

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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HAGUE, N.Y.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

A group of citizens is now in the process of circulating a petition asking the Commissioner of Education to issue an order of consolidation of Hague Central School District with Ticonderoga Central School District. This will be filed with the District Superintendent when a sufficient number of signatures have been obtained. Assuming the petition is filed and the order of consolidation issued, it appears that a referendum will be held this summer.

This is an important matter, one of interest to school children, teachers and employees of the school district, the taxpayers, and the community in general. A chronicle of events leading to earlier efforts to achieve consolidation would seem appropriate.

In 1958 the State Education Department submitted a revised master plan proposing the consolidation of the Hague, Crown Point and Putnam School Districts with Ticonderoga Central School District. Early in 1970 Hague and Putnam School Districts met in Albany to study the feasibility of merging these districts. The State Education Department spent two days helping to set up the necessary information relative to building needs, staffing, etc. necessary for the projected combined enrollments of these districts. A five year budget was prepared to show anticipated costs over this period of time.

Copies of the study were distributed on March 31, 1970 to the school authorities by John Dillon who was then the District Superintendent. On

August 7, 1970 the Hague Board advised Mr. Dillon that it was no longer interested in the merger and planned no further action in the matter.

Early in 1971 a petition requesting the Commissioner of Education to issue an order of consolidation was circulated among the voters of Hague. Approximately 270 persons signed the petition and it was filed on June 8 with the District Superintendent, William A. Pritz. Pursuant to the petition, the Commissioner issued an order dissolving the Hague School district effective August 24, 1971. Subsequently a petition was filed by persons opposed to consolidation requesting a referendum of the voters and, accordingly, the Commissioner ordered the referendum to be held on July 19, 1971. By a vote of 292 to 194 the voters decided against consolidation.

Under the law, the Commissioner's order of consolidation could be brought up for a further vote at any time on the filing of a proper petition. Such a petition was filed in 1974 and a referendum was ordered to be held on August 24. By a vote of 242 to 288 the proponents of consolidation were again defeated.

During the past year the school Board requested that the Commissioner cancel his order of consolidation and this he has done.

Thus the issue is exactly where it was in 1971 when the first petition requesting consolidation was being circulated.

If consolidation is not ordered, the Hague School will, of course continue to be operated as it is cur-

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rently. If consolidation is ordered and is not overturned by a referendum the Hague and Ticonderoga School Districts will be consolidated with one school board elected by the voters of the consolidated district overseeing all of the schools within the district and with school taxes equally apportioned over the entire district.

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WHAT THIS TOWN NEEDS IS -

How many times have you heard the expression - What this town needs is a - - .

In order to determine what its residents needed in the way of recreational facilities, Warren County undertook a recreational demand survey in the spring and summer of 1975, the results of which have now been made available.

Questionnaires were submitted to about 10% of the resident population of each town. The questionnaire listed 12 recreational facilities such as tennis courts, bicycle trails, picnic areas, athletic fields, etc. and those questioned were asked to list three of them which they feel are in need of development by the County. They were also asked for number of people in the household and number in each age group.

In the Town of Hague, 92 people answered the questionnaire. There were 277 persons who were members of the households of those questioned. Thus, approximately 30% of the total resident population of 910 participated. The results will be reported in our next issue.

We would like to conduct a similar survey within the Town of Hague but addressed to the question - What this town needs is a - (recreational facility). We would include in the survey Hague's summer population as well as its year-round residents. For this purpose we are enclosing a questionnaire which we would like to have completed by each family on our mailing list.

The question of whether Hague should or should not have a library-historical museum is also of concern and a questionnaire directed to that subject is on the reverse side. In order that your opinions may be given consideration, please return questionnaires as soon as possible.

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HS JUNIOR TO ENTER COLLEGE

In past issues we have referred to a new program under which a high-school junior can now enter college and if he does satisfactory work in his first year, will be given credit for his last year of highschool.

Participating in this program next year is Chuck Jordon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jordon of Hague. He has been accepted as a full time student at the Junior College of Albany, a co-ed division of Russel Sage at Troy.

Chuck is finishing his junior year at Hague and will enter college in September as a Liberal Arts student. He is a member of the National Honor Society and has participated in soccer, the school play, and is a member of the newspaper staff, the band, chorus, and the French Club. He is currently the president of his class.

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SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION UNNECESSARY

At its March, 1972 meeting, the School Board approved a resolution providing for permanent registration of all eligible voters in the school district. Effective September 1, 1975, however, the Education Law was amended to the effect that persons,

if otherwise qualified, who have registered to vote in general elections are exempt from registering to vote in school elections.

While you can register to vote in school elections only on those registration days established by the Board registration under the Election Laws is available on any business day at the Municipal Center in Lake George.

