

Water welling up from underground is the source of floods at the construction site of the Hoboken mini-school.

Builder told to safeguard flooded mini-school site

The contractor who has been building Hoboken's new mini-school at 524 Park Ave. has been told to make the construction site more secure so that youngsters cannot get into it and possibly drown in some four feet of ice water that has accumulated there.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that City Building Inspector James Caulfield has advised the contractor, Pisani and DeBari, that the area is not secure and that breaks in the chain link fence around it are open invitations for children to sneak in and possibly court serious injuries.

"The contractor has been told

to take whatever steps are necessary to make the construction site secure and to prevent all children from getting into it," the mayor asserted. "Several complaints on this matter have been brought to my attention by

Councilman (Salvatore) Cemelli and residents of the area."

Cappiello said that Caulfield spoke with the contractor several days ago about the problem and was promised action would be taken. He said that if the required work isn't done within a few days the city will start issuing summonses until it is.

Several complaints had also been made to Anthony Russo, standard bearer of the Anthony Russo Civic Association and a candidate for Third Ward Councilman in May. He, in turn, forwarded them to the city, saying it was "a disgrace and menace to very kid in the city."

Little, if any, work has been done in several weeks, at the construction site since the city was forced to demolish a building at 520 Park Ave. which had started sliding into the open excavation pit because its foundation hadn't been reinforced to withstand the vibrations of pile-driving for the school's foundation.

The school site has a very low water table—it is reported to be several feet below sea level—and water has been seeping into the open excavation for some time, even when work was being done and heavy-duty pumps were being used.

An estimated four to five feet of water has now accumulated in the large pit, which is some 40 feet wide and more than 50 feet long. The steep sides would also make it extremely difficult for any youngster, even one who could swim, to get out once he had fallen in, the mayor added.

Surplus in Hoboken Board Funds Eyed

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken officials are getting ready to square off with the board of education today over the board's possible hoarding of surplus funds that the city wants to use to save the tax rate.

Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri has sent the nine board members a special courier delivered letter asking for an accounting at today's public hearing on the board's proposed 1975-76 budget of what Ranieri says were surplus funds for 1973-74 and 1974-75.

Board president Otto Hottendorf said yesterday that he has not seen Ranieri's letter and therefore cannot give an accounting in writing, but added, "The board will answer all his questions at today's 10 a.m. meeting."

According to Hottendorf, Ranieri is wrong and there are no funds.

However, two sources besides Ranieri, both accountants, have rejected the board's contention that the surplus does not exist and one accountant, who asked to

remain anonymous, said there is at least a \$320,000 surplus in last year's budget.

Both the accountants and Ranieri termed the surplus "free appropriations which the board could use as it sees fit."

Mayor Steve Cappiello, Ranieri and the city councilmen are asking the board to use the free money to lower the city's tax appropriations for the board.

The city needs the money to head off a proposed firemen's strike and to give city workers their first raise in two years.

Elevator lack at City Hall big problem

The lack of an operating elevator at Hoboken City Hall is causing some additional problems for the city besides forcing workers and visitors to the building to climb as many as four long flights of stairs.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today that some companies the city does business with have started refusing to take supplies past the ground level of the building.

"There's only one way of getting things up to the second, third and fourth floors and that's to carry them by hand," Vitale said. "A lot of companies don't like the idea of their truck drivers and helpers spending all the extra time it takes to carry the supplies up to the departments that need them. So they advised me that, if they have to do the extra work, they don't want the business."

"As a compromise it was suggested that they make the deliveries and the city would take care of getting the supplies to the proper offices."

Getting things into the building is one problem, the director continued, getting them out is another.

He said that his department has a rented copying machine that has been out of order for several months and was supposed to have gone back to the office machine supplier. But because the elevator doesn't work, the company hasn't bothered picking it up.

"It is a pretty big machine," Vitale said. "Two big for anyone to carry down two flights of stairs. So I guess it'll stay where it is until the elevator is working again."

And when will that be? The director said probably sometime in late May or early June. The Burlington Elevator Co., which has been awarded the contract to put a new elevator in the building, expects it will take that long between doing engineering surveys and order the parts needed for the new system.

Talks seen progressing in Hoboken

With reports that progress had been made during a four-hour meeting yesterday, Hoboken city officials and police and fire representatives were back at the bargaining table today, joined by a mediator of the Public Employment Relations Commission.

"There was sufficient indication of progress to continue the meeting," reported James Mastrianni, the staff PERC representative.

Mastrianni took part in the afternoon session at City Hall and said later "both sides are working hard and, hopefully, we'll come up with a solution."

One unofficial report from the session was that considerable progress had been made, with give and take on both sides.

Today's talks got under way at 9 o'clock, one hour before the first of two membership meetings planned by the firemen to discuss strategy over their inability to obtain a satisfactory contract with the city.

Michael Bavaro, union president, said the meetings will go on as planned, although this morning's session will be delayed until after City Hall negotiations are over. Another is planned for 7 p.m. at the Exempt Firehouse for men on the other shift.

The Hoboken conference yesterday marked the first time that PERC entered a labor dispute without being asked by either side. PERC exercised power granted recently by a new state law. Mastrianni said he felt the presentations made by both the city and the bluecoats' organization yesterday were "meaningful."

Both firemen and police have turned down a city offer of a \$750 pay increase, with the possibility there may have to be some layoffs to meet the cost and still keep Hoboken within its budgetary limits.

The Patrolman's Benevolent Association turned down the offer and the International Fire Fighters Association has authorized a strike if a settlement is not reached. Mayor Steve Cappiello said he was considering asking the state for national guardsmen to provide fire protection in the event firemen walked off their jobs.

Meeting with the union representatives yesterday were Mayor Cappiello, Councilmen Robert Ranieri and Anthony H. Romano and Francis X. Hayes, the city's labor counsel. The union representatives were Detective Mario Mercado, PBA president; Fireman Michael Bavaro of the International Fire Fighters and Capt. William Bergin of the International Fire Officers Association.

Firemen demand Cappiello release study

Officials of Hoboken's fire unions today asked that Mayor Steve Cappiello make public the results of a \$2,500 fire department survey performed by a retired New York City deputy fire chief at the city's request.

"We would like the residents of Hoboken to know what an expert, hired by the city, had to say about the operation of the fire department, consolidation and public safety officers," said

Capt. William Bergin, president of the Fire Officers Association. "The survey was compiled last year at the request of the mayor but it has never been made public. The reason for this is that it more or less substantiates what the Fire Fighters and Fire Officers have been saying all along. Why else would the mayor keep the results a secret for so long?"

Cappiello said he would make public the survey results but

because of their technical nature he would like to discuss them in full with the firemen, fire chief and police chief first.

Hoboken's two fire unions and the mayor have been engaged in a running battle over the conversion of the department to public safety officers and the training of eight men hired through the Public Employment Program (PEP) as public safety officers trainees.

The trainees were to start

training this week on actual fire rigs but all city fire companies that have been on duty during the day tours have refused to train the men. Cappiello and Chief Patrick J. Carmody have been discussing the course of action the city will take in response to the firemen's action but haven't announced a plan yet.

Yesterday, Deputy Chief James Houn took over the training program when Deputy

Chief Leo Guider, the department's training officer, called in sick. However, the change in training officers didn't alter the situation. The men still refused to train the eight PEP employees claiming that they haven't been tested by Civil Service and working with them might endanger the firemen and officers.

In response to Cappiello's expressed desire to continue talking with the firemen and officers to explain better what he planned to do about the public safety officer concept, Bergin said the unions would be willing to listen but were doubtful anything would come of such talks.

"The mayor is welcome to attend any open meeting of the firemen and fire officers," he said. "But we won't call a special meeting for the purpose of letting the mayor talk. We did that once and it didn't accomplish anything," he said, referring to a meeting held last year in Hoboken High School.

"There were supposed to be monthly meetings between the city and the firemen in the hope of working things out, but they never came off either."

Meanwhile, Sixth Ward Councilman Edward A. McLaughlin said he will ask the city council to enter into the talks with the firemen, as well as the other city employee unions, in the hope of resolving some of the problems that have been stalling negotiations.

McLaughlin said a main topic will be the proposed creation of the public safety officers and the effect on the job security, safety and performance of the present members of the public safety department.

Citing a lack of complete information on the subject, the councilman said that both the city and the unions should move slowly and deliberately, and not make any rash decisions.

He added he has proposed the full council be brought in on negotiations with the various city unions and they have agreed that it would be beneficial.

"I will ask Council President (Martin J.) Brennan to arrange meetings with each union on succeeding Saturdays so that we can devote as much time as is necessary to discuss and hopefully resolve our mutual problems," he said.

Hoboken Field Fixup

Hoboken taxpayers will have their chance to say yes or no on March 11 to a \$220,000 bond issue for repairing what has been called the "disgraceful" high school field, John F. Kennedy Memorial stadium and Veterans Field.

Board of education members have voted unanimously to put the \$220,000 referendum on this year's ballot.

Board member James Farina, who introduced the referendum, apologized for asking taxpayers to borrow money during "these discouraging economic times," but Farina defended the referendum as "necessary for the respectability of the school and the safety of students."

Farina said that 75 per cent of last year's football team suffered "various infections" from playing on the field in addition to a multitude of cuts and injuries.

Won't Compete There

He said that track teams from other school systems have refused to compete in Hoboken because of the "deplorable and dangerous conditions of the field."

Farina said that adopting the bond issue will provide the funds for restoring "respectability" to the stadium to bring it up to par with other fields in the county.

He said that presently athletes playing on the field and their parents have to face daily embarrassment because of the playing surface.

The money, if approved, will be spent for restoring the track (\$55,000); restoring the field and installing a sprinkler, \$77,000; constructing lockers for girl players, \$55,000, and improving and adding to the bleachers, \$33,000.

Hoboken must find a new economic reason to exist

By Mayor STEVE CAPPIELLO

Hoboken is caught among economic forces beyond its control. All signs point to a depressing economic picture for the city, the state, and the nation this year. The problem has national origins and for that reason we must turn to the federal government for some relief until the economy starts to revive.

In Hudson County, and Hoboken particularly, an overall business slowdown is causing alarmingly high unemployment rates. The problem for municipal government is compounded by the inability of the state government to find an equitable fiscal solution to public-school financing—something that would certainly have reduced local property tax rates.

This failure and the increased costs of operating government services present a very real local dilemma this year. The inescapable fact is that this crisis will adversely affect us all.

The fact, however, that unemployment in our city is much greater than the average in the state or the nation should force us to pause and take a hard look at the nature of our own local economic base.

For generations the economic reason for our existence was our waterfront and associated heavy industry. Let's face it, shipping and heavy industry is a part of our past. Containerization and industry's need for more space contributed directly to our economic decline during the past 15 years. The garment industry has filled part of the vacuum, but it is a very weak substitute for the kinds of jobs and tax base that our city needs.

The hard reality is upon us this year more than ever. The City of Hoboken has no choice but to find a new economic reason for its existence.

Hoboken does have good potential to revive its economy and produce new avenues of employment. Our waterfront is prime realty and we have large



MAYOR STEVE CAPPIELLO

areas of underutilized waterfront space. What we need to do now is to undertake the feasibility studies that are necessary to come up with some new answers.

In the same way that the current major housing rehabilitation efforts were preceded by months of hard technical study, so, too, new economic developments cannot take place until we have a better foundation of knowledge.

For this reason, the City Council and I decided to allocate Community Development funds for the purpose of putting together economic planning and development projects so that we can proceed forward into new economic frontiers.

In recent years, we have demonstrated beyond any doubt that Hoboken is a good place to live in fact, in the next few years housing construction and home improvement loans will more than double what we see going on now. During this same period we shall also take the slow, first steps towards our economic and job recovery. And, by then, too, the state government will have arrived at a new fiscal structure that will reduce greatly the heavy tax burden on our homeowners.

What we are going to do in 1975, is tighten our belts and settle down to some hard work.

Hoboken Mini-School 'Reservoir' Feared

Hoboken residents near 524 Park av., the site of a new mini-school now being built, have an unplanned and unwanted four-foot deep reservoir on their hands, with new waters gushing up daily

from below ground and some residents expressing fears for the safety of their young children.

A fence built by the contractors, Pisani and DeBari, to secure the area, has a gap

ing hole in it and an area spokesman said that children have reportedly skipped through the hole and under the fence to play in the sloping mud above the water.

The water comes from a lake or stream which was originally under the buildings in the area.

Additionally, city Councilman Robert Ranieri has raised the possibility that the water may be undermining the foundations of other buildings on the block by eroding their support and has warned that the entire block may be jeopardized by the construction.

Last December, 520 Park av., directly adjacent to the school site, was condemned as unsafe after pile driving undermined its foundation. On the mayor's order, it was demolished.

Yesterday, after visiting the area and inspecting some of the nearby homes, Anthony Russo, standard bearer of the Anthony Russo Civic Assn. and a candidate for the area's third ward council seat, called the accumulation of water in a hole at the site "a menace to every young adventurous child on the block."

Russo said mothers and grandmothers had warned of seeing small children slip into the work site and play directly above the water, which would have covered their heads if they had slopped into it.

Mrs. Amato first to file for Hoboken ward races

Mrs. Florence Amato has become the first official candidate in Hoboken's May 13 ward elections.

Mrs. Amato, a member of the Hoboken Outlook ticket, filed her nominating petitions for the Fourth Ward contest yesterday. She was the only one of the four Outlook candidates to file.

According to Andrew J. Amato, the Outlook standard bearer, some unexpected last minute complications prevented the ticket from filing their nominating petitions together. He said that two of the candidates, Frank Sestey and Anthony (Tony Mike) DeVincento, could not get the time off from their jobs. The third, Carmine Trombetta, had a slight mixup on his petitions and

decided to get some additional signatures.

Sestey is running in the Fifth Ward, DeVincento in the Third and Trombetta in the First.

Also picking up petitions yesterday were Nunzio Malfetti, Sixth Ward; Mark Cerrone, Fifth Ward; Grace Scutellaro, Third Ward.

'Show me the fat' Singleton defends school budget

At least one member of the Hoboken school board is willing to cut the proposed \$10.7 million school budget if the city council will show him where.

"If anyone can show me where there is fat in this budget, I will be glad to have it cut out," said trustee Donald Singleton last night after the fiscal package was introduced by the board.

Ironically, Singleton was the only board member to vote against the budget because of two relatively minor items that he said were unnecessary.

He claimed that it was an unnecessary expense to run advertisements in two newspapers and that the board had unwisely increased its own expenses for such items as dinner meetings from \$12,000 to \$13,600. But he said his vote was really a matter of protest and that he did not think the budget could be significantly cut.

The session caused a round of noisy complaints when the board refused to hear questions and comments from the large

audience after acting on the budget. Members of the Citizens for Better Education, represented by Leo Genese and others, including Thomas Vezetti, complained that they did not have a chance to speak. Vezetti said he would take the matter to the county prosecutor.

However, Robert Taylor, board attorney, said the panel was not ready to talk about the budget because it was not in its final form. He said it must first be approved by the county school superintendent, advertised, and then put before the public at a hearing scheduled for Feb. 25. He pointed out that the board is not obligated to listen to comments before the public hearing.

Singleton was incensed at attempts by city council members to get the board to cut the budget back to last year's \$9.8 million level. He said an appeal was made before last night's session by Mayor Steve Cappiello and Councilman Robert Ranieri and Edward McLaughlin.

"We've already made many, many cuts," he said. "There are no pay increments and we only have \$300,000 allocated for building repairs when our architect says we need \$3 million."

"We even thought of putting some fat in the budget so we could have something to knock out but then we decided not to do that. We're even asking the city taxpayers for \$86,000 less than last year while the cost of everything has gone up."

Singleton said he was virtually sure the budget would be voted down in the March 11 school election but hoped that either the city council or the state board of education, which act as "courts of appeal" from the voters decision, would keep it at the present level.

"If it's knocked down we'll have to do something, of course," he said. Cuts can always be made but they would mean drastic action like closing "humanities" courses. "I hope we don't get to that stage," he said.



PRACTICING FOR EMERGENCIES—James Monaco, of Hoboken Fire Community Relations Bureau, shows a class of first graders in Wallace School how to make phone calls in emergencies. Calling in a fire to the department is Oscar Camacho, a member of the class, while Miss Ann Accetta, class teacher, listens in. Program is carried on with cooperation of telephone company.

Special Cops Start Duties

By ELIZABETH PARKS performing special limited Hoboken's seven public police duties yesterday with safety officers began no one in the city's police

department making a move. The Patrolmen's Benevolent Assn. had earlier warned that they would refuse to work with the men if they were assigned to train or patrol with them unless "given a direct order by the mayor." Yesterday PBA president Mario Mercado said the men "have nothing to do with us and long as they're not carrying guns I don't care where they are."

The trainees, now officially special police, were put on patrol duty by themselves. Four of the men have been assigned to patrol three of the city's parks. Two have been assigned to ride the sweepers and one is giving out parking tickets. The men in the city's parks will patrol their areas singularly and in pairs from 4 o'clock in the afternoon to 11 o'clock at night. They'll be in Church Sq. Pk., Elysian Field

and the park at Fourth and Hudson Sts. The report to the city's public employment program for time sheets and pay checks and not to Police Chief George Crimmins. They have been issued nightsticks, gray uniforms and badges marked Public Safety Office "special." They will rotate their assignments to get what Chief Crimmins called "proficiency in the entire law enforcement

field." Crimmins said there are no immediate plans to use the men in the case of "emergencies," though that is always a possibility. The mayor originally intended to use the men to work as dual officers in both the police and fire department. However the fire department protested their presence so vigorously that their training officer, a man with 29

years experience on the job, resigned. The entire fire department wrote out subject sheets refusing to work with them under any conditions. Rather then suspend the entire department for insubordination of refusing to obey an order before it was given, Mayor Steve Cappelletto transferred the men to the police department. There was no warm welcome there either, and the PBA had vowed to fight their presence through Civil Service.

Workers race time, water to fill Hoboken garage pit

Efforts by the Hoboken Public Works Department to install a new tank for unleaded gasoline at the Public Works garage on Observer Highway have become a race against time — and the threat of a cave-in of the sidewalk around the excavation.

The hole for the new tank is supposed to be 10 feet deep but at eight feet water started filling it up — and kept on until it overflowed the pit and flooded the surrounding area. According to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, two

heavy duty pumps have been brought in to keep the water at a level which allows the excavation work to continue. However, they aren't keeping the water out entirely and the sides of the pit are starting to fall into the center.

"The pit is a lot wider and longer than it has to be to take the tank," he said. "That's because the dirt around the sides of the hole keeps getting washed in by the water."

"There's a big hole under the sidewalk at one point where the dirt washed into the excavation and it may cave in if it gets worse."

Vitale said it was now believed that the water seeping into the pit was coming from the Hudson River rather than a hidden spring. He added that he didn't have any positive proof that this was the case, except for the smell.

"It smells like river water," he continued. "Sort of salty and fishy."

The director said that the pit is almost 10 feet deep. The tank for the gas will be anchored in place, possibly sometime today. He said that once it was in the ground it would act as a support for the walls of the pit and stop them from caving in.

Eye Hoboken Hockey

The popularity of street hockey among youngsters in Hoboken has convinced city officials to use a \$96,000 state Safe and Clean Streets grant to build a combination hockey-ice skating roller skating rink and basketball court at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium and Veterans Field.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said yesterday that the city hopes to begin construction on the field by the beginning of the summer.

The state has already approved a proposal for spending \$86,000 for two combination roller skating rink-basketball courts, but Vitale wants to resubmit the approved proposal to the state with amendments for the hockey field.

According to Vitale and

Recreation Director James Farina, the city doesn't have room for two rinks and would prefer spending the money on one highly flexible combination venture than on two less adaptable fields. Farina said hockey and football are the two most popular sports in Hoboken. He said it would be "shortsighted" of the city to fail to provide facilities for the sport.

Currently youngsters in Hoboken use the streets and the basketball courts at Wallace School as makeshift hockey fields. Farina said that while the city waits for the state to approve the amended proposal, the Board of Education will paint in a

hockey rink on the Wallace school courts so play can be more precise.

Provided the state again approves the proposal, the site for the regulation field will be vicinity of the tennis courts at JFK Stadium and Veterans Field. Vitale said he is also asking Freeholder Vincent Fusilli to look into the possibility of using part of the county's Columbus Park for a section of the field.

Dip in Hoboken Tax Seen

By ELIZABETH PARKS Hoboken taxpayers who fear a tax rate increase in the winds can relax for the present. Mayor Steve Cappelletto released his preliminary budget to the city council last night and the \$108.69 tax rate per \$1,000 assessed evaluations is going down two cents.

The proposed budget is

\$12,566,789. That is \$80,188 lower than last year's \$13,146,977 budget. The amount to be raised from taxes is \$6,459,974, down \$21,371 from last year's, \$6,481,345. The \$21,000 decrease means taxes fall two cents providing no other expenses materialize. The council made it clear last night, however, that the

city still isn't out of the economic woods since additional expenses can still turn up. There is a possibility the city will not get part or all of the \$1,066,000 in urban state aid it received last year. The budget includes this figure as anticipated revenue and its revocation by Gov. Brendan T. Byrne could play havoc with the tax rate.

The budget also fails to make provisions for salary increases for police, firemen and city workers who have not had raises in nearly three years.

The minimum the city could probably settle for is \$750 for all workers, an increase which would cost nearly \$900,000 and which would boost the tax rate \$9.

Councilmen last night candidly admitted they have no idea what they will do about the dilemma. Most said they were still unfamiliar with the budget and will study it carefully to see where, if possible, monies can be found or appropriations cut.

The budget, however, is described by the mayor as basically the same as last year's. Most councilmen say that at first glance they see little leeway for further economizing.

A \$400,000 surplus which the council had hoped to find in the budget isn't there. The mayor could have appropriated nearly \$700,000 to pay the parking authority's debt service, but the service has been reduced this year to \$238,988.

The mayor only appropriated \$238,988. Council President Martin Brennan said, "The money we hoped to be able to play with for raises isn't there."

Brennan said the council will probably call a special meeting before Mar. 1 to pay the debt service for the authority due then.

The authority will pay \$100,000 of the March bill and all of the September installment, but Brennan said that in years to come the council will still have to help the authority when it falls short of the debt. The money, about \$700,000 a year is to pay the \$8.5 million bond issue the authority floated in 1970 to pay for three garages at Grogan Marine View.

A public hearing to discuss the proposed budget was set for Mar. 19, 8 p.m., at Hoboken High School.

Hoboken crisis

While Hoboken's city government awaits some miracle to rescue it from its budget crisis, are all ordinary sources of relief being searched?

What about the \$125,000 in taxes owed by the owners of the 5th and 6th street piers?

That sum could add more than \$200 to the salaries of all city employees; might avert a threatened firemen's strike, and could cancel a policeman's job action already in progress.

When the city sold the piers in 1972, the buyers agreed to pay taxes and remove fire-blackened wreckage. Only a part of the wreckage has been removed and only a token payment has been made on the taxes.

The city says it cannot sue to recapture the property because the sale contract was too loosely drawn. What an admission for a city as big as Hoboken!

Evidently no one learned a lesson from the sad consequences of the loose legal arrangement several years ago which produced the Grogan Marine View Plaza with its annual raids on the Hoboken funds.

One wonders whether any more such deals await the unhappy taxpayer in the future. Perhaps other Hudson communities should get copies of Hoboken's Grogan Plaza and pier contracts just to find out what not to do.

Fire!

Hoboken's firemen seriously believe their city administration is being unjust in refusing to give them more than a small pay increase. They feel so strongly they have authorized their union leaders to call a strike after Thursday if they do not detect "movement" in their contract talks.

Perhaps they are justified in feeling aggrieved, but right or wrong, their feelings must not be allowed to obscure the citizens' absolute right to fire protection.

If there is a strike, there is ample precedent that a court will order the firemen back on the job. Those who refuse face jail. Teachers in Newark and Jersey City were jailed after teacher strikes, it should be remembered.

Hoboken's problems differ from those in other communities only in a matter of degree. If Hoboken were a private business — beset by rising costs and hampered by falling income — it would shut down and move out of town.

But Hoboken has to stay in business. It has to keep taxes at a level that will not drive more business away and it must provide adequate services — including fire protection — to everyone.

Whatever deal Hoboken and its firemen finally make may set the pattern for future confrontations in other communities. It would help if the deal is based on reason and not on muscle.

City workers get ID cards in Hoboken

The Hoboken Public Works Department has started issuing identification cards to its employees who have dealings with the public and is urging local citizens to start demanding to see them when someone represents themselves as a city worker.

"It is a form of protection for both residents and the city," said Director Raphael P. Vitale.

"For residents and property owners it will insure them that the man they may be dealing with is in fact an employee of the city public works department. And for the department's employees the identification cards show that he is an employee of this department and on city business."

The identification cards carry the employee's picture, his name and job, and the city's seal. On the back is the signature of the director. The cards are being issued only to employees who are required to work outside of city hall.

According to Vitale, it is a common technique of burglars to identify themselves to residents as city workers in order to gain access to a building or apartment. Once inside, they either take what they think they can get away with without being noticed, or set it up so that they can come back later when no one is home and "shop at their leisure."

Vitale urged local residents to start demanding to see identification cards when anyone tried to enter their buildings or apartments.

"If the person doesn't have proper identification or refuses to show it, they shouldn't be allowed in," he asserted. "And if they persist, the resident should either notify the public works department or the police."

School brass pleased with state visit

Hoboken school officials today said they were pleased with a report of an inspection visit made to Hoboken High School by state and county education representatives who said they were favorably impressed and would recommend continued accreditation.

"The school is to be commended for its recognition and understanding of the changes which have taken place in the community over the past several years," William Wenzel, acting county superintendent of schools reported to Hoboken Superintendent Thomas F. McFeely.

Wenzel, who was accompanied by Dr. Donald Beineman, state director of secondary education and Josiah C. Conwell, acting

assistant county superintendent, said they were impressed by the conduct of the student body, the general appearance of the building and changes in curriculum "to meet needs arising from population changes."

McFeely said a few minor changes recommended by the team were also in the process of being made at the high school. He commended Principal Walter Fine, the administrators and faculty on the general results of the accreditation visit.

Wenzel said they were pleased with programs in English as a second language and bi-lingual education. "They have lasting effects on the high school program and made for a better total school environment and educational program," he said.

The "conduct and decorum" of the student body impressed the visitors, Wenzel said and it was "clearly demonstrated" by their orderly evacuation of the building at the time of a false fire alarm.

The role of the Student Teachers Advisory Committee, offering opportunities for student and teacher involvement in aspects of the school was "a strength," the county superintendent reported. He also praised the involvement of high school students as aides for elementary bilingual classes. In this program, Spanish-speaking students have been assisting in classroom work in the lower grades, a relationship which McFeely said has proved highly successful.

The visit by Wenzel and the other educators followed a previous assessment made by a team from the Middle Atlantic States Commission on Secondary Schools.

The educators recommended that a concerted effort be made to improve the reading program and McFeely said this was already underway. They also said that while the absentee rate of 10 per cent was not unusual, reasons for it should be explored.

The ratio between guidance counselors and students was above that recommended but McFeely pointed out that, since the visit was made job placement and career development personnel have assumed greater roles in the guidance field, greatly reducing the ratio.

But, he continued, for July 1, 1975, the two lines corresponding to those above have been left blank. "I want to know why," the councilman declared. "It looks like a way they have of holding onto a balance without getting it into the working budget."

The Hoboken school budget is up almost \$1,000,000, but the board is expecting \$1,142,000 more from the state than it received last year, so it is not asking any additional money from the taxpayers.

Actually the board is getting \$1,212,000 additional aid this year, Ranieri said, since the federal government is contributing \$30,300 more and miscellaneous aid is increased by \$40,000.

Last year the total aid received was \$1,000,000 more than the year before, he added.

"What is the board doing with all this money?" Ranieri demanded, "especially in view of the fact that enrollment in the city's schools is declining?"

He said the estimated enrollment for July 1, 1975, is 7,190, as against an estimated enrollment of 7,350 on July 1, 1974, a drop of 160 students.

Police try to cut paperwork cost

Paper work can be expensive but the Hoboken city council has high hopes that it can start cutting down on some of it, especially in the police department, where an estimated \$16,000 a year is spent on entry books and blotters.

Chief George W. Crimmins said today that at the request of Mayor Steve Cappelletto, the public safety director, and the city council, he has started reviewing the department's record keeping procedures to see if they can be tightened up and thus reduce the department's

annual cost of supplies in this area.

The action was prompted by the department's recent request for more than \$4,500 for books and ledgers to be used to keep records of arrests, reports, property to be used as evidence, personal property of prisoners, warrant blotters, bookings, etc.

The order was for six arrest blotters at \$1,236; six desk blotters at \$550; two arrest record books at \$420; two property clerk's record

books at \$475; and two warrant blotters at \$420. During the course of a year, four such orders are usually placed by the department.

"One method of cutting down is to refrain from going into great detail in the desk blotter," said the chief. "Since the men who participate in the incident, or investigate it, are required to make out written reports there isn't any great need to go into a lot of detail in the blotter."

"Another would be to eliminate individual entries for a person

arrested on several charges. Now a separate entry is made in the arrest book for every charge. One person charged with five or six crimes could take up as much as three full pages in the book, much of it wasted space. The book provides space for two entries on each page. By combining all of the charges and listing them in one section of the book, we can save space."

Crimmins said it was also unnecessary for the police department to keep detailed reports on fires, unless they are suspicious, since the fire department keeps

detailed records on these matters.

Roll call entries also could be eliminated from the desk blotter and put into some other book that could be purchased for a lot less.

The chief said he is looking into the possibility of buying equipment for the department which would allow it to make and bind its own record books.

"I have asked the company to come in and give me a demonstration and some prices," he added. "I'm waiting for a reply."

See Sullivan Likely to Head Hoboken Urban Observatory

By ELIZABETH PARKS Richard Sullivan, the former commissioner of the New Jersey Environmental Protection Agency, is considered the "most likely candidate" to head Hoboken's new \$75,000 urban observatory program now being set up by the city and Stevens Tech.

At a meeting between city officials and Stevens Tech personnel Monday in the city's Model Cities Agency, Sullivan's name drew the most enthusiastic support from members of the appointing task force. He was termed "the most qualified man for the post."

One source said Sullivan's credentials put him "far ahead" of the other half dozen final applicants for the job.

The task force's final choice is expected to be announced Mar. 10. Sullivan, who is now teaching at Princeton University, is said to qualify for the job in all the important areas including educational background and experience working in government and public and private administration.

The city of Hoboken will pay \$9,400 of the director's \$35,000 a year salary and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will make up the additional \$25,600.

The director, with the help of a \$9,000 a year secretary, will be responsible for coordinating the program's five proposed projects for 1975 and for making progress reports to the program's policy board.

In some respects the director will also serve as a liaison between the mayor and city council and the participating members of Stevens Tech.

The UOP will undertake five research programs this year. There is to be a study of priorities in developing the waterfront; a study to develop a long range plan for effectively utilizing Hoboken's water supply system.

Also, a study of current municipal management techniques and ways to improve them; a study of the causes of street damage and ways to prevent and repair them; and a study of the new federal environmental impact analysis as they affect Hoboken.

Stevens is to contribute the expertise of its staff and students. City directors will add their knowledge of problems and basic informational data.

The program officially began last December. A first draft of research reports is to be completed by May 1 and a final draft by Aug. 1.

Hoboken's total contribution to the program is \$36,000. The money will not come from taxes but from Hoboken's \$3.8 million federal community development grant. HUD gives \$75,000 to the program.

In the next two years, the program is expected to expand into surrounding North Hudson communities and local funding will then be sought from the North Hudson Council of Mayors.

Board will use field's real name

The Hoboken Board of Education will make every effort to use the proper name of the high school field—The John F. Kennedy-Veterans Field—in compliance with a request from the Hoboken American Legion Post.

Thomas A. Gallo, board secretary, said that the board of education has never knowingly referred to the field as just the high school field, and if it did it was not intended as a slight of the late president or the veterans.

"The proper name is used in all official communications that I know of, and if it isn't it will be," said Gallo. "The problem really

is one of common usage. When people talk they naturally take the shortest way out. In this case, the high school field is the shortest way of saying it."

The Hoboken American Legion Post recently wrote to the schoolboard expressing concern with the fact that the field's official name was seldom used and this was something of a slight to the veterans to whom the field was dedicated and the late president.

Gallo said that all official communications dealing with the field would use the full and proper name and that the board would also make sure that the full name was used in any press releases as well.

Hoboken firemen turn down final offer, map strike plans

The leaders of Hoboken's firefighter unions — whose members rejected the city's "final contract offer" by a vote of 110 to 0 — are meeting with union attorneys today to plan a strike.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he would remain firmly opposed to a key union demand to designate in the contract a minimum number of men on

each shift. He said he's meeting with city attorneys and the city council's public safety committee this morning to prepare to seek an injunction against the strike.

Wary of the threat of an injunction — and eager to maintain an element of "surprise" — union leaders say they will call the strike without advance warning.

This also will give them "flexibility" to consider a new city offer if one is made.

Even the general membership won't know in advance when the strike is to be called, the union leaders said.

The fire leaders also planned to confer with police union leaders today. Asked if they would ask the police for support, Michael Bavaro, firefighter

association president, said "We'll support each other."

The Police Benevolent Association and the police superiors have set a meeting for Monday at 8 p.m. to discuss their action.

In spite of the efforts of the state Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) to bring Hoboken and its police and firemen back to the bargaining

table and obtain a settlement, the bluecoats have walked out of the talks and no further meetings have been scheduled.

James Mastrianni, the PERC staff representative, spent the better part of yesterday trying to get the city and its public safety employees to settle the 14-month labor dispute, but without success.

The city's final offer of \$750 across the board, made last week, was improved upon at a meeting with Cappiello and other city officials, but not enough to persuade leaders of the Fire Fighters Union, Fire Officers Union and Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) to accept the contract and recommend it to their men. Besides the \$750, the city added three extra days' pay — about \$150 — and the promise to promote five firemen to captain as soon as a contract was signed.

Those firemen who worked nights met to vote on the city's final offer late yesterday afternoon at the Exempt Firemen's Hall. They voted 61-0 to turn the offer down, it was reported. At 7 p.m., the firemen who work days met and also voted unanimously to reject the offer.

In a heated, closed-door session last night, Cappiello tried to persuade the firemen to accept the offer. He said he was trying to clear up "misapprehensions" on the firemen's part about the city's position, but the firemen said there was no such misunderstanding. Many of the firemen appeared angry and bitter.

Cappiello and Councilman Robert Ranieri told the firemen they would accept setting the complement of the department at a minimum of 137 men. The firemen, however, would accept such a minimum only if the city agreed to a specified minimum of 23 men, seven captains and a deputy chief on each of the two shifts.

PBA officials met separately with the mayor and his aides and were given the same pay offer as the firemen, and they rejected it. They were to make a report to their members later.

According to the presidents of the two firemen's unions, Bavaro and Capt. William Bergin, no action is going to be taken by the unions until there is a joint meeting of their executive boards. A strike has already been authorized by the memberships.

Both Bergin and Bavaro blamed the collapse of the talks on the position taken by Francis X. Hayes, the city's labor council, on the setting of manpower requirements for the fire department.

The city's position is that the matter of negotiating manpower for the department remains to be settled by the courts. While it is willing to talk about department strength, it won't make any formal commitments until the matter has been legally decided.

Cappiello said such a commitment would set a bad precedent.

Yesterday, the PBA met in Shannon Hall and reportedly agreed to stage a "sick-out" in sympathy with the firemen if a fireman's strike is called. However, PBA officials could not be reached to confirm or deny the report.

Cappiello still cannot hear well with the one ear although there has been some minor improvement since his discharge from the hospital.

The mayor became public safety director shortly after he was sworn into office in July 1972. The department of Public Safety was at that time under the direction of the law director.

PERC enters Hoboken talks

The Public Employment Relations Commission, exercising powers granted by a new law, today entered the labor dispute between Hoboken and its firemen just as Mayor Steve Cappiello had called a last-ditch meeting to head off a threatened strike tomorrow.

James Mastrianni, a mediator and staff representative of PERC, notified Francis X. Hayes, labor counsel for the city, that he would come to Hoboken today in an attempt to reach a settlement.

Although neither the city nor the International Firefighters Association has requested PERC's intervention, Hayes said the state agency said it decided to enter the picture because of the widespread reports that a strike was imminent.

At the request of the firemen, the meeting has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m. today in the mayor's office. City officials said

that for all intents and purposes their offer of \$750 across the board for all employees has not changed, but they are willing to listen to whatever the firemen have to say.

The firemen and officers have two general membership meetings scheduled for tomorrow, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., at Exempt Hall. The purpose is to present in writing what the city has called its "final offer," and to see what the union members want to do.

Union officials have declared an impasse in negotiations and have given authorization by their members to call a strike if a settlement can't be reached with the city. Such action could be taken tomorrow if the membership demands it and rejects the city's last offer.

Hoboken is prepared for the worst. Hayes, the city's \$50-an-hour labor attorney, is ready to seek an injunction should the firemen walk out. And the mayor

says he has asked Gov. Byrne to send in the National Guard should the firemen refuse to come back to work, even if ordered to do so by the courts, and firemen in neighboring municipalities refuse to honor the mutual aid pacts with Hoboken.

But members of the governor's staff say the state hasn't been asked to send in the National Guard. Richard Campbell, the governor's press aid, said Cappiello and the governor did discuss Hoboken's situation and the status of negotiations with the firemen. However, no request was made for the Guard.

Campbell said he has spoken with Lewis Kader, the governor's special counsel, who said that if Hoboken asks for assistance from the National Guard the request would be considered even if made over the telephone, but no such request has been made.

Trenton sources add that Byrne probably will be reluctant to send the Guard into Hoboken because it would set a precedent that the state might have to honor for other municipalities experiencing labor difficulties, and such action might be considered strike breaking.

However, Cappiello stuck to his guns. He said he and Byrne did discuss the possibility of National Guard assistance in the event of a strike.

"We may be splitting hairs here," he said. "I know I asked the governor to look into it. Maybe he doesn't consider that a request."

"I did not come out flatly and ask the governor to send the troops into the city, but I did apprise him of our situation and that we may need outside help, including that of the National Guard. I assumed that he would look into the situation and be ready to give Hoboken whatever help the state could."

The mayor added that he called the governor in advance of an emergency hoping that he could tell the city just what the state could and could not do beforehand.

"If the firemen walk out, I don't want to find out half an hour later that the state can't be of any assistance," he added.

"That was the main reason for my call, to set the groundwork so we would know what to expect."

A "sick-out" job action staged by firemen and fire officers has apparently ended and the department was back to regular strength on all shifts as of yesterday.

But for several days this week shifts were short as many as 7 men, leaving 15 firemen and officers to cover the entire city. No one was called in to replace the missing men on the orders of the mayor, it was reported, because to do so would have meant paying them overtime.

The sick-out apparently started Monday when five men called in sick for the 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. shift. On the 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. shift three men were out.

Tuesday, seven men were out on both shifts, and on Wednesday six men were out on the morning shift and five on the evening shift. A full compliment of men showed up for both shifts Thursday and only one man was out yesterday. No additional men were called in on overtime to replace those out sick during the week.

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With most men getting relieved 10 minutes later than normal, a slowdown could push them over the 15-minute mark and require overtime pay.

Crimmins said no claims for overtime other than what has been duly authorized by him or superiors have been submitted.

And according to administration sources, they might not be honored if they are submitted. The city has been taking the position that the old contract has expired and it can honor or disregard all or parts of it as it sees fit.

In an attempt to improve relations with the fire department, Cappiello, who is also the city's public safety director, yesterday promoted Fireman Michael Greene to captain.

Hoboken School Budget Passes Without Paring

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Arguing that only approximately 36 cents from each Hoboken tax dollar goes to education, board of education members yesterday refused to lower the city's tax appropriations to the board's \$10,966,789 1975-76 budget and approved it as it stood.

The budget now goes on the ballot and will be voted on by city taxpayers Mar. 11.

The board also accepted the resignation of Aurelio Lugo, scheduled to run for an elected term this year, and seconds later appointed him to fill the unexpired term of member Candida Pardin, who resigned two weeks ago.

In deciding whether to approve or reject the budget, taxpayers will have to determine if there is a "cushion of fat" hidden in the budget as Councilman Robert Ranieri claims or if it is "bone dry and a bare minimum" as the board claims.

Ranieri spent nearly an hour of yesterday's two-hour public hearing on the budget trying to pin the board down on how much of a surplus may be in the budget.

The councilman also labeled as "misleading" board statements that they have already cut \$88,000 from this year's municipal tax appropriations.

Robert Taylor, board attorney, did admit that there is a \$220,000 surplus or unencumbered balance in the board's current budget for 1974-75, but Taylor claimed that the money will be eaten up in expenses before the end of the board's fiscal year in June and the board will be left with a \$27,000 deficit.

Board member Donald Singleton cast the only dissenting vote against Lugo's reappointment calling the situation "a cynical move motivated by political expediency."

Charles Roberts, a candidate for one of the three board seats open for election this year, also protested the appointment, arguing that Mrs. Pardin's vacant post should be filled by the candidate who comes in fourth in the elections March 11.

Mrs. Pardin's resignation and Lugo's appointment as her replacement solves what has been called "a war" in Mayor Steve Cappiello's administration over which board candidates were to get organization support.

The mayor and city council had endorsed incumbents Lugo and Anthony DeBari but there was a split over who was to receive the third organization endorsement.

First ward councilman Anthony Romano, fourth ward councilman Louis Francone and sixth ward councilman Edward McLaughlin publicly endorsed one candidate, Michael "Spike" Costello, a friend and ally of Romano's, but Mayor Steve Cappiello and the rest of the council was said to favor Mary Stack Gaspar, a friend and ally of Freeholder Vincent Fusilli.

Cappiello was said to be caught in the middle, under fire from both Romano and Fusilli forces to endorse their respective candidates.

When Mrs. Pardin resigned, the event was interpreted by city hall sources as "superb political maneuvering," but the mayor declined to accept the credit saying he was not involved.

Cappiello may stop being safety director

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello may be on the verge of stepping down as the city's Public Safety Director, it was learned today from a high city source.

The mayor would neither confirm nor deny the reports but did say he was putting in between 15 and 17 hours a day because of his dual duties, and that was more time than he expected.

According to sources close to the mayor, the long hours seven days a week have taken their

toll. They say he is not feeling up to par and hasn't since he experienced his hearing problem last year.

The mayor spent almost a week in a New York hospital during the early part of the year for testing due to a complete loss of hearing in his left ear. No cause was found but doctors speculated that the hearing loss was psychosomatic brought on the stress and strain of the job.

Cappiello still cannot hear well with the one ear although there has been some minor improvement since his discharge from the hospital.

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Cappiello opposed on appointive board

One of Hoboken's three elected school board members today volunteered to support Mayor Steve Cappiello's efforts for a referendum vote on returning to an appointed board — provided the mayor and city council support a referendum to change the city's form of government back to a five-man commission.

Donald Singleton, a representative of Citizens for Better Education, said that since it was unlikely that the mayor would go along with a change of government referendum he was going to "vote against any petition for a referendum reverting back to the appointed school board."

"It is a cop out," said Singleton. "The idea smells. I won't vote for it."

Mayor Cappiello announced Friday that he was going to attempt to have a referendum on the school board because the elected board was an additional expense that the city and the school district couldn't afford.

He said he would be willing to relinquish his authority to pick the appointed candidates and leave that up to a committee of local residents.

"Who is going to select the committee to screen possible board members?" asked Singleton. "Probably the mayor. And if he controls the committee he controls their selection and we're right back to a board of political appointees."

While agreeing that the elected board wasn't perfect and the most qualified didn't always get elected, he asserted that it was the only way independent organizations and citizen groups had a chance of becoming board members and involved in the city's educational system.

Hoboken Group Offers New Family Activities

Residents in Hoboken who have cut back their spending for entertainment and recreation because of inflation now have a chance to join a new community group that offers free swimming, gymnastics, arts and crafts and game room activities.

The new group, called the Hoboken Family Community Program, began 3 weeks ago offering free swimming, gymnastics and game room sessions at the YMCA. A larger variety of programs is scheduled next month.

Children aged 7 to 14 have been invited to use the Y's swimming facilities on weekdays between 3:45 and 5:30. Y instructors teach beginning swimming on Monday, advanced on Friday and intermediate during the week. Following the 45 minute lesson, there's a one hour "fun swim."

During the week, children can also use the gym for the same two hours practicing and playing in biddy league baseball.

For kids who prefer crafts to swimming or ball playing, there's a two-hour crafts program on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. On Tuesday nights there is a crafts program for boys only and on Thursday, a crafts program for girls only. The hours those nights are from 3:30 to 2:30.

The same programs are available on Saturday from 9:30 in the morning until noon. Starting Mar. 1, the Y will begin showing horror movies

from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the game room. A 25 cents admission fee will be charged.

The group is planning to start folk and square dance classes, movies for adults on Monday nights, family swim and recreation programs, a senior citizen program, a musical group, a small theatrical group and also sponsor field trips and weekends away from home.

According to the program's coordinator Sal Santaniello, the impetus for the group came from a collective desire to expand the Y's cultural and recreational facilities to a wide range of Hoboken residents.

The program is jointly sponsored by the Y, the mayor and council of Hoboken and Hoboken's Model Cities Agency.

The city of Hoboken has consistently failed to plan for or study this upturn area with the result that we are left with empty buildings, vacant lots and proposals for facilities such as an oil refinery or oil tank farm which destroyed communities rather than build them up," she wrote.

Hoboken Seen Approving School Field Referendum

By ELIZABETH PARKS

The Hoboken Board of Education, in a continued session of last week's meetings scheduled for tomorrow, is expected to vote in favor of putting a \$220,000 referendum for rehabilitating the city's high school field on the March 11 election ballot.

The referendum's sponsor, board member James Farina,

said yesterday that he is reasonably sure the board will approve the referendum since the ultimate decision on whether to spend the money will be made by the voters at the polls.

Farina is also confident that voters will approve the referendum once it is on the ballot since the field is important to the city's

youngsters and in its present condition is hard to play on.

On some occasions, Farina said, the field is dangerous. He pointed out that some kids have cut themselves falling on glass and rocks that strew the field.

According to Farina, in the summer the field is a "dust bowl" and in the winter, "a river of mud."

Ten years ago, the field sod was turned over, but Farina said the change made the situation worse.

The money to fix the field would be raised through a bond issue and would pay for resodding the field, blacktopping the gravelled area under the bleachers, setting up a renovated track and painting in new lanes, and adding locker, shower and toilet facilities for girl athletes.

Farina pointed out that Hoboken's school system must increase its facilities for girl players or risk losing state recreational aid.

The state has mandated the local school board to improve its programs for girl athletes.

He said he hopes the parents and friends of the youngsters who use the field will recognize its importance to their recreational development and will vote to approve the referendum.

However, Ranieri points out that the board refers to the money in its own budget as "free appropriations." Half of the money seems to be committed to federal programs, according to the confirmed Ranieri's interpretation, but \$320,000 is literally "free" and the accountants say it can be used "as the board sees fit."

The possibility that a \$600,000 surplus might exist in the Hoboken Board of Education budget from last year was dismissed by board attorney Robert Taylor yesterday as "wishful thinking."

Meanwhile Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri, who Tuesday discovered a line item of \$638,000 which seemed to be a surplus but was not designated so, said he will continue to try to meet with Board of Education budget committee members to go over the figures "in depth."

Since the Board has refused to share any of its \$1.2 million in state aid with the city, Ranieri is asking them to share the surplus, provided it can be determined there is one.

According to Taylor, the board only had a \$25,000 surplus last year and is unable to say whether it can

anticipate a surplus this year.

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Hoboken asked to put fund for development in north end

The Hoboken Environment Committee has asked the city council to set aside the \$80,000 it has in federal funds for community development for an economic planning study of the city's northern sector, it was learned today.

Mrs. Helen Manogue, committee chairman, has sent a letter to all nine city council members and Mayor Steve Cappiello asking that the entire \$80,000, which had been designated for special target areas, be spent on a redevelopment plan for the north section of Hoboken.

"The city of Hoboken has consistently failed to plan for or study this upturn area with the result that we are left with empty buildings, vacant lots and proposals for facilities such as an oil refinery or oil tank farm which destroyed communities rather than build them up," she wrote.

"The north section of the city has been our Achilles heel. If we do not plan for this area now it will be the death of us in years to come."

"Money put aside now can only be future benefit to Hoboken. It takes money and sense to make sensible money. The committee strongly urges you to pass such a resolution without delay."

The area runs from the Hudson River to the Palisades and is primarily north of 14th Street. According to Mrs. Manogue and the committee, proper planning

—which would include ways of marketing vacant, abandoned and city-owned properties — could take advantage of the large area to produce a fine commercial and light industrial area from which hundreds of future jobs and rentals might be available.

Mayor Cappiello said he found the proposal "interesting" but would have to discuss the matter thoroughly with the city council and Model Cities planners before making any commitments.

Hoboken wants to use Guardsmen as firemen

By PETER HALLAM

Mayor Steve Cappiello has asked Gov. Brendan Byrne to send the New Jersey National Guard into Hoboken to fight fires if the city's firemen go on strike in the latter part of the week.

The mayor said today that the governor is checking out the legality of such a move with state attorneys and would get back to him as quickly as possible.

"This is only one of the steps

the city is taking to protect the welfare and safety of its citizens," continued Cappiello.

"We are prepared to immediately seek a court injunction the moment a walkout is called."

"The city has been in touch with the Hudson County prosecutor and contingency plans for the implementation of the mutual aid agreements have been worked out to provide fire protection from neighboring municipalities."

Cappiello added that he will close down all the city's schools for an as yet undetermined period if there is a strike.

"The action concerning the schools will be decided if and when there is a walkout," he continued. "A lot will depend on what kind of other protection we have at the time and whether or not an injunction is issued and obeyed by the firemen."

"However, if there is any risk at all to our children because fire

protection is not up to par, the school's will be closed and stay closed until that risk is removed."

Implementing the mutual aid pact with surrounding communities may not be as easy to achieve as expected. Some resistance from the fire unions representing the firemen in those communities is expected in varying degrees, it is reported.

James Heller of Rahway, president of the state Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA), said he has notified his membership in Weehawken and Union City to support the position of the Hoboken firemen but to avoid breaking any laws.

"We will abide by the law requiring emergency response," he said. "But no FMBA members will work in a Hoboken firehouse waiting for a fire call to come in."

"FMBA members will work out of their regular firehouses and respond to emergencies in Hoboken if directed to do so. However, if they meet any resistance they will return to their own communities."

From sources within the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), it was learned that firemen represented by that union will be taking an even harder line by refusing to enter Hoboken on emergencies if their brother firefighters are on strike. The IAFF represents firemen in Jersey City and North Bergen.

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An opportunity

3/12/75 J.J.
Thanks to Paul Jordan and Steve Cappiello, the city councils and boards of education of Jersey City and Hoboken have a wonderful opportunity.

They can approve participation by their home cities in a state-financed study to learn if it is feasible to consolidate certain municipal services.

They surrender no autonomy; do not compromise home rule in any way; and do not have to spend a penny. They are not even making a commitment to consolidation.

All they are being asked to do is approve a study to see if certain services can be consolidated. If and when consolidation is recommended, the merger decision will be made.

For years there has been much talk but little action on consolidation. Now there is an opportunity for action. The city councils and the boards of education should welcome that opportunity. They have absolutely nothing to lose and they can gain just as much as they want to accept.

Anti-pollution law to fine owners of idling motors

3/10/75 J.J.
By the end of this month it could cost Hoboken motorists a minimum of \$50 if they allow their automobiles and trucks to idle more than three minutes.

A spokesman for the Hudson Regional Health Commission, Robert Ferraiuolo, said today that the enforcement of the new county air pollution control ordinance will start in Hoboken towards the end of the month and could cost motorists from \$50 to \$500 if they get a summons.

The driver of any vehicle who allows his engine to run for more than three minutes will be given

a ticket. The three exceptions are when a car or truck is waiting for a red light, when the engine is the source of power for some specific function a truck performs, and in the case of buses, when passengers are actually being picked up or discharged.

Ferraiuolo said that preliminary enforcement—giving out warnings to violators—already started. In cases where a truck or vehicle is owned by a company and the driver is only an employee, both the driver and the company will be notified of the new regulations.

Owner of building damaged by city work faces razing lien

3/14/75 J.J.
A Hoboken man who lost his well-kept eight-family tenement house at 520 Park Ave. because its foundation had been undermined by excavation work next door at the site of the city's new mini-school will soon have another problem — an \$18,680 lien on the land.

The City Council will consider a resolution at tomorrow's meeting directing the city's tax collector to establish a lien on the premises equal to the amount the city paid to have the building torn down.

For Corrado DeCandia, the owner, it means that the city will have a legal claim on whatever money he receives for the sale of the property if there is a settlement between him, the builder (Pisani and DeBari), and the builder's insurance company.

In December tenants of DeCandia's building began to notice large cracks appearing in the walls of their apartments. As

excavation work and pile driving continued at the school site the cracks worsened and eventually the buildings were condemned during Christmas week by the city's building inspector, James Caulfield.

At that time Caulfield said the work next door had undermined the foundation of DeCandia's building and it should be demolished as quickly as possible or else it would cause serious damage to adjoining buildings. A stop work order, issued by Caulfield, still stands. No further excavation work will be done until new tests are made at the construction site to determine what other problems might be encountered, Caulfield said.

In the meantime, the city hired a Newark contractor to take down 520 Park Ave. The bill was for \$18,680 and payment is to be authorized at tomorrow's council meeting as well.

It is reported that the builder

and his insurance company have offered DeCandia a little more than \$60,000 for the property and damages. If a figure is eventually agreed upon the city could hold up the sale until its lien is satisfied by the seller or the buyer.

Why, if Caulfield is correct in blaming the excavation work for causing the dangerous condition that developed in DeCandia's building, is the city going after the property owner rather than the builder and his insurance company? And what, if anything, is it doing to get the \$18,680 demolition costs from the contractor?

Mayor Steve Cappiello said that the lien was "normal procedure" and designed to make sure the city was fully protected for its \$18,680 investment.

The mayor added that the city expected the matter to be settled by the builder or his insurance company, not by DeCandia.

Ranieri says firemen will be among best paid without raise

By PETER HALLAM

2/19/75 J.J.
If Hoboken is able to make a counter proposal to her firemen and fire officers when they meet tomorrow there is little likelihood that it will be anywhere near the \$1,200 raise the fire fighters have demanded.

The council's three-man public safety committee advised the rest of the council last night that the difference between the city and the firemen boils down to

two points — a fair salary for the firemen and the city's ability to pay it.

According to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, chairman of the committee, the firemen and fire officers aren't doing too badly without any pay increase based on a state-wide comparison of salaries.

"I concede that contract agreements made elsewhere during the last months of last

year and the early part of this year have closed the gap but our fire officers are still among the best paid in the state and our firemen are now at an approximate average salary," the councilman said. "This is based on Civil Service figures."

"The minimum salary for firemen is \$10,544 and the maximum is \$12,085. A Hoboken fireman makes \$11,200 without longevity and could make as much as \$12,870 with longevity and cash benefits such as clothing allowance and paid holidays.

"Our fire captains make \$18,771 while the state average maximum is \$14,680. Our deputy chiefs make \$21,985 while the state maximum is \$17,836. And our chief makes in excess of \$27,000 as compared to \$20,806. Hoboken's figures include longevity payments but I do not know if the average state figures also take this into consideration."

"Recent contract agreements in other Hudson County municipalities such as North Bergen, Union City, West New York and Jersey City have brought the pay of their firemen to levels higher than Hoboken's. The range is from \$500 to \$1,600 in the North Hudson municipalities and \$2,900 in Jersey City."

"A fair comparison between Hoboken and the other Hudson County municipalities must include the city's ability to pay higher salaries to its public safety employees, not just on the fact that one municipality pays more than the other."

"Hoboken is now taxing its property owners at what is generally acknowledged as confiscatory rates. This is when the amount expected in taxes on any given property equals or exceeds 10 per cent of what it is worth. It is a dangerous and unhealthy position to be in because it means that over the course of a 10-year period the property owner will have paid to the city an amount in taxes that is equal to the value of his property."

"This city has a total taxable base of \$115,000,000 based on current figures. North Bergen has a base of \$500,000,000. How can the two be compared? North Bergen's total public safety budget is around \$4.5 million, while Hoboken's is more than \$6.5 million."

"The obvious fact is that we can't afford what we already have, much less increasing the cost."

Ranieri would not say if the city was prepared to make the firemen a counter pay offer.

Both the firemen and the fire officers have authorized their union leaders to call a strike if progress on reaching a contract agreement isn't made.

Hoboken PBA lists new car needs

2/27/75 J.J.
The Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) and city officials may not be at great odds over the purchase of police cars, after all, as they discover as they clarify their priorities.

Patrolman James Behrens, head of the PBA committee looking into service records of different makes of police cars, said the problem today is not so much the make but how the vehicles are equipped.

"The PBA isn't concerned with the make of the vehicle as much as with whether or not it is a car

manufactured especially for police duty, or a regular assembly-line product to which certain items have been added to make it serviceable as a police car."

"Several of the cars we now have were not shipped from the factory as police cars. They were sent out as low priced, middle-of-the-line cars for public consumption that were added to make them acceptable for police work after being delivered to the dealer."

"Most, if not all, auto manufacturers, produce a special police vehicle. What

makes it special is the special equipment and heavy duty parts that are built into the car, not added on after it has been delivered to the dealer."

"All the PBA is asking for is that the city purchase the special police vehicle—regardless of what brand. The one make that was suggested contains all of the mechanical equipment and extras we are seeking and that is the only reason why it was proposed. The manufacturer of the cars we now have makes a special police car which would be just as acceptable, if the city will order them."

According to Behrens, city officials told him flatly this week that they wouldn't buy any other make of car than the one they have been purchasing for the last few years.

Behrens said that he spoke with Chief George W. Crimmins, business administrator Herman Bier and Sgt. Frank Garrick, head of the police repair shop. All denied refusing to change makes.

Bier said that he told Behrens that the city was satisfied with the performance and service it was getting from the make of cars it is now using, and was reluctant to change to a different make.

"But that doesn't mean the city won't change if the PBA can show us how it would produce a savings and provide the department with better performance from its vehicles," he said. "We have established a fleet of one-make of car because that is the best and most practical way of doing it."

"In order to switch to another make the city would have to be convinced that it is a superior car, not just as good, but superior and costs less, not just as much, but less."

As far as special equipment, Bier said that he would advertise for whatever specifications the police department asked for. That is between the PBA and police department superiors, he said.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the PBA is greatly dissatisfied with the extra equipment the

cars are supposed to carry under the terms of the PBA contract with the city.

The last contract with the city called for each car to be equipped with a 100 foot length of rope, a dog snare, a first-aid kit, an inhalator, two bulletproof vests, flares, two heavy duty flashlights, two night stick brackets on the dashboards, two pairs of protective gloves, two blankets, one heavy duty pry bar, two Scott air packs, and two luminous vests for foul weather and night traffic duty.

With the exception of the inhalators in some cars, none of the other equipment is being carried in the vehicles.

In a recent incident involving a stray dog, the two patrolmen sent to take care of the matter were unable to do anything about the animal because they didn't have any equipment and couldn't reach the city's dog catcher, a PBA source related.

He said that two officers were sent to the Union City recently in answer to a call to remove a dog which was barking and snapping at customers coming into the restaurant.

The officers had no equipment with which to capture the dog, couldn't contact the city's dog warden through either City Hall or at his home, and were unsuccessful in chasing the dog away. One alternative was to shoot it and they decided against that because the dog warden wouldn't be there to dispose of the animal.

City officials could not be reached for comment.

'Slight' Tax Boost Looms As Hoboken Sifts Budget

2/14/75 J.J.
By ELIZABETH PARKS
Hoboken taxpayers have had news in store for them with next year's budget.

Mayor Steve Cappiello and councilman at large Robert Ranieri got a preliminary budget turned over to them from the city's auditors yesterday and the picture was not bright.

Cappiello refused to release explicit details on the budget until he shows it to the entire council Tuesday night, but he said it does seem likely that there will be "a slight increase in the city's tax rate."

Cappiello said he could not put a figure to the slight increase until he and the council examined the budget further.

He said the city is still waiting to hear if the state will just reduce or do away entirely with \$1 million in urban aid.

The mayor said that if the city does lose the aid or a substantial part of it, the "light" tax raise will go even higher.

A loss of \$1 million in urban aid will put another \$10 on the city's already record high \$10 tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed evaluations.

Also not included in the mayor's estimate of a "slight tax increase" are salary increases for police, firemen and city workers. The three groups are looking for raises

in the neighborhood of a joint \$600,000.

The firemen have voted to strike if the city does not make progress in meeting their demands.

Jordan, Cappiello seek study of merging cities

3/6/75 J.J.
By PETER HALLAM and THOMAS O'KEEFE

The mayors of financially hard-pressed Jersey City and Hoboken are planning to take the first step Tuesday toward the possible merger of both communities into a single city.

Mayors Paul Jordan of Jersey City and Steve Cappiello of Hoboken will confer with John Lazzar, state director of local finance, in Trenton on the possibility of a state grant to study the merger idea.

"If the study supports the plan, it will then go on the ballot for the residents of both cities to

Cooperation?

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today the giant Maxwell House Coffee plant in Hoboken is showing "great concern" over a proposed 212 per cent boost in water rates announced by Jersey City and he is going to confer with Mayor Paul Jordan on the problem today. Hoboken obtains its water from Jersey City. Jordan said he would do whatever he could to see that the firm does not leave Hoboken.

decide," said Jordan. Should that referendum pass, the mayor said it would then probably be up to

the legislature to give its approval.

Although only Jersey City and Hoboken are now being considered for possible merger, both mayors saw the idea spreading. "I'm very open minded about the possibilities that are available through consolidation," Cappiello said, "not only with Jersey City but to the north."

"It's one of the best avenues open to Hoboken," said the mayor, "and I'm working toward all sides. Perhaps I can be the sparkplug to get the movement started in the county." Cappiello is a member of the North Hudson Council of Mayors and meets regularly with the chief executives of all six North Hudson communities.

Should Jersey City and Hoboken merge, it will be the first consolidation of two communities in Hudson since West Hoboken and Union Hill were joined in 1925 to form Union City.

Mayor Jordan said he and Cappiello will seek an inter-governmental local service grant from the state on Tuesday. Jordan said he would like to see the state or an independent agency make the study.

The mayor said he and Cappiello enjoy a "good governmental relationship" and "we want to see if we can deliver better services to residents of both cities for fewer tax dollars."

Jordan also felt that if the idea proves successful, merger could eventually be discussed with other cities.

Both Jordan and Cappiello said that if the study bears out their feelings that consolidation can bring benefits, both will support the referendum on the ballot.

Jordan said "I'm convinced it will save money because there's an obvious duplication of services and supervisory personnel." Cappiello also said he was convinced services could be made more efficient for residents at a substantial saving.

Jordan said he and the Hoboken mayor discussed the idea of consolidating some services when they met in Houston, Tex., recently while attending a mayors' conference.

"Then we had an opportunity to refine the idea and consider it from the point of eliminating the duplication of services and saving tax dollars. It's something that Hudson has talked about for years."

Cappiello said that in addition to seeking the funds for the merger study, he will appeal for state money to help him with budgetary problems. Hoboken has been facing a possible strike threat by firemen and a job action by police over their inability to reach a new labor agreement. They city obtained a court injunction against the firemen yesterday.

In Jersey City, Mayor Jordan has announced layoffs of 120 police and firemen and scores of other non-uniformed city employees in an attempt to close a \$20 million budget gap.

Mayor William W. Musto of Union City, who is also a state senator, has been one of the leading proponents of merger in recent years. The closest the North Hudson area has come to consolidation, however, is through joint programs financed through the mayors' council and through fire mutual aid pacts. A consolidation of all fire services in North Hudson also has been under consideration.

Hoboken excavation to stay flooded

3/14/75 J.J.
Although Hoboken's city chemist, Henry Meier, says the water that has collected at the construction site of the new mini-school is becoming "septic," Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale says that he will not move to force the contractor or board of education to pump it out.

"As long as the area is properly fenced in and there is proper security, it can stay as it is, at least for the time being," the

director said. "It wouldn't make much sense to force the contractor to fill the hole in if he is going to start working again in a few weeks."

"But if the construction delay is going to be a long one, or the project is going to be dropped entirely, the area will have to be filled in again or the contractor will have to pump it out and keep pumping if necessary."

Vitale said that water seeping into construction sites around the

city was a common occurrence. He added that, in his opinion, the water at the school site was no more dangerous than water that had seeped into the old P. J. Grogan Marine View Plaza construction area and others.

"It isn't dangerous to anyone as long as they don't drink it," he added. "And no one is stupid enough to do that."

Meier, to a degree, confirmed the director's thinking. He said that the water wasn't of any

particular danger unless someone drank it. Meier said that the water was not coming from the city sewers but apparently was tidal water and accumulated rain.

"The tests show that it is in the first stages of becoming stagnant," he continued. "When the weather warms up, algae will start growing in it. In fact, that process is just about ready to start."

Meier said the current status

of the water placed it a notch above that in the Hudson River.

The one main fear, according to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who asked for the tests, is that the water may be seeping into city water lines and presenting a health hazard to residents.

Vitale said that he is going to have the city building inspector, James Caulfield, and the plumbing inspector, Michael Martinelli, look into the matter. Vitale said he didn't feel there was any danger over the standing water seeping into any city water lines, unless the line has been shut off for a period of time.

Normal water pressure in the mains is enough to keep any outside water from leaking in, the director said.

Vitale added that he is awaiting the results of new soil tests taken at the site to determine whether or not construction can continue.

"If those tests show that further work is going to cause the possible demolition of more homes in the area, like 530 Park Ave., the whole project will have to be re-evaluated," he continued. "Should this be the case, the city will have to move to force the removal of the water by either pumping it out or filling" the excavation.

Councilman Ranieri has forwarded a copy of Meier's report on the water to the Hoboken school board for its attention.

Although Campagna said that both he and the state's attorney general feel the legislation passed by the local municipalities, if amended according to HUD guidelines, will be adequate to insure the county's participation in the program, it will be up to HUD to make the final decision.

HUD's county grant extension fails to help 8 Hudson towns

3/8/75 J.J.
A grant deadline for the "urban county" program that would be worth millions in federal development funds for eight Hudson towns and the county has been extended — but not far enough for the towns to qualify, a county official feels.

There is also a basic question about whether any county in New Jersey will be eligible for the money because they do not have the legal authority to undertake community development programs.

Lawrence Campagna, county planning director, is directing the county's participation in the program. He said the federal grant deadline has been changed from March 15 to April 15 but he

and other county officials are hoping to get a May 30 date, instead.

The change in the deadline is needed, he explained, because the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which is administering the program, changed the ground rules in mid-program.

Campagna said that because Hudson and other New Jersey counties do not have the legal authority to undertake community development programs, as counties in other states have, each of the eight Hudson towns that has agreed to participate with the county in the program had to pass enabling ordinances giving the county that right.

But when the ordinances were passed, it was not necessary for the towns to list in the ordinance exactly what project they were giving the county the authority to pursue. HUD later asked for that in amended guidelines.

To change the ordinances already passed by the towns, Campagna said, would take a minimum of 21 days "although it would be practically impossible to do it in that amount of time."

The county may be eligible for the money, \$450,000 the first year, \$900,000 the second and \$1,350,000 the third, because the eight towns that agreed to give the county development authority have a combined population of more than 200,000

persons, one of the federal requirements.

Scheduled to participate are West New York, Hoboken, Guttenberg, East Newark, Harrison, North Bergen, Weehawken and Kearny. The last, however, has been threatening to withdraw from the program because of too great a commitment to federal authority in the spending of the money.

Although Campagna said that both he and the state's attorney general feel the legislation passed by the local municipalities, if amended according to HUD guidelines, will be adequate to insure the county's participation in the program, it will be up to HUD to make the final decision.

Hoboken bid

3/24/75 J.J.
Seeks joint study of cover

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri is asking Weehawken to join Hoboken in a study of possible future use of the old Todd Shipyard property.

Ranieri said he has written to Mayor Charles Miller suggesting that Weehawken join in the project, already approved by Hoboken, since one quarter of the property is in Weehawken.

The Hoboken city council has approved the use of federal community development revenue sharing funds to undertake the study of the whole "cove" area, formerly used by the shipyards and now mostly vacant and owned by Cosmopolitan Terminals, Inc.

Ranieri said in the event Cosmopolitan's plan to build oil tanks on the site is terminated, he would like to see the area developed as a whole, perhaps for low-rise housing and marinas.

City to keep TB clinic open

3/31/75 J.J.
The Hoboken Health Department has found \$3,100 to keep the city's tuberculosis clinic open even though there has been no further word on whether state and federal health funds will be appropriated.

Director Raphael P. Vitale said that the \$3,100 had been appropriated in the city's budget for an assistant supervisor of nursing services, a position which was never filled. It will be transferred to the TB Clinic so that it can continue to operate for another four to six months.

Vitale said that the city received approximately \$8,000 a year from the federal government to operate the clinic.

However, the funds have been frozen by President Ford. The city's funds had run out this week.

He said the clinic which screens patients for signs of TB and prescribes free medication for those who have it, will continue to be open on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Cappiello Merger Bid Called 'Scare' Tactic

By ELIZABETH PARKS
Before Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken goes to Trenton Tuesday to discuss the possibility of merging with Jersey City, he will have to contend with members of the Hoboken city council upset with what they call his "illogical, unprecedented scare tactics of the last few days."

Council members say they don't know what's in back of Cappiello's announcement that he wants to investigate the absorption of Hoboken into Jersey City, or even why he talked about the possibility of declaring the city bankrupt Monday night.

But all of the members who could be reached yesterday say they have "no intention" of pursuing any of the alternatives with the possible exception of layoffs.

Complete merger of the cities is also not being seriously considered by most Jersey City officials. Mayor Paul Jordan said that the most he expects out of the Trenton trip is a state grant to

study the feasibility of consolidating services. Jordan's emphasis is on reducing tax levies by eliminating duplicated services. There was no indication from Jordan's office that there will be any serious effort to consolidate the two cities.

No Discussions
In Hoboken, members of the city council point out that the mayor hasn't discussed any of what they call his "frightening" options with them.

"If the mayor is serious about these alternatives," sixth ward councilman Edward McLaughlin asked, "why doesn't he bring them up with the council where they can be analyzed?"

Both McLaughlin and councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri, one of the mayor's staunchest supporters, agree that Hoboken is solvent enough to avoid either mergers or bankruptcy. According to McLaughlin, the city is in better economic shape now than it's ever been.

McLaughlin's impression of Hoboken's financial status is

diametrically opposed to Cappiello's. The mayor insists Hoboken is about to die, that without room for growth, for expansion, for a lower tax rate to attract investors and industry, the back of the taxpayer of today will break and the city will collapse.

To avoid that, Cappiello says he must investigate every possible avenue of escape including bankruptcy and merging with Jersey City.

Several Disagree
Several members of the city council disagree. They point out that Hoboken can and does meet its bills, is supporting essential services, and can hold the tax rate stable.

Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri has even said that he feels Hoboken can roll back its tax to below less than \$100 "in the next five years."

Some councilmen have said the mayor's talk of bankruptcy and merger may be intended to frighten public safety workers into a contract settlement "favorable to the city."

Board, Council Differ on Hoboken Budget Cut

By ELIZABETH PARKS

No date has been set by the Hoboken city council for pruning the Board of Education's \$10.9 million budget but, according to one councilman, there's little likelihood that whatever chopping the council does will "boomerang" on taxpayers and cost them millions more in tax dollars.

Only a few hours after Board Attorney Robert Taylor submitted the Board's budget to city clerk Anthony Amoroso, Thursday city councilman Robert Ranieri

optimistically predicted that Board of Education members will "cooperate" with the city council in "carefully and fairly" reducing the \$10,930,000 which taxpayers have been asked to contribute to the budget.

Ranieri said there is almost a "zero likelihood" that the Board would refuse to cooperate with the council and even less probability that the board "will reject whatever conclusions are ultimately reached and appeal the matter to the state commissioner of education."

Taylor predicted Wednesday

that the Board of Education would not cooperate with the council and would be forced to resist whatever cuts the council has in mind by appealing to the state.

According to Taylor, if the Board appeals to the state commissioner to reject the council's recommended reductions and to uphold the budget which voters rejected last Tuesday, the commissioner might not only insist on the \$10.9 million appropriation, but also force Hoboken taxpayers to support a needed \$3 million physical renovation program and salary increases for teachers and janitors.

Spend Less on Education
"Hoboken taxpayers," Taylor said, "already spend nearly 20 per cent less on education than any other Hudson community and the council is trying to take even more money away from school children so they can give raises to city workers."

Taylor said the council's attempts to balance their own

budget by "taking" from education "only dramatizes their own inability to manage the city's affairs efficiently."

Members of the city council, however, say "education will not be hurt by our proposed reductions. The cuts will be made carefully, diligently and

with the welfare of both taxpayers and school children in mind."

The council has 15 days from receipt of the budget to work on it and make recommendations. Council President Martin Brennan said yesterday the council will

discuss the budget at its caucus Monday and will probably schedule a meeting between a Board of Education

committee, a council committee, Taylor and the city's auditors sometime next week.

Merger of Hoboken-JC Services Faces Study

By RICHARD DRABIK

Initial steps were taken yesterday on the possible consolidation of services provided by both Jersey City and Hoboken, including fire protection and public works.

Mayor Paul Jordan of Jersey City and Steve Cappiello of Hoboken were in Trenton to discuss the feasibility of consolidating services and reported some progress in this drive.

The State Division of Local Government Services and Finance agreed to make a study of the proposed consolidation's possibility. John Laezza, the division director, said an official request must first come from the city councils and boards of education of both Hudson cities.

Under consideration for possible consolidation are Jersey City and Hoboken fire departments, public works departments, data processing

operations and purchasing offices.

In addition, the proposed consolidation study would see what Hoboken could do to take a more active part in the operation of Jersey City's physical water supply operation.

Another Possibility
The water question is particularly critical at this time since Hoboken is fighting the proposed doubling of water rates by the Jersey City water utility.

A public hearing on the rates is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday in city hall, Jersey City. Hoboken uses about 15 per cent of the 69 million gallons pumped out of Jersey City's Boonville Reservoir daily.

The water rate increase is due to back \$30 million in water bonds to pay for the new water filtration plant started in December. (A related story on the water rate hike appears on page 11.)

One other possibility for consolidation between the two Hud-

son cities involves school costs.

How and what could be merged, including the purchase of supplies and books, depends on large measure on the kind of state school cost take over worked out by the state Supreme Court. The high court will begin its own hearings on the topic on Tuesday.

If the school takeover finances 100 per cent of local costs, as Jordan has proposed, then consolidation of these services would be most desirable.

Names for New City
Though rumors circressed the county last week that Cappiello and Jordan were proposing the political merger of Hoboken and Jersey City into a single large city, the subject was never really taken seriously by the two men.

But the possibility did spark a new topic of conversation in local political clubhouses and barrooms. The talk centered on speculation for the merged city's new name, and suggestions ranged from "Joe-hoboken," to "Hobo City."

The nine councilmen of Hoboken would probably never have agreed to a merger plan, which would have robbed the Mile Square City of its chief asset, its identity as a unique community, and reduced the politicians there to one "Hoboken Ward councilman" in the new merged city council.

The original merger suggestion by Cappiello was considered to be another tactic in his frustrating contract talks with Hoboken police.

Both Jordan and Cappiello issued statements yesterday stating they "owe it to our taxpayers to explore any possibility of saving some money by consolidating city services."

Cappiello for Speed
If the boards and councils of both cities agree to the study, then the state division would enter into an Interlocal Government Contract with Jersey City and Hoboken to consider the proposal. Virtually the entire cost would be paid by the state.

Cappiello said that if this contract is signed quickly, the study could begin within a month and the recommendations could be ready by the beginning of fall. Some joint cooperation could be included in the 1976 city's budgets.

Hoboken PBA seeks better awards system

Although the members of the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association have voted to accept the city's offer of an additional \$750 across the board pay increase and four more paid holidays, formal agreement on a contract hasn't been reached.

But the city and the PBA will hold their first meeting to discuss the many non-money items proposed for the contract at 1 p.m. tomorrow — in a much more relaxed atmosphere now that the cash issue has been resolved.

The PBA wants to improve working conditions, the general facilities its men have to work in, a more adequate training program, and a more meaningful awards system for men cited or commended for their work.

A spokesman for the PBA said that it was hoping to have the city establish a system similar to the one used by the New York City Police Department in which men recognized for their police work receive medals as well as letters of commendation. At present the city issues only one medal — the departmental medal of honor — and that is usually given only for acts of significant bravery "above and beyond the call of duty."

The last man to receive the Public Safety Medal was Fire Capt. Lawrence Wallington who rescued several persons from the general alarm fire at 11th Street and Willow Avenue more than a year ago.

The pay package the policemen have accepted consists of the \$750 raise — without a differential for superior officers — a total of nine paid holiday and four days off for a total of 13 days. Under the previous package the men had five paid holidays and seven days off.

A paid holiday differs from a regular holiday in that the man may elect to work that day and receive a full day's pay plus one day's holiday pay, roughly an extra \$50. He may also take the day off at a later date mutually agreeable to the chief and

himself. In this case he does not receive the extra day's pay.

A question has been raised by Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri as to whether or not the policemen voted on the right city offer.

Ranieri is a member of the council's Public Safety Committee which has been negotiating with the policemen and firemen on new contracts. He said that it was his understanding that the city's last offer was \$750 across the board, eight paid holidays — one less than the police approved — and four days off.

"I'm not saying that they didn't vote on the right offer, only that if the extra day was tacked on it was done with out my knowledge," the councilman said. "I do not know if the mayor and possibly some of the other members of the negotiating committee added the day on, but I intend to find out."

The mayor was not available for comment.

The city's Municipal Employees Association has also accepted the city's offer of \$750 across the board. Since all non-uniform city employees normally do not work on legal holidays so the paid holiday portion of the offer accepted by the policemen, who are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, does not apply to them.

While the city seems to have resolved its differences with the PBA and the non-uniform employees it still is far from agreement with the fire fighters and fire officers unions were guaranteed manpower requirements appear to be the main stumbling block.

The firemen, officers and the city have been ordered into fact-finding by the state's Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC), the first time that PERC has invoked its newly authorized powers of initiating fact-finding without having to be asked by either of the two sides in a labor dispute.

'Y' Sets Films, Plus Dialogues

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken may not have a movie house, but film-goers will have a chance to see recent major productions, for free, starting March 10 at the Hoboken YMCA.

The eight-week program, aimed at adults over 17 years old, will also feature a special lecture and discussion session following the films.

The program has the rather academic title "Equalities in American Society: An Approach through American Films." Dr. Silvio Lacetti, associate professor of Humanities at Stevens Tech and Dr. Stanley Worton, professor of History at Jersey City State College will be available to lead the discussion.

The films include "To Kill a Mocking Bird," a highly acclaimed production of the 1960's which deals realistically with the consequences of racial discrimination and our inequitable justice system.

"All the Kings Men," an academy award winning movie made in the 50's dealing with corrupt politics, and "Diary of a Mad Housewife," a recent movie which touches on women's liberation among others will be screened.

The program is being sponsored by the Hoboken Model Cities Agency with a grant from the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities.

It is intended, according to Model Cities coordinator Sal Santaniello, to "bring about a meaningful dialogue between the academic community and working adults through the common denominator of the movies and their treatment of equality."

The movies will be shown 7:30 p.m. each Monday for the next eight weeks in the Mary Lewis Room of the Y at 13th and Washington streets. Refreshments will also be served.

Vitale seeks funds for Hoboken clinic

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Although the federal funds which allowed Hoboken to maintain a tuberculosis clinic have been frozen by President Ford, city health officials are making a strenuous effort to keep the clinic operating past the end of June.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today that letters have been sent out to U.S. Senator Clifford P. Case and Harrison A. Williams and Rep. Dominick V. Daniels asking their assistance in getting the federal funds released.

"As of now, we have started refusing any appointments past the end of this month," said the director. "This is due mostly to the fact that we haven't received any federal funding even though the current contract runs through the end of the fiscal year which is June 30."

According to Vitale, the city receives about \$8,000 a year to operate the clinic. Part of the services provided include free examinations and medication.

"For this very modest sum we have been able to keep a very

close check on the development of new cases in Hoboken," he continued. "Our last summary showed six new cases, most of which had a minimum of symptoms but the examinations showed sufficient reason for further medical examinations by their own physicians."

Vitale said that the reason the Hoboken clinic was being threatened with closing was because the Pollak Hospital also maintains a TB clinic. But he expressed fear that it wasn't going to get the use the Hoboken clinic got from local residents.

"First of all the clinic is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. which is inconvenient for working people," he continued. "Secondly, it requires taking two buses and more than an hour to get there from Hoboken. And lastly, the service is not free. There is a fee involved which will discourage the poorer potential TB victims from using that clinic."

Vitale said that he hasn't received any response from federal officials on the city's plea to continue the funding.

Edit Hoboken Board Budget

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken Board of Education's \$10.9 million budget will be scrutinized tonight by the mayor, members of the city council and the board's finance committee to determine if the \$4 million the city contributes to education can be reduced without impairing teaching effectiveness.

The budget was defeated by voters last week at the polls after several members of the city council stated publicly that the city's appropriations were too high and could be reduced. Tonight's meeting, however, will mark the first time the mayor and council will work on the budget together with members of the board of education.

Board Attorney Robert Taylor said he believes the budget can best be made from the board's \$320,000 of unencumbered balances and from its \$300,000 capital outlay budget.

"The capital outlay expenditures are important but, ultimately, Ranieri said yesterday, "the board should wait for next time, Ranieri said yesterday, is expected to implement a new funding program."

Ranieri also pointed out that year when the state legislature education, "We don't want to take any money away from education," he said. "We're interested in using the uncommitted \$320,000 surplus to take some of the burden of this year's extra city is not considering cuts penses off city taxpayers."

Since the board received an extra \$12 million in state aid this year for a total of \$6.4 million in state monies, the city council argues that the board can afford to cut back the city's share of tax dollars by \$200,000 or \$300,000.

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Hoboken to list tax delinquent

By ELIZABETH PARKS

The owners of more than 350 Hoboken properties have a little more than two weeks to pay up the \$1,966,442 they owe in back taxes before the city publishes a list letting everyone know who they are.

Revenue and Finance Director Frank J. Bartletta said today that the list of delinquent taxpayers is already made up but everyone is getting until April 2 to settle their accounts before the city publishes the list.

Bartletta said that \$1,117,842 is

owed for 1974; \$460,113 for 1973; and \$388,487 for 1972. He added that the city has tax liens on some of the properties but most do not and will be subjects of liens this year.

The list, which will be published under a special ordinance introduced by Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Gramer last year, is intended to alert the general public to the property owners who have not paid their taxes. It serves no other official purpose.

Cappiello said that if this contract is signed quickly, the study could begin within a month and the recommendations could be ready by the beginning of fall. Some joint cooperation could be included in the 1976 city's budgets.

Chassis delays new crosstown bus

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken cannot expect delivery of its new crosstown bus until sometime in May at the very earliest, Business Administrator Herman Bier said today.

According to Bier, the problem is not with the company from which it ordered the chassis.

"Production on the particular type of chassis needed for the

bus has been on a hold since September of last year," Bier said. "I have been in contact with the representative of the manufacturer who told me that production on the chassis is not expected to resume until late April."

"Assuming that one of the first chassis that comes off the assembly line goes to Flexible

for our bus and is immediately shipped to the company, it will be at least late May before there can be any possible delivery of the completed vehicle."

Bier added that the letter from the chassis manufacturer did not state why production had been stopped last year and not resumed since. Although other chassis are available, said Bier,

none of the other manufactured by the company would fit the body produced by Flexible.

The director said that he did not plan to cancel the \$16,500 contract with the Alabama firm but he would advise the City Council of the situation and see what it wanted to do about it.

"I don't think cancelling the

order and placing a new one with some other company would serve any practical purpose," he continued. "It would take most other companies — if we can find any — at least two months to put together a similar vehicle meeting the same specifications. So we might as well go with what we have."

Hoboken shopping for water supplier

Hoboken has held an exploratory meeting with officials of the Hackensack Water Co. to see if there is any possibility or interest in supplying the city with water, it was learned today.

The meeting was held late yesterday afternoon at Hoboken City Hall, it was reported, but city officials would not comment today on whether there was any hope of Hoboken's averting the pending 212 per cent rate increase Jersey City plans to impose starting April 14.

Mayor Steve Cappiello and Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale met Monday with Jersey City Business Administrator Peter Korn and reportedly came away with an offer for a slight reduction to around 190 per cent.

The proposal was rejected by some members of the City Council yesterday.

Director Vitale said that the lowest increase he would even

consider would be approximately the same thing Jersey City users would be getting — roughly 87 per cent — and even that amount would be hard to swallow.

"Jersey City must realize that the only thing it is giving Hoboken for what we pay is water," he continued. "There isn't any service involved, no maintaining of waterlines and meters — just water. Jersey City users at least get maintenance included in their water fees."

Vitale said that he felt Hoboken's increase should be around 10 to 20 per cent and anything more was worth contesting in court or before the state's Public Utility Commission (PUC).

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri has written to the PUC asking it to look into the matter but he has not yet received a reply. He said that he would call the PUC today if a written reply didn't arrive in today's mail.

Lines moving underground in Hoboken

After a lapse of almost 20 years, another section of overhead power lines will be going underground in Hoboken.

As a result of the new electrical wiring put in by the Public Service Electric and Gas Co. for the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza project, some 24 buildings along Hudson Street will be switched over from overhead connections to the new underground lines.

One of the first buildings to be switched over is at 320 Hudson St. and is one of eight that will be done by V. Fontana and Sons, a Hoboken electrical contractor.

The federal government is reimbursing each property owner through the Hoboken Housing Authority for the cost of the conversion. The property owners pick their own contractor to do the work and then submit the bill to the authority.

The affected section runs from First to Fourth streets on the West side of Hudson Street. Back in the early 1950s all of the overhead power lines along First and Washington streets were put underground, but no others were done until the Grogan Plaza project came along.

According to Mayor Steve Cappiello, the underground lines have two advantages over the overhead poles. The first is aesthetic and the second is the safety factor arising from the fire department's greater maneuverability.

JC to Increase Hoboken Water Rate by 212 P.C.

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken homeowners are going to have to pay 212 per cent more for water in the next few months than they do now, city officials announced yesterday.

Mayor Steve Cappiello and members of the city council said they have no choice in the matter since Jersey City intends to raise Hoboken's rates by 212 per cent.

In a phone conversation with Jersey City Business Administrator Peter Korn yesterday, Mayor Cappiello was told the increase for Hoboken is "unavoidable" because of Jersey City's own economic problems.

Hoboken has not been officially notified of the increase in writing because the Jersey City Council has not yet introduced the ordinance authorizing the increase. The council, however, is expected

to act on the ordinance today and the increase will probably go into effect next month.

Once Jersey City raises Hoboken's rates, the Hoboken City Council will have to approve its own ordinance passing the increase along to taxpayers.

The \$5 a month residents now pay for water will go up to \$20 or perhaps more. Hoboken officials had intended to raise the rates soon to make up for a \$500,000 a year deficit in the water department.

The council may now decide to combine an increase to make up for the deficit with an increase to meet Jersey City's higher rates.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said that no increase will be formulated until after Hoboken gets together with Jersey City "to see if something can be worked out."

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Hoboken Plans Clinic Reopening

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken's tuberculosis clinic, closed this week for lack of funds, will reopen next week because of a last minute economic reprieve.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said yesterday that he will be able to keep the clinic open for another three to six months because funds have been found in an unused salary appropriation.

Health Officer Patricia Mitten said last Tuesday that the clinic would not be able to reopen because President Gerald Ford has frozen the funds appropriated for the service and Hoboken's \$8,000 appropriation for this year is now used up.

Yesterday Vitale said that he

will use \$3,100 appropriated for an assistant supervisor of nurses to keep the clinic open for another three to six months or until the money is spent. The nurse's job has never been filled.

Vitale said the clinic will continue its twice a week service, opening as usual on Tuesdays and Fridays.

In meantime, he said, he will continue to appeal to the state and federal government to find emergency funding for the clinic.

"For the new dollars spent each week to support the clinic," Vitale said, "we can provide free medicine, check-ups and examinations to nearly 600 people a year."

Hudson seeks more job aid

By ELIZABETH PARKS

"With the exception of Secaucus and East Newark — where officials said unemployment has not yet become a problem — Hudson municipal leaders today were looking for expanded state and federal programs to fight a jobless rate that has soared to 14.5 per cent."

"We've been saying all along that we have a crisis situation here that far exceeds the state's evaluation of the problem, and have been asking for help on that

basis," said Mayor Paul T. Jordan of Jersey City.

Hoboken School election 3/3/75 DeBari, Costello and Mrs. Gaspar run as a team

Three of the 14 candidates running for three seats on the Hoboken Board of Education in the election March 11 are backed by Mayor Steve Cappiello and his political followers.

One of them is an incumbent, Anthony F. DeBari, whose term is expiring. The others are Mary Stack Gaspar and Michael (Spik) Costello.

DeBari is a baker, Mrs. Gaspar a housewife, Costello a police detective sergeant. A board member since 1970, DeBari is chairman of the board's school government committee and is a member of its committees on repairs, finance, buildings and supplies. He headed the board's Food Services Committee at the time when federally financed school breakfast and lunch programs were instituted.

DeBari has long been known in Hoboken civic and business circles. For many years he has operated the DeBari Bakery, founded by his late father, Stefano.

Born and raised in Hoboken, DeBari attended the city's St. Francis School and Stevens Academy. In 1964 he was appointed to the Hoboken Board of Adjustment. Subsequently he was appointed to the city's housing authority, a position he held until he took the school post.

Active in fund-raising drives, DeBari is a member of the Holy Name Society of St.

Peter and Paul Church and Unione Progressiva. He is honorary president of the Thomas A. Gallo Association. He and his wife, Rose, have two children.

Mrs. Gaspar, a Hoboken native, is the youngest child of Edward M. Stack, a founder of Stack and Stack Inc., a Hoboken real estate and insurance firm for more than 30 years. Her grandfather, the late Maurice J. Stack, was the first county clerk from Hoboken and was the city's Democratic leader. She is a sister of William J. Stack, president of the Hoboken-North Hudson Chamber of Commerce.

A graduate of St. Peter and Paul School in Hoboken and of Laccord Academy, Mrs. Stack attended Georgetown Visitation Junior College in Washington, D.C., and the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising. Married to George G. Gaspar, she is the mother of six children.

Mrs. Gaspar is a trustee of the Hoboken Public Library and is executive secretary of the Hoboken Bi-Centennial Committee. She is a past president of the Siena Home School Association of St. Peter and Paul School.

She was campaign manager for James Fusilli, now a county freeholder, in his successful race for councilman in Hoboken in 1971, and is president of Fusilli's 'Woman's Organization. She has characterized herself as "determined to work for the betterment of our school children while carefully protecting the people who pay the price of education — the taxpayers."

Like his two running mates, Costello was born and reared in Hoboken. He attended Hoboken public schools. He was a paratrooper in World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart medal for wounds suffered in combat.

A member of the city's police department for 19 years, Costello presently serves on the auto squad and in the missing persons bureau. He is a past president of the Hoboken Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

Costello is a member of the committee for the development of a North Hudson Breast Cancer Research Clinic. He has raised funds for the blind and retarded at the New Jersey State School in New Lisbon.

Costello has been an officer of the Madison Democratic Club. He is a communicant of St. Ann's R.C. Church. Married to the former Jeannette Lee, he has four children and four grandchildren.

Necessary 3/3/75 Hoboken is not one bit happy with the increase in its water rates as a result of the problems of Jersey City. A 212 per cent jump is formidable and officials in the Mile-Square City are reacting quite properly in view of the scope of the problem.

As one of the moves, Mayor Steve Cappiello and city aides are discussing the possibility of purchasing the supply from Hackensack Water Co., which serves the entire North Hudson-East Bergen area. It is a logical shift, but one that has to be studied and evaluated.

There are, of course, legal and technical questions which must be resolved before anything seriously can be done about any change in the supply system. The important point is that efforts are being made. At this

Others invited to merger talks 3/7/75

Mayor Paul T. Jordan of Jersey City today invited any other Hudson County mayor to join him and Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello when they journey to Trenton next week to seek a state grant for a study of the possibilities of merging their communities.

One who might take up their offer is Mayor William Musto of

Union City, who as a municipal official and a state senator has been advocating consolidation of services for decades.

"I'm 1,000 per cent with them," said Musto, who will make the trip if his schedule permits. "Sooner or later this has to come," said Musto. "We

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just can't pay enough to support duplication in government."

Jordan said he and Musto have informally discussed consolidation several times, although they did not advance the idea as far along as he and Cappiello did.

The discussions with the Hoboken Mayor "have been a lot more concrete than any other discussions which have taken place," said the Jersey City mayor.

Jordan emphasized he is not committed to merging any two

Low income shift for Plaza 3/18/75 seen doomed

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today said that he has the support of enough city council members to vote down any legal measure required of the city to change the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza to low income housing.

"I have not yet had the opportunity to talk with all of the city council members," said the mayor. "But I have talked with a majority of them and all agree that they will not stand for any change in the designed purpose of the Grogan Plaza."

The developers of the two 25-story apartment buildings filed an application with the state Housing Finance Agency last Friday seeking to change the project from high middle income to subsidized low income housing.

Currently, prospective tenants with total family incomes of as much as \$23,000 are eligible for apartments. If the project is made into a subsidized low income development, tenants making less than \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year would be eligible for apartments.

It was reported that the application to make the project low income was filed because apartments are not renting well in the current income brackets.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said he would "gladly sponsor the necessary legislation to float a bond issue for funds with which to take down the two existing apartment buildings rather than see them become low income housing."

"This is not a question of whether or not the city or myself is for or against low income housing for Hoboken," he continued. "It is a matter of getting the project as it was designed and planned."

According to Ranieri, a similar situation arose in San Francisco a few years back involving a large insurance company which had sponsored a housing project.

"There was a tangle with state laws which prohibited the company from charging the rents it wanted to charge," he continued.

"Rather than go along with the figures the state wanted, the company closed the buildings down and left them empty but under guard for more than five years until it won its point."

Ranieri said he fully agreed with the mayor that converting the apartment buildings to low income would be "a terrible and unpardonable waste of some of the finest real estate in the city."

The councilman added that a full investigation of the project may be required to determine why the original goals of high and high-middle income tenants couldn't be met and why the city had to lower its sights and settle for a low income project.

First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano, in whose ward the two buildings are located, said he would oppose the change "100 per cent."

"It would upset the balance for the entire city," he said. "No community can survive for long with an overabundance of low income housing, and Hoboken already has more than its share of housing in this area."

"Here we are striving to encourage upper income tenants to live in Hoboken with this project and the developer comes along with this move. I could never support something like this."

"This project was to have been the turning point for Hoboken. I will do everything I can to see that it doesn't become another stone around the city's neck."

Romano said that he would like to meet with the developers to find out why they had filed the application when apartments had only been available for a few months.

"I don't think the developer has given the situation enough time," he continued. "The general economic picture is down and people don't make many moves during periods like this. Everyone is cautious. But because the apartments aren't renting well now doesn't mean that they won't create more interest when the country's financial condition starts to improve," he asserted.

Director's First Job: Get Office 3/24/75

By ELIZABETH PARKS Joseph Hottendorf, the Hoboken Parking Authority's first executive director, will spend his first day on the job today trying to find some place to set up an office.

For the time being, Hottendorf will set up temporary quarters in the Authority's meter repair shop at 308 Park av.

Appointed to the \$15,000 post Thursday night, Hottendorf said his initial task will be to make a list of all city owned and privately owned lots in Hoboken with an eye to converting them to off-street parking lots.

"The biggest problem any car owner faces in Hoboken," Hottendorf said yesterday, "is parking and it's time we look carefully at the situation and find a solution."

In the future, Hottendorf will be responsible for designing an advertising campaign to sell spaces at the Authority's Grogan Marine View garages and to assist and oversee the management of the garages.

Hottendorf said the Authority is seriously thinking of using city owned lots for either reserve parking or metered parking or both.

If metered parking is decided on, the rates will probably be 25 cents for three hours and ten cents for one hour. Hottendorf said parking will have to be determined.

Hottendorf said yesterday he would like to have the office for the Authority set up in Grogan Marine View Plaza, but he said the possibility is almost completely ruled out for lack of space.

Presently he said he intends to look at various sites along Washington St.

The Authority's first garage for residents of the two completed residential buildings will open May 1 and the second garage for general rentals will open around Sept. 1.

Hottendorf said there is little likelihood that the third garage will be opened until after the two planned residential buildings are constructed and opened.

Ranieri dual Todd plan commended 3/26/75

The Hoboken Environment Committee today commended Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri for his suggestion to have Weehawken join with Hoboken in the joint planning for the old Todd Shipyard property.

A spokesman for the committee said today that letters have been sent to Mayor Steve Cappiello and Mayor Charles Miller of Weehawken urging acceptance of Ranieri's suggestion.

"This kind of joint comprehensive effort is the only way, as far as the committee is concerned, that the two communities can realize the vast potential of this sizable tract of land," she said.

Last week, the Hoboken City Council passed a resolution including the shipyard in a proposed \$80,000 redevelopment study for the northern section of the city.

At the request of the committee the original plan, which did not include the section of the city north of 14th Street, was amended by the council to include that area. The shipyard is part of it.

"After Hoboken has merged with Jersey City and all of our problems have been solved, who is going to solve Jersey City's?" she asked. "They're laying people off there, too. And with something like a \$20 million budget gap. No thanks, Hoboken's problems are small compared to what we would have as part of Jersey City."

Mayor denies plea on income levels 3/3/75

Did Mayor Steve Cappiello ask state Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Patricia Sheehan to increase the income levels for apartments in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza project at last week's meeting?

The mayor said today that he didn't ask, there wasn't any meeting with the commissioner, nor was one scheduled. "I guess it was another dispatch from fantasyland," said the mayor of the report published last week.

According to Cappiello he has previously talked with Commissioner Sheehan about the possibility of getting the state Housing Finance Agency (HFA)

to increase the income limitations from \$23,000 per family to \$28,000 or \$29,000, but he didn't make any formal request.

"If such a request is made it will have to come from the developers, not the city or myself," he continued. "I understand that the developers were to meet with HFA officials but I don't know for sure if they did."

According to city sources, apartments in the two 25-story buildings have not been renting well. It is said that many of the prospective tenants who have inquired about renting apartments exceed the current income limitations but fall within the proposed new ones.

Ask Project Change 3/18/75

By ELIZABETH PARKS Hoboken has no intention of letting the Grogan Marine View Plaza become a low-income housing project: subsidized by the state, city officials said yesterday.

Because of poor rentals, the project sponsors have asked the state Housing Finance Agency (HFA) to change the project from one intended for middle-income families to one for low-income families, but according to Mayor Steve Cappiello that change is completely unacceptable and will not be approved by city officials.

Without the support of city

officials, the application for the change will not be approved by HFA. According to Howard Osborne, operations director of HFA, the sponsors' request for a change is "strictly the city's decision."

Applied for Change According to Osborne, the sponsors applied for the change under the provisions of Section 8 of the federal government's housing laws.

"Section 8 requires the full agreement of the city's chief executives," Osborne said. "and if HFA doesn't have that full agreement, the application won't be approved."

Hoboken Office to Reopen 3/26/75

The Hoboken office of the New Jersey Division of Unemployment Compensation at Newark and River sts., closed two years ago, will reopen within the month.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said yesterday the city's unemployment rate, estimated by him to be approximately 14 per cent, had forced state officials to take a second look at their decision to close the office.

Since officials closed it as part of an economy move in May 1973, Cappiello said he and

State Sen. William V. Musto had been pressuring the state for its reopening.

Reopening the office will alleviate the burden now being put on the Jersey City and Union City unemployment claims offices, which now process Hoboken residents.

According to Carl Kappe, manager of the Jersey City office at 363 Summit av., the reopening of the Hoboken office should reduce 20 to 25 per cent of his office load.

Kappe said the Jersey City office now processes an

average of 2200 to 2400 persons per day.

Mayor Cappiello said yesterday that the city, which makes up approximately 43 per cent of its population, are suffering from the greatest incidence of unemployment. Hoboken's unemployment rate exceeds the county average, estimated at 12.5 in January.

The N.J. Division of Unemployment Compensation is now negotiating a lease agreement for the office site, which is expected to be renovated before it reopens.

Hottendorf doubts budget will be cut 3/19/75

The Hoboken City Council will analyze the school budget for possible cuts Saturday when it meets with the mayor, city comptroller and city auditor for an overall study of the city's financial situation.

The council declined the school board's invitation for a joint conference before the school board meeting last night.

At the meeting, the school board, which has contended that its budget should not be cut, authorized a trip to a convention

in Miami Beach, Fla. for any member who wants to attend.

Council President Martin Brennan said that if the councilmen "feel it's important to meet with the board, we will." He said the meeting "wasn't needed yet."

Brennan declined to comment on the board's approval of the trip to the Miami Beach convention, but Councilman Robert Ranieri said "I don't think they have the right to go in a harsh economic year."

Board president Otto Hottendorf said the four-day National School Boards Association convention, which will begin April 18, will help any trustee who attends "become a better school board member."

At least two board members won't be going. Donald Singleton, who cast the only vote against the measure, said "it would be nice if we were in plush times" but in the current situation he's against it and won't go. Mrs. Mary Gaspar, asked if she would go, said "No. I have six kids."

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Hottendorf was unanimously re-elected president and Jack Raslowsky re-elected vice president.

Mrs. Gaspar, Anthony DeBari and Michael Costello were sworn in by Superior Court Judge Joseph Hanrahan. The three were elected trustees last week. Mrs. Gaspar abstained from voting on many of the financial resolutions at the business meeting because, she said, she had not studied the agenda in advance.

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Pride in Hoboken 3/15/75

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Hoboken's mayor explained that he had not really meant combining the two cities, but consolidating some of the services they render.

It was interesting to see how Hoboken residents reacted to the original announcement. They would as soon give up their right arms as give up their identification with Hoboken. Even the prospect of lower taxes did not lure them.

They were not even willing to look into any possible advantages of merger. To give up Hoboken was just out of the question. Such loyalty tells much about Hoboken and about the people who live there.

They take a "show us" attitude about the consolidation of services and that, too, is a healthy attitude. That is exactly what Paul Jordan and Steve Cappiello have in mind. Consolidation for its own sake would be a mistake. Consolidation for mutual benefit is another matter.

A study — at state expense — will help make the decision. The city councils and boards of education in both cities have to give their approval of the study. As we said a few days ago, this is an opportunity that must not be ignored.

Bier would tighten Hoboken's buying 3/11/75

Hoboken Business Administrator Herman Bier wants to tighten the city's purchasing practices and has asked for the help of all the other city directors to do it.

Bier said today he has sent out several letters to the directors and some of their top assistants reminding them that all purchases, regardless of their nature and circumstances, are to be made through or with the assistance of the business administrator.

"It is the job of the business administrator to do all of the buying for the city," said Bier. "That's the law. I am not to do 50 per cent of it or 99 per cent of it, but all of it. It does not matter

whether the circumstances surrounding the purchase make it an emergency or it is just another routine purchase."

According to Bier, in several recent instances city officials or their supervisory employees have made purchases or agreed to contracts without first going through his office or contacting him about the matters.

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Bier declined to name any specific directors or their employees, adding that it was not his intention to have the contents of the letters made public. Although the contents did leak out, that did not change his feelings about discussing the names of the directors.

Hoboken to Offer Budget Changes 3/31/75

By ELIZABETH PARKS

The Hoboken council is expected to introduce the city's amended municipal budget at Wednesday's 11 a.m. meeting.

According to an informed source, the only difference between this budget and the original budget introduced last month by Mayor Steve Cappiello is an approximate \$50,000 to provide salary increases for city workers.

The source said the new budget will not raise the tax rate "one cent."

The city, according to the source, will pay the increases with revenue expected from the state, with the \$162,500 taken from the Board of Education budget last Wednesday, and with an additional \$300,000 the state has said the city can expect to collect from delinquent taxpayers.

Layoffs Unlikely The source said there is "practically no likelihood" that the raises will cost some city workers their jobs. "The city can afford this budget without laying anyone off," he said.

While the source admitted that some of the revenue the city council is counting on to finance the raises is "a little speculative," he said the council would be "falling to exploit all its options" if it didn't take advantage of the available funding possibilities.

"If revenue doesn't come in from the sources anticipated," he said, "the council will then have to go back to cutting services or considering layoffs."

The money that seems most certain is the \$300,000 the state is expected to let the city consider revenue from delinquent taxpayers.

Good Chance

The city also stands a good chance of collecting most or a substantial part of what is described as "a paper surplus of \$477,000 in state aid," money the state has promised to Hoboken but has not yet sent.

The city is on uncertain ground with money expected from the Board of Education budget. The Board of Education has said it will not accept the cutback, totaling \$325,000, and will appeal to the state commissioner to have the money reinstated.

According to Board president Otto Hottendorf, the state commissioner "is interested in quality education, not local politics." Hottendorf predicts the commissioner will put back the money designated by the council and may even ask Hoboken taxpayers to spend more on education.

The Board must file its appeal to the commissioner by April 15. Then he can make a determination at any time.

The city council, however, is expected to introduce the amended municipal budget Wednesday, publish it Friday, hold a public hearing April 7 and finalize it by April 16.

DeBari, Costello and Mrs. Gaspar run as a team

Three of the 14 candidates running for three seats on the Hoboken Board of Education in the election March 11 are backed by Mayor Steve Cappelletto and his political followers.

One of them is an incumbent, Anthony F. DeBari, whose term is expiring. The others are Mary Stack Gaspar and Michael (Spike) Costello.

DeBari is a baker, Mrs. Gaspar a housewife, Costello a police detective sergeant. A board member since 1970, DeBari is chairman of the board's school government committee and is a member of its committees on repairs, finance, buildings and supplies.

He headed the board's Food Services Committee at the time when federally financed school breakfast and lunch programs were instituted.

DeBari has long been known in Hoboken civic and business circles. For many years he has operated the DeBari Bakery, founded by his late father, Stefano.

Born and raised in Hoboken, DeBari attended the city's St. Francis School and Stevens Academy. In 1964 he was appointed to the Hoboken Board of Adjustment. Subsequently he was appointed to the city's housing authority, a position he held until he took the school post.

Active in fund-raising drives, DeBari is a member of the Holy Name Society of St.

Peter and Paul Church and Unione Progressiva. He is honorary president of the Thomas A. Gallo Association. He and his wife, Rose, have two children.

Mrs. Gaspar, a Hoboken native, is the youngest child of Edward M. Stack, a founder of Stack and Stack Inc., a Hoboken real estate and insurance firm for more than 50 years. Her grandfather, the late Maurice J. Stack, was the first county clerk from Hoboken and was the city's Democratic leader. She is a sister of William J. Stack, president of the Hoboken-North Hudson Chamber of Commerce.

A graduate of St. Peter and Paul School in Hoboken and of Lacordaire Academy, Mrs. Stack attended Georgetown Visitation Junior College in Washington, D.C., and the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising. Married to George G. Gaspar, she is the mother of six children.

Mrs. Gaspar is a trustee of the Hoboken Public Library and is executive secretary of the Hoboken Bi-Centennial Committee. She is a past president of the Siena Home School Association of St. Peter and Paul School.

She was campaign manager for James Fusilli, now a county freeholder, in his successful race for councilman in Hoboken in 1971, and is president of Fusilli's Woman's Organization. She has characterized herself as "determined to work for the betterment of our school children while carefully protecting the people who pay the price of education — the taxpayers."

Like his two running mates, Costello was born and reared in Hoboken. He attended Hoboken public schools. He was a paratrooper in World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart medal for wounds suffered in combat.

A member of the city's police department for 19 years, Costello presently serves on the auto squad and in the missing persons bureau. He is a past president of the Hoboken Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

Costello is a member of the committee for the development of a North Hudson Breast Cancer Research Clinic. He has raised funds for the blind and retarded at the New Jersey State School in New Lisbon.

Costello has been an officer of the Madison Democratic Club. He is a communicant of St. Ann's R.C. Church. Married to the former Jeannette Lee, he has four children and four grandchildren.

Necessary

Hoboken is not one bit happy with the increase in its water rates as a result of the problems of Jersey City. A 212 per cent jump is formidable and officials in the Mile-Square City are reacting quite properly in view of the scope of the problem.

As one of the moves, Mayor Steve Cappelletto and city aides are discussing the possibility of purchasing the supply from Hackensack Water Co., which serves the entire North Hudson-East Bergen area. It is a logical shift, but one that has to be studied and evaluated.

There are, of course, legal and technical questions which must be resolved before anything seriously can be done about any change in the supply system. The important point is that efforts are being made. At this



Anthony DeBari



Mary Stack Gaspar



Michael Costello

Low income shift for Plaza seen doomed

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto today said that he has the support of enough city council members to vote down any legal measure required of the city to change the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza to low income housing.

"I have not yet had the opportunity to talk with all of the city council members," said the mayor. "But I have talked with a majority of them and all agree that they will not stand for any change in the designed purpose of the Grogan Plaza."

The developers of the two 25-story apartment buildings filed an application with the state Housing Finance Agency last Friday seeking to change the project from high middle income to subsidized low income housing.

Currently, prospective tenants with total family incomes of as much as \$23,000 are eligible for apartments. If the project is made into a subsidized low income development, tenants making less than \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year would be eligible for apartments.

It was reported that the application to make the project low income was filed because apartments are not renting well in the current income brackets.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said he would "gladly sponsor the necessary legislation to float a bond issue for funds with which to take down the two existing apartment buildings rather than see them become low income housing."

"This is not a question of whether or not the city or myself is for or against low income housing for Hoboken," he continued. "It is a matter of getting the project as it was designed and planned."

According to Ranieri, a similar situation arose in San Francisco a few years back involving a large insurance company which had sponsored a housing project.

"There was a tangle with state laws which prohibited the company from charging the rents it wanted to charge," he continued. "Rather than go along with the figures the state wanted, the company closed the buildings down and left them empty but under guard for more than five years until it won its point."

Ranieri said he fully agreed with the mayor that converting the apartment buildings to low income would be "a terrible and unpalatable waste of some of the finest real estate in the city."

The councilman added that a full investigation of the project may be required to determine why the original goals of high and high-middle income tenants couldn't be met and why the city had to lower its sights and settle for a low income project.

First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano, in whose ward the two buildings are located, said he would oppose the change "100 per cent."

"It would upset the balance for the entire city," he said. "No community can survive for long with an overabundance of low income housing, and Hoboken already has more than its share of housing in this area."

"Here we are striving to encourage upper income tenants to live in Hoboken with this project and the developer comes along with this move. I could never support something like this."

"This project was to have been the turning point for Hoboken. I will do everything I can to see that it doesn't become another stone around the city's neck."

Romano said that he would like to meet with the developers to find out why they had filed the application when apartments had only been available for a few months.

"I don't think the developer has given the situation enough time," he continued. "The general economic picture is down and people don't make many moves during periods like this. Everyone is cautious. But because the apartments aren't renting well now doesn't mean that they won't create more interest when the country's financial condition starts to improve," he asserted.

Jersey City today invited any other Hudson County mayor to join him and Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto when they journey to Trenton next week to seek a state grant for a study of the possibilities of merging their communities.

One who might take up their offer is Mayor William Musto of

official and a state senator has been advocating consolidation of services for decades.

"I'm 1,000 per cent with them," said Musto, who will make the trip if his schedule permits. "Sooner or later this has to come," said Musto. "We

See Editorial: MERGER On Page 16

just can't pay enough to support duplication in government."

Jordan said he and Musto have informally discussed consolidation several times, although they did not advance the idea as far along as he and Cappelletto did.

The discussions with the Hoboken Mayor "have been a lot more concrete than any other discussions which have taken place," said the Jersey City mayor.

Jordan emphasized he is not committed to merging any two

dozen municipalities. "But I do think it's worth studying," he said. "There is clearly duplication of many services."

The chief obstacle Jordan foresees is the unwillingness of some politicians to merge their interests, especially if it means the elimination of their jobs.

In any case, it won't happen for some time. "It will take years and years and years and years to become effective," said Jordan. "In the meantime, let's see what the study shows," he said.

Unless that study shows that merging with Jersey City would really help solve most of Hoboken's financial problems, most Hoboken residents would vote no on a referendum according to a survey taken yesterday.

Most police and firemen questioned about the possible merger, proposed by Cappelletto and Jordan, liked the idea — it would mean a healthy pay increase for those bluecoats inducted into the Jersey City police and fire services — but scoffed at it ever coming to pass.

"I don't take the proposal seriously," said Capt. William Bergin, president of the fire officers association.

"The cost of merging alone would probably prevent it from ever happening. Who is going to pick up that cost? Hoboken or Jersey City?"

Michele Alessi of 1111 Washington St. said she "wouldn't mind, if it resulted in better conditions."

Richard Heywood, who did not give his address, said he didn't see what would be accomplished by a merger. "We'd still have the same problems as before," he said. "They (the politicians) would have to do a lot of talking and prove their point before they'd get time to vote for it."

Even if the merger would save money — and taxes for Hoboken property owners — some, like Mrs. John (Pat) Altomare of 617 Bloomfield St., wasn't sure they'd like to give up their identity.

"If it would really save some money I would think about it," she said. "But I like Hoboken and I like the name. That's one of the reasons I'm still living here. I don't think I'd like being part of Jersey City."

But perhaps the most interesting response came from one housewife who refused to give her name.

"After Hoboken has merged with Jersey City and all of our problems have been solved, who is going to solve Jersey City's?" she asked. "They're laying people off there, too. And with something like a \$20 million budget gap. No thanks. Hoboken's problems are small compared to what we would have as part of Jersey City."

Mayor denies plea on income levels

Did Mayor Steve Cappelletto ask state Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Patricia Sheehan to increase the income levels for apartments in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza project at last week's meeting?

The mayor said today that he didn't ask, there wasn't any meeting with the commissioner, nor was one scheduled. "I guess it was another dispatch from fantasyland," said the mayor of the report published last week.

According to Cappelletto he has previously talked with Commissioner Sheehan about the possibility of getting the state Housing Finance Agency (HFA)

to increase the income limitations from \$23,000 per family to \$28,000 or \$29,000 but he didn't make any formal request. "If such a request is made it will have to come from the developers, not the city or myself," he continued. "I understand that the developers were to meet with HFA officials but I don't know for sure if they did."

According to city sources, apartments in the two 25-story buildings have not been renting well. It is said that many of the prospective tenants who have inquired about renting apartments exceed the current income limitations but fall within the proposed new ones.

Ask Project Change

Hoboken has no intention of letting the Grogan Marine View Plaza become a low-income housing project, subsidized by the state, city officials said yesterday.

Because of poor rentals, the project sponsors have asked the state Housing and Finance Agency (HFA) to change the project from one intended for middle-income families to one for low-income families, but according to Mayor Steve Cappelletto that change "is completely unacceptable" and will not be approved by city officials.

Without the support of city officials, the application for the change will not be approved by HFA. According to Howard Osborne, operations director of HFA, the sponsors' request for a change is "strictly the city's decision."

Applied for Change According to Osborne, the sponsors applied for the change under the provisions of Section 8 of the federal government's housing laws.

"Section 8 requires the full agreement of the city's chief executives," Osborne said. "and if HFA doesn't have that full agreement, the application won't be approved."

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto said yesterday the city's unemployment rate, estimated by him to be approximately 14 per cent, had forced state officials to take a second look at their decision to close the office.

Since officials closed it as part of an economy move in May 1973, Cappelletto said he and

State Sen. William V. Musto had been pressuring the state for its reopening.

Reopening the office will alleviate the burden now being put on the Jersey City and Union City unemployment claims offices, which now process Hoboken residents.

According to Carl Kappe, manager of the Jersey City office at 363 Summit av., the reopening of the Hoboken office should reduce 20 to 25 per cent of his office load.

Kappe said the Jersey City office now processes an

average of 2200 to 2400 persons per day.

Mayor Cappelletto said yesterday Hispanic residents of the city, who make up approximately 43 per cent of its population, are suffering from the greatest incidence of unemployment. Hoboken's unemployment rate exceeds the county average, estimated at 12.5 in January.

The N.J. Division of Unemployment Compensation is now negotiating a lease agreement for the office site, which is expected to be renovated before it reopens.

budget will be cut

The Hoboken City Council will analyze the school budget for possible cuts Saturday when it meets with the mayor, city comptroller and city auditor for an overall study of the city's financial situation.

The council declined the school board's invitation for a joint conference before the school board meeting last night.

At the meeting, the school board, which has contended that its budget should not be cut, authorized a trip to a convention

in Miami Beach, Fla. for any member who wants to attend.

Council President Martin Brennan said that if the councilmen "feel it's important to meet with the board, we will." He said the meeting "wasn't needed yet."

Brennan declined to comment on the board's approval of the trip to the Miami Beach convention, but Councilman Robert Ranieri said "I don't think they have the right to go in a harsh economic year."

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The money that seems most certain is the \$300,000 the state is expected to let the city consider revenue from delinquent taxpayers.

Last year Hoboken collected more than 35 per cent of nearly \$5 million in delinquent taxes. Based on a formula prepared by the state, Hoboken with state approval, could anticipate collecting \$1.4 million of the \$4,003,960 in delinquent funds this year.

In the original budget, the mayor anticipated collecting \$1 million of \$1.4 this year; in the amended budget, the city council anticipates collecting \$1.3 million.

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Hoboken PBA Accepts \$750 Hike

By FRANK BROOKS and ELIZABETH PARKS
Possibility of a police strike in Hoboken vanished last night when PBA Local 2 members voted to accept the city's offer of a \$750 annual raise and four paid holidays. Total value of the package is estimated at \$1,000 per man.

The approval came by a 71 to 48 vote during a meeting in Shannon's Tavern. It followed a morning vote of 30 against and 29 for the contract offer.

The city still must settle with the firemen, who so far have

talked at accepting the offer of \$750-a-year raise and three paid holidays.
Hoboken PBA President Mario Mercado commented immediately after the vote approving the salary offer: "Generally speaking, I am relieved that the voting is over. I will approach the mayor's office today to ask for an appointment to reconvene the negotiating committee to iron out agreement on non-money items to be embodied in the contract."

These include, Mercado explained, terms of employment, vacations, and other items. No

bargaining has taken place on these items, he said.
The superior officers of the police department, who currently have no organization of their own, recently voted unanimously to accept the city's offer.
The police superiors have already been told by the state Public Employment Relations Commission that this is the year during which they will be permitted to remain within the Hoboken PBA local for bargaining purposes.
Settlement with the police

was a personal victory for Mayor Steve Cappiello, who had adamantly refused to increase the \$750 initial offer.
The firemen were on the verge of accepting the city's offer of a \$750 contract increase and three paid holidays a few weeks ago when a dispute about the minimal requirements broke up the talks and forced the current impasse.
PERC is presently arranging to send a fact-finder in to arbitrate the dispute. Meet-

ings should be resumed next week.
Mayor Cappiello claimed that the city cannot include a provision on manpower requirements in the contract because "that would mean giving away our managerial rights."
The city also says that to include the provision would cost about \$200,000 a year in overtime.
About 75 Hoboken firemen and their families are expected to turn out in force at tonight's public hearing on the city's \$15,014,158 municipal

budget to protest what firemen call "the city's callous disregard for the welfare of firefighters and taxpayers."
Firefighters Assn. President Michael Bavaro said that off-duty members will distribute about 4,000 leaflets to taxpayers today explaining the situation as firemen see it and asking residents to turn out in force at the hearing.
According to Bavaro, city officials are jeopardizing the effectiveness of the department by refusing to commit

themselves to a minimum on-duty manpower requirement.
Firemen want Mayor Cappiello to promise to keep a minimum of 23 firemen and seven captains on duty at all times. Bavaro said that without that minimal number of men to man fire trucks, the men will not be able to fight fires "with full effectiveness."
Tonight's hearing on the budget is set for 7 o'clock in the Hoboken High School Auditorium. The budget as it now stands calls for only a two cents tax rate increase

over the present \$108 per \$1,000 assessment.
The budget, however, does not include any provisions for salary increases. The mayor and the city council have pledged that there will be no tax rate increase this year.
Both the police and firemen won an earlier victory over Cappiello when they flatly refused to cooperate in his program to train public service officers.
The program, which was proposed late last year, has been dropped.

State, Cappiello doubt chance of bankruptcy

BY PETER HALLAM

Hoboken could go bankrupt and have the state take over its municipal operations. But the city would have to be in deep financial trouble — and would have to be able to prove it — before the state would consider taking over, a spokesman for the state Division of Local Government told The Jersey Journal today.

"In order for the state to consider bankruptcy, the city must have defaulted on its bond payments, or its school tax or its county tax payments," the spokesman said.

(Hoboken has not defaulted on any of these taxes and funds for

1975 payments are included in the proposed budget.)
"The tax collections must be less than 50 per cent of the tax levy."

(Hoboken's collections for 1974 were approximately 84 per cent and that amount is anticipated in the budget for this year.)

"And before the state will permit bankruptcy the city must be given a hearing by the state Municipal Finance Committee and prove its case. It would be safe to assume that if the city has not implemented all acceptable economy measures such as reducing the number of municipal employees and reducing services as much as possible

without jeopardizing the public's health and safety, it isn't going to prove its point."

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that the city's financial position is very bad, it is getting worse and that bankruptcy was a possibility. A remote one, but still a possibility.

"Our picture isn't good," said Cappiello. "However, bankruptcy is the last resort and cannot be completely discounted. But to say that it is distinctly possible and is being considered at this time is to overstate the case and to capitalize on this last resort."

Hoboken may be getting ready to implement some of those acceptable economical procedures the state local government spokesman referred to. It was learned today that all city departments have been asked by

the mayor to prepare lists of all employees and their dates of appointment, starting with those who were most recently added to the city payroll.

Sources report that as many as 100 municipal employees will be getting pink slips notifying them that they are being laid off. Included in this will be between 20 and 25 policemen, almost as many firemen and the rest from among non-uniformed employees.

The mayor would not comment on who was going to be laid off but did say that there would be lay offs, as needed, to keep the city's budget in line. Cappiello met with all city directors yesterday morning to advise them of the pending staff reductions.

"How many will depend on how much the city needs to balance its budget," he continued. "We have been hit with some very serious and unexpected financial obligations that have to be met. I refer specifically to the new proposed Jersey City water rate which is going to add at least \$2 million to the city's annual budget."

The mayor said that in discussing the city's financial troubles with reporters he has mentioned bankruptcy but added he has never said that it is the case or that it is the course the city is going to follow.

Hoboken budget hearing is March 19

Hoboken's proposed \$15,014,158 municipal budget for 1975 will get its public hearing on March 19 in the auditorium of Hoboken High School at 7 p.m.

The city council officially adopted March 19 yesterday as the date for the public hearing in conjunction with its second regular meeting of the month. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. with routine business first on the agenda. The hearing on the budget is expected to get started around 8 p.m.

Overall, the proposed budget is down \$784,000 from the 1974

budget which stood at \$15,798,533. But for local taxpayers the interesting point is how much it is going to cost them.

Last year, city taxpayers paid \$6,481,345 in taxes. For 1975, as the budget now stands, they will be expected to pay \$6,459,974—some \$21,371 less—a reduction of less than 25 cents on the tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

But according to Mayor Steve Cappiello, it is what is not included in the budget that could wipe out that small reduction and add several dollars to the tax rate.

The mayor said no provisions

have been made in the proposed budget for any pay increases for city employees. Also the expected increase in the cost of buying water from Jersey City hasn't been included and that could amount to an additional \$2 million over last year.

Besides setting the time and date for the budget hearing at yesterday's council meeting, the council approved the appointment of seven special patrolmen. They are Bernard Grilletti, Antonio Rodriguez, Thomas Bruno, Edward Meehan, Jose Lima, Francis Prester and Lorenzo Cuoco.

The city will readvertise for bidders on contracts to service

various city office equipment. No bidders appeared for the council meeting yesterday.

A \$7,500 contract between the Model Cities Agency and Hoen Meiers for preparation of landscaping plans for the Sixth Ward and the area around the new multi-service facility was also approved.

According to Sixth Ward Councilman Edward A. McLaughlin, it was his suggestion that prompted Model Cities to institute the program which will include the planting of trees and shrubs, and the hiring and training of someone to maintain them.

Hoboken Considers Buying Hackensack Firm Water

HOBOKEN CONSIDERS — By ELIZABETH PARKS
While Hoboken's Law Department prepares to sue Jersey City for raising water rates 212 per cent, city officials are investigating the possibility of buying all future water from the Hackensack Water Co.

Three representatives from

the Hackensack Company met with Mayor Steve Cappiello, Councilmen Martin Brennan, Walter Cramer and Robert Ranieri for nearly two hours yesterday in the mayor's City Hall office.

Although the meeting later was described by councilmen as "tentative and preliminary," Hackensack has promised an "in depth study of the possibility of servicing the city in the immediate future."

According to councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri, the company primarily must determine if "they can supply us with all the water we need at a price we can afford and they can benefit by."
In 1980, when Hoboken had a population of around 30,000 it was the Hackensack Water Co. that supplied water. In 1922, with its population up to 76,000, Hoboken terminated its service with Hackensack and began buying water from Jersey City.

Lines connecting the Hoboken system with Hackensack are still underground, and one of the objectives of the study will be

to determine the expense of renovating and reusing them. Hackensack must also determine if it can supply enough water to handle the billions of gallons Hoboken consumes each year.

There was no time limit set for the study, however, and Ranieri said Hoboken will proceed with plans to appeal the Jersey City increase to the state's Public Utilities Commission.

Ranieri said the city's Law

Director Lawrence Florio will ask for an injunction against the rate increase in the chancery division of superior court next week.

If the city wins, the injunction would likely remain in effect until the PUC either rules on the increase or announces that it does not have jurisdiction. The city has been in phone contact with PUC officials and Ranieri said a formal appeal will be filed by Monday or Tuesday.

Hoboken may sue on water

Although Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello hasn't gotten any satisfaction from Jersey City Mayor Paul T. Jordan on the possible reduction of the pending 212 per cent Jersey City water rate increase, Cappiello said today he still hoped to continue the dialogue.

But according to a high city source, besides speaking softly the city is already preparing its big stick, legal action, if talks fail to get a reduction equal to at least what Jersey City residents and industrial water users will be paying — about 125 per cent less.

It is reported the city is going to hire a private attorney to represent it in action to get the proposed rate increase before the state Public Utility Commission if the PUC refuses to hear the

matter.

"Hoboken is not going to accept a 212 per cent increase in the fees it pays to Jersey City for water," asserted the mayor. "At least not without exhausting every possible means of fighting it. Legal action has to be counted as one of the possibilities, but for the time being we are still talking it over with Jersey City."

However, the city source said Hoboken already has contacted the attorney and he has agreed, although not formally in writing, to accept the case. He added that the city doesn't want to wait until the last minute to find out that Jersey City isn't going to change its mind and then have to prepare the paper work for a suit.

Meanwhile, the manager of the

Maxwell House Coffee plant in Hoboken has written a letter to Jordan and Cappiello advising them that a 212 per cent increase in the water rates will greatly cut the efficiency of the plant.

George Burges, the manager, said the higher rate would cost the company, a division of General Foods Inc., \$1.3 million more a year bringing the annual bill to more than \$2 million just for water.

Burges also said the higher water fees probably will dampen the company's expansion program in Hoboken.

Although no mention of layoffs was made in Burges' letter, the manager was careful to point out that the company employed 1,800 workers at the Hoboken facility — and 670 of them were from Jersey City.

How many will depend on how much the city needs to balance its budget," he continued. "We have been hit with some very serious and unexpected financial obligations that have to be met. I refer specifically to the new proposed Jersey City water rate which is going to add at least \$2 million to the city's annual budget."

The mayor said that in discussing the city's financial troubles with reporters he has mentioned bankruptcy but added he has never said that it is the case or that it is the course the city is going to follow.

Three Towns To Be Sued By Hoboken

The Hoboken Law Department is going to be exceptionally busy in the next few weeks unless city officials can work out some arrangement with the mayors of three communities.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said yesterday that Hoboken Director of Law Lawrence Florio is working out legal details for bringing suit against Jersey City, Union City and Weehawken.

Cappiello said he expects that preparations for the proposed suit against Jersey City's increase in the water rate for Hoboken should be completed by today and the suit itself filed "probably by next week."

In the meantime he says that he intends to contact Union City Mayor William Musto and Weehawken Mayor Charles Miller to see if they're willing to negotiate a new fee for using Hoboken's sewerage plant.

If the answer is no, Cappiello said Hoboken will proceed with the planned suit against them.

"The law suits wouldn't be consecutive," he said. "We'll hire consultant attorneys if necessary and proceed simultaneously."

Given "Time Enough" The mayor said Union City and Weehawken have been given "Enough time" to decide if they intend to voluntarily renegotiate a new fee.

Over a month ago, the two communities took Hoboken's statistics on its current operating expenses, promising to study them and determine if the requested increase "is justified." There has been no communication since.

Hoboken wants Weehawken and Union City to quadruple the \$60,000 they jointly pay for sewage treatment yearly to help Hoboken absorb the \$200,000 plus deficit sustained in operating the plant.

The three cities have a 35-year contract with 20 years to

run. But Hoboken claims its operating expenses have escalated "terrifically" since the contract was signed in 1958.

Hoboken plans to sue Jersey City for increasing the price it pays for water by 212 per cent. Cappiello argues that the increase "will destroy Hoboken's industry and kill the city."

The city has also asked the Public Utilities Commission to ban the increase or to at least "make it more equitable" but the PUC said it has to determine first whether it has jurisdiction in the dispute.

PUC studies water rate powers

The state's Public Utility Commission will determine if it has jurisdiction to review the 212 per cent increase in bulk water rates charged by Jersey City to Hoboken and four other municipal customers.

A PUC spokesman said that although its rate jurisdiction is clear when a municipality supplies water directly to individual customers in another city, its

authority is hazy when water is sold "wholesale" by one city water department to another.

The Jersey City City Council

See Editorial: WATER RATES On Page 18.

on Tuesday approved the 212 per cent increase for water supplied in bulk to Hoboken, Lyndhurst, West Caldwell, North Arlington

and Montville — all of which pay monthly bills to Jersey City and in turn bill their own residents.

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri said he has requested PUC President Anthony Grossi to investigate the rate increases and determine the proper rate that Jersey City should charge.

Ranieri said the city is also seeking a court injunction on imposition of the new rate and an order placing the Jersey City

water works under PUC jurisdiction.

A spokesman for the utility board said that if it is determined that the PUC does have jurisdