there is considerable confusion about the law and the practices of sellers of firewood, it can be assumed that a cord of wood means a legal cord of 128 cubic feet unless some different unit of measurement is specifically agreed upon. The important point is that the buyer understand what he is getting for his money.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on October 14 with all members present.

Permission was granted to the town basketball team to use the school gymnasium during the current season.

Proposal was submitted by the basketball coach that the school purchase uniforms for the members of the varsity basketball team at a cost of \$40. each with a total expenditure of

400. The matter was tabled pending study of the budget to see if adequate funds were available.

Approval was given to an increase in student admission charge to basketball games from 25¢ to 35¢.

The Board discussed and then accepted the provisions of the newly enacted freedom of information laws pursuant to which public records of the School Board would be open to inspection by members of the public.

An increase in the price of milk to 10¢ per container was approved.

Maternity leave to Mrs. Emily Cobb was approved to commence early in November.

Laura Riley was approved as cheerleader advisor.

Mr. DeFranco was given permission to attend the science teachers' convention to be held in Allenville, N. J. on November 3 to 5.

The Board authorized the renewal of the outstanding bond anticipation note in the amount of \$150,000. for one more year at 7 1/4% interest. This is the indebtedness arising from the addition to the school authorized by the voters in 1971. Apparently \$30,000. has been paid off on the original indebtedness of \$180,000.

On the complaint of a parent that her child was the first one picked up

on his bus route in the morning and the last one arriving home in the afternoon, the school administrator announced that to satisfy the complaint he had changed the bus schedule so that the route taken in the afternoon would be the same as that taken in the morning.

The Administrator announced that there would be an "open-house" at the school on November 19, 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. All parents are invited.

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78TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Mrs. Irene Coveney of Hague celebrated her 78th birthday on October 15th at a surprise-party-luncheon at the Ticonderoga Country Club. Mrs. Coveney's daughter, Mrs. Dominick Viscardi, was hostess to the 24 women guests.

Mrs. Coveney was genuinely surprised and expressed her thanks and pleasure as she opened the many attractive gifts.

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PARENTS AND TEACHERS ORGANIZE

A Parent-Teacher Organization has been formed. Officers are Ida May, President; Fred Frasier, Vice-President; Jean McKee, Secretary; and Cheryl Plass, Treasurer. The group will hold regular meetings at the school on the last Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M.

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