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CYRUS WOODBURY DIES

Cyrus Woodbury, known throughout the Lake George Region as an avid conservationist, died unexpectedly on May 5 while mowing the grass at the Diamond Point Community Church where he had been a trustee for many years.

Woodbury was long identified with the Lake George Association. He served in recent years as its executive Vice President and editor of its publication. His retirement in 1973 concluded 28 years of service to the association. In 1975 he retired as sanitary inspector of the Lake George Park Commission bringing to a close twenty years of state service.

Woodbury's devotion to the protection of Lake George was inherited from his father, who had been a zealous supporter of the Lake George Association and its commitment to preserve the quality of Lake George water. Each drink of water from the lake should remind us of the devotion of both Woodburys, father and son.

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RUTH WARREN - VALEDICTORIAN

Robin Warren, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Warren of the Hague Motel, has been named valedictorian of the Class of 1976. Marie Watts, daughter of Mrs. Alice Watts and the late Walter Watts of Silver Bay, has been named salutatorian.

Miss Warren is president of the senior class and a member of the Student Council. She has been active in

French and Spanish Clubs and the Youth Commission. She plans to attend the Junior College of Albany.

Miss Watts is the secretary-treasurer of the senior class and has been involved in church activities, the yearbook, chorus and the Spanish Club. She will be attending Adirondack Community College in the fall.

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HAGUE HIRES SUMMER POLICEWOMAN

The summer policeman's job will be activated over the Memorial Day weekend and continuously from June 15 to Labor Day. Provision has also been made for a back-up policeman who will be available over the same period, particularly on weekends.

At a special meeting of the Town Board on May 10, applications for the positions were reviewed and four candidates were interviewed. Following considerable discussion, Janice M. Frasier was appointed policewoman and Frederick A. Sharpe back-up policeman.

Miss Frasier is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Frasier of Hollow Road. She is a lifetime resident of Hague and recently celebrated her 21st birthday. She graduated from Adirondack Community College with an AAS Degree in Police Science last month. While attending school she was active in Police Cadets an organization which assists the police force of Glens Falls in such areas as traffic control, teletype operations and street patrol. She worked as a security guard for several telethons at the Queensbury Hotel. She appears to be eminently qualified for the job.

Frederick Sharpe served in the U.S. Navy from 1954 until his retirement in 1974. He has had considerable duty as a military police patrolman and was chief master-at-arms for five years. The latter is similar to that of a chief of police in a civilian community. Following his retirement, he returned to Hague where, during the past fourteen

months, he has been employed as a security guard at the town shed. As the back-up policeman he will be on duty on weekends and on days when the regular policeman is off-duty.

Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe and their two sons reside in West Hague.

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GRIEVANCE DAY

The Board of Assessment Review will hear grievances on Tuesday, June 15 from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. Forms for filing grievances may be obtained from any of the local assessors or at the Town Hall. They will also be available at the time of the hearing.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Town Board was held on May 11 and all members present.

The supervisor reported that the boat slip at the Town Park is unusable because of sand and silt. Several attempts have been made to launch boats but the water is too shallow. An application was made to the Environmental Conservation Department for permission to dredge the slip a distance of about 200 feet and remove about 150 cubic yards of sand and silt. No word has been received from En-Con but a letter has been received from the Army Corps of Engineers to the effect that it has jurisdiction over the matter and no action should be taken unless an application, a copy of which was enclosed, has been filed and permission granted. If the usual time is taken by the Engineers to review the application it would appear that the boat launching slip will be unusable the entire summer even though the actual dredging will take no more than a day or two.

A number of people appeared to discuss the Youth Recreation Program with the Board. It was reported that about 35 boys and girls between the

ages of 9 and 12 are out for baseball under the aegis of the Little League. This is twice as many as are permitted on the roster of any one team. Martin Fitzgerald, who supervises the activity, feels that the group is unwieldy because of its size and is asking for help. Others complain that the only activity of late has been basketball and this is of little interest to girls. Mr. Riley, the school coach, proposed that the town provide outdoor basketball facilities. The matter was referred to the Board Committee on Recreation and Publicity of which Mr. Seerup is Chairman.

A separate group of twenty people called on the Board to take some definitive action on the proposal to build a library and historical society museum. The group felt that the Board should conduct a referendum to determine once and for all if a majority of the townspeople want a library. A proposal was made that the town consider the purchase of property which is currently for sale and which could be used for a town hall, youth center, library, historical museum, courtroom, and other purposes, with grounds ample for tennis courts, basketball, etc. The supervisor advised that a study is being made of possible funding of 50% for such a project and that at present a bill is before Congress which would provide Federal Funds. Within the next 30 to 60 days, information concerning possible funding should be available.

The ski tow continues to receive the attention of the Board. Work is progressing as fast as weather permits.

The supervisor advised that 80% of the loss incurred by the town when a new engine for one of the trucks blew up due to alleged vandalism has been paid by the insurance company. A claim for losses of about \$900. resulting from vandalism at the town shed has been filed with the insurance company. Some of the articles which were stolen were recovered by the state police and returned to the Town. The vandals who are believed to be known to the state police have not been identified and criminal ac-

tion has now been instituted. The matter is being followed closely by the supervisor with the police.

process.

The State has a temporary restraining order against any preliminary work on 4,000 second or vacation homes that Ton-Da-Lay proposes to build in Franklin County. The hearing before Justice Graves was on the State's request for a temporary injunction. A decision is expected shortly.

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MORE SCHOOL NEWS

At its meeting on May 10, the Board voted to submit the budget which was defeated on May 5 to a new vote on May 26 from 1:00 to 8:00 PM.

The principal announced that the agreement with the teachers has not yet been signed but would be signed before the next Board meeting.

The calendar for the next school year was approved.

Announcement was made that students finishing the ninth grade will be required to take tests in reading and mathematics prescribed by the State Education Department. The tests will be given in June each year and students must pass these tests in order to graduate. Similar examinations in science, social studies and health are planned beginning with the class of 1980.

A proposal has been made to cut some of the timber on school owned lands. No action was taken but the matter will be considered at a future meeting.

The Board announced that its policy would be to give school functions first priority on use of school facilities.

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ARTS FAIR

The Fourth Annual Hague Arts Fair will be held on August 7, 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. in the Town Park. Handicrafts and works of art will be displayed. Those dealing with the colonial era will be featured.

There will be no charges of any kind. However, pre-registration is requested. Call Mrs. Seerup at 543-6052.

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SILVER BAY CONFERENCES

The Silver Bay Association announces that the following groups will hold conferences on its campus during the month of June.

- June 4-6 Syracuse Indian Guides
- 5-6 American Baptist Women
- 11-13 Jesse Chisholm Bunkhouse
- 14-15 Albany Presbytery
- 18-20 Albany Indian Guides
- 18-20 Schenectady Y Pioneers
- 25-30 Red Cross Aquatic Institute
- 28-July 2 Christian World Mission

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LITIGATION AGAINST APA CONTINUES

The constitutionality of the Adirondack Park Agency Law is still being challenged in the courts. In oral arguments before Justice Huy A. Graves in Schenectady, Ton-Da-Lay asserted that the law was vague, that it was not given approval by two consecutive legislative sessions, that the law was aimed at Ton-Da-Lay, that the law and the Agency had indulged in illegal spot zoning, and that property had been taken without due

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THE WEATHER

May has been a wet, cold month. Snow, with an accumulation of several inches fell on parts of town on May 19. We had frost on several mornings as late as May 24.

Days of sunshine can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

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HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The meeting of the Hague Historical Society on June 16 will feature movies of the war of 1812 and the War of Independence. A museum trip has been planned for September 11.

The Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month except July and August at the Hague Baptist Church Annex at 7:45 P.M. All are invited.

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SCHOOL BUDGET

About fifty people attended the Annual Meeting of the School District on May 4 at which the budget was presented. Questions were raised from the floor concerning such items as BOCES, State Aid, transportation, and the unexpended portion of the current budget. The Administrator stated that the Board has considered elimination of some of the items supplied by BOCES but has concluded that because most of the services are rendered on a part-time basis and we have neither the need nor the money to provide them on a full-time basis, we are better off having the services supplied through BOCES.

As much as 90% of the cost of the 15-passenger bus provided for in the budget at a cost of \$65000. will be recoverable through state aid depend-

ing on how the state people evaluate the need for the bus.

The Board suggested that the anticipated balance of \$30,000 from this year's operations was not abnormal. It was argued from the floor, however, that overbudgeting leads to extravagance and should be avoided.

The voting took place the following day with the budget being defeated by a vote of 94 to 90. The only other time a school budget was defeated was in 1974 when the vote was 98 to 80. However, on the second try, the budget was approved, this time by a vote of 115 to 103.

The Board elected to present the same budget to the voters on May 26 at which time it was again defeated by a vote of 154 to 150. In a newsletter mailed to the voters before the voting took place, the Board stated that there is no restriction on the number of times a budget may be presented to the voters, except that the tax levy must be established in sufficient time to levy school taxes; or the Board may adopt a contingent budget without going back to the voters; or the Board may adopt a contingent budget and present one or more propositions to the voters, giving them the opportunity to appropriate funds for services which cannot be provided without voter approval. No announcement has been made by the Board as to the course it will pursue.

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