

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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BOX 101 - HAGUE, NY.

"I would like to suggest that we alter the tone and style of our public and private discussions about our most pressing problems. We should raise our level of tolerance for the ideas and proposals of those with whom we disagree. We should stop talking only to those with whom we agree and try to put ourselves in the shoes of others." Senator Abraham Ribicoff, (Conn.); from his new book, America Can Make It.

THE 1972-73 SCHOOL BUDGET

The 1972-73 school budget was released to the public at 10 A.M. on April 25. The Board's letter transmitting the budget states that School Bus No. 1 is to be taken out of service and provision is made in the budget to purchase a new 30 passenger bus. Beyond this there is no comment or explanation of any budgetary item. A balance of 0,500. carried forward from the present budget is wholly unexplained.

A cursory examination of the budget disclosed that total expenditures are expected to be \$410,374. This represents an increase of \$27,640. over budgeted expenditures of \$382,634. as shown in the 1971-72 budget. However, keeping in mind the balance of \$0,500. which is being carried forward, expenditures in 1971-72 will be only \$342,134. or \$68,140. less than expenditures proposed in the present budget; unless, of course, the balance came from revenues in excess of the amount budgeted; or possibly from a combination of lower expenses and higher revenues. Confusion results from making comparisons with last year's budget, as the Board has done, rather than with actual expenditures and revenues. Certainly the Board has a pretty good idea of what the actual expenses and revenues will be, otherwise, how was it able to predict what the balance will be?

The Board states that the amount to be raised by taxes is \$268,774. an increase of \$13,440. over the amount raised in 1971-72. This should produce a tax rate of about \$34.50 per \$1000. of assessed valuation, an increase of almost \$2.00 over the 1971-1972 rate. Had it not been for the unspent

would be a whopping \$9.00 per \$1000. of assessed valuation.

State Aid is estimated at \$9,300. less than last year. Of course when state aid is reduced and expenditures remain the same or are increased, real estate taxes go up. Interest on deposits is estimated at \$5100 up \$1600. from last year. Other revenue sources are consistent with other years.

Salaries of teachers have been increased an average of 4% over amount budgeted last year; a guidance counselor to be provided by the Bureau of Co-operative Educational Services (BOCES) at a cost of \$6,206 is new; transportation of pupils to parochial school in Ticonderoga at a cost estimated to be \$1000. is also new; contract services, fuel, utilities, repairs and improvements are up about 38%; and the school lunch program is up about 35%.

No picture of the school financial situation is complete without a full detailed disclosure of the expenses incurred in adding to and repairing the school building last year and the manner in which these expenses were met.

At the March meeting of the Board, a number of persons requested that a more detailed budget than submitted in other years be presented for the forthcoming year. Although the Board took the request under advisement, it obviously has been refused. If the voters are to act intelligently, it is necessary that they have more facts than the Board has chosen to include in the budget. In the absence of a more detailed budget, the Board should schedule a public meeting on a week before the annual

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION - MAY 2nd

Mr. Peter Connery, whose term as a member of the School Board will expire on June 30, has decided not to seek reelection. To fill the post, nominating petitions were filed on behalf of three candidates, Mrs. Edna Frasier, Herbert Bellnap, and Emil Seerup.

On April 22 we asked both Mrs. Frasier and Mr. Bellnap for their biographies for publication in this issue of the Chronicle. Mrs. Frasier has chosen not to submit anything and Mr. Bellnap has advised that his petition has been withdrawn and that he is no longer a candidate. When asked why he had withdrawn, Mr. Bellnap simply stated that he thought two candidates for the post were sufficient.

We feel that the electorate is entitled to know something about the candidates and although we have nothing to report with respect to Mrs. Frasier, we think it entirely proper to publish a short biography for Mr. Bellnap. He holds the degree of Juris Doctor conferred on him by the University of Illinois and has been admitted to practice law in all of the courts of Illinois and New York, including Federal Courts and Commissions. He was employed as an attorney by Radio Express Agency, Inc. and was made its general attorney in New York City in 1952. In 1959 he was appointed Vice President and placed in charge of the Air Express Division. In October 1969 he retired from active employment and since then he has been retained as a consultant. He is married and he and his wife have three children, two of whom are married. The third is a student at Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Conn. The family have been summer residents since 1955, property owners since 1964 and have lived in Silver Bay year-round since 1970.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the School Board was held on April 10 with all members present.

Letter of resignation from Clifton West who has been school custodian for 27 years was read. In his letter Mr. West stated that he had reached the "ripe old age of 63" and felt that it was time for him to step down in favor of a younger man.

depicted the lack of respect some of the young people have towards school property. He found it impossible to properly maintain the property on the reduced work schedule introduced last fall. He concluded his letter by saying that he will spend his full time in retirement to taking care of the "West Farm" and if that job folds up, "I still have a good rocking chair."

The school plans a testimonial dinner in Mr. West's honor early in June which will be open to all who would like to show Mr. West appreciation for "his years of loyal service to the school and the children of Hague".

Formal motions were made and approved to advertise for bids for supplying milk and bread for the coming year; to make arrangements for fuel purchases; and to enter into contracts with BOCES for cooperational services.

Mr. Ray Laudree, Assistant Principal, had submitted a request for a sabbatical leave at full pay for the first semester of the next school year. Motion was made and approved not to grant any sabbatical leaves and Mr. Laudree was to be so advised.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be the annual meeting on May 2nd.

On the day following the regular meeting of the Board, a special meeting was held at which the Board approved payment to Kenneth Smith of \$2100. for digging a ditch and \$270. to Percy Thompson for blasting and blasting materials.

Last month we reported that the request of two taxpayers that transportation be provided for their children during the next school year to and from their homes and St. Mary's school in Ticonderoga was granted. This was in error. We are now advised that the requests have not yet been acted upon.

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

The "Open House" on April 5 brought about 150 residents to the school to review the additions and improvements recently completed. All rooms were open and teachers were in attendance to answer questions. Delicious refreshments were served in the cafeteria.

presented certificates at the Awards Assembly for scoring in the top 10% nationally in it conducted by the National Educational Development Tests.

We congratulate Gregory Fortune who has been named Valedictorian of the Class of 1972 and William Smith who has been named Salutatorian. Greg is the winner of the hard award, the mathematics award, and is a member of the National Honor Society. Bill is also a member of the National Honor Society and serves on the Warren County Narcotics Guidance Council.

TOWN BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Town Board was held on April 18 with all members of the Board present.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schwarz, representing the owners of Lake Forest Acres, the old Strauss property, presented a map of the proposed development and asked that the Board approve the proposals as a means of facilitating the filing of the map with the County Recorder. The Board indicated its approval and a formal resolution to this effect will be offered at the next meeting. After meeting with the Board, Mr. & Mrs. Schwarz met with the town's assessors to get an idea of what prospective purchasers could expect in the way of taxes.

Messrs. Hickey and Fitzgerald, the local assessors, reported that in preparing current assessment rolls they found fifteen instances where structures were built or in process of being built and in only two instances had building permits been issued. They pointed out that the ordinance requiring building permits was obviously not being enforced and suggested that the Board take action. They also asked the Board to consider an ordinance requiring a building permit for interior remodeling or alterations to an existing structure.

At the March meeting four candidates were proposed for membership on the Board of Assessment Review. The supervisor then proposed that Mr. James Fitzgerald be named the fifth member. Whereupon the Board appointed George Boyd, Samuel R. Fraser, Emil Secrup, James Fitzgerald and Mrs. Florence Smith to terms ranging from one to five years, their terms to run from October 1, 1971. Members of the newly appointed board attended a training course on

April 25 at the Warren County Municipal Center sponsored by the County Director of Real Property Tax Services.

The Board's building committee was directed to immediately undertake to have two temporary offices built in the town hall for use by the justices and the assessors and that consideration be given to the construction of permanent offices.

The Board's police committee was instructed to interview applicants for the position of town policeman for the period June 26 to September 8. A salary of \$120 per week was authorized.

The supervisor reported that some of the newly laid macadam on the town dock had sunk and fallen away. This will be taken up with the builder.

The supervisor also reported that the owner of the property adjoining the town slip has complained that the bank is falling away. After a discussion it was agreed that there appeared to be no liability on the part of the town and therefore no need to take any action.

The supervisor referred to interest on the part of Warren County in the removal from the landscape of junk cars. Nothing of a positive nature has developed but the subject will undoubtedly come up again.

The superintendent of highways spoke glowingly of a new mechanic who has been keeping the town's motor vehicle fleet in condition. This is a full time job, the salary for which is paid for out of Federal funds through the Federal Manpower Commission. The supervisor also advised that he now has a full time secretary also paid for with FIC funds.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on May 9th.

LAKE FOREST ACRES

Lake Forest Acres lies to the north of Dodd Hill Road and along the west side of Route 91. It consists of about 32 acres which have been divided into 32 plots of approximately one acre each. The New York State Department of Health has approved proposed sewage disposal system.

Mr. Schwarz, representing the owners,

advises that both seasonal and year-round homes would be built, some of which would probably be built by the developer. Land use restrictions which will be incorporated into the deeds provide that property may be used only for residential purposes and that only one family dwelling and garage shall be constructed on any plot. No trailers, mobile homes, tents, campers or similar temporary structures will be permitted except during construction of a permanent home and no livestock or poultry may be kept on the premises, excepting, of course, household pets. There will also be a restriction against subdividing or selling any parcel except as a whole.

The developers will construct a road through the center of the development and Mr. Schwarz is hopeful the town will accept the road when completed. He has been advised that the roadbed would have to be at least fifty feet wide with at least eight inches of gravel to a width of 25 feet. Provision would also have to be made for adequate and proper drainage. If the developer dedicates the road to the town and the town accepts it, maintenance, including snow removal, will become the obligation of the town.

It is reported that the developers have purchased the Bessy property which will give the development access to the lake.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Approximately 25 members and guests attended the April meeting. Mr. West was in charge of the program and told many humorous and interesting stories of the early days in and around Hague which his father had related to him. Refreshments, delicious as usual, were served by Mrs. Florence Smith and Mrs. James Fitzgerald. There will be a guided tour from Graphite to Battle Hill on May 7th. Persons interested

should meet at 1 PM at the school. In case of rain, the tour will be postponed to a later date. At the June meeting there will be a showing of a film. Officers for the forthcoming year will be elected at this meeting. In September there will be a field trip to the Edmington Museum at Bennington, Vermont.

HOME BUREAU

The Home Bureau (Hague) won the first prize at the annual meeting of the Warren County Federation on April 12 for its crafts table. There were twenty chapters represented at the meeting which was held in the King Edward Center, Fox Edward. The table featured many beautiful articles made by the members during the past year. Those attending the meeting and who were responsible for the table arrangement were Margaret Nielson, Martha White, Bessie Yaw, Ida Moore, Winnie Blair, Frances Hogan, Jane Madau, and Lorraine Moore.

WHEN DOES THE ICE GO OUT?

A subject discussed by most everyone these days is - When is the ice going out? At the Cave you pick a date and then put your money down. April 12 was the most optimistic selection. But that selection has long since gone down the drain. The ice is finally breaking up now (April 26) and the consensus is that it will go out before May 1.

During the past week we asked a number of people - Who says when the ice has gone out? What is the basis for making the decision?

There seems to be general agreement that the ice is officially out of the lake when a boat can navigate from Lake George Village to Ticonderoga. Mr. Bargey, the proprietor of the Cave, agrees that this is the test but adds that it is the Sheriff of Warren County that makes the official announcement.

Return to:

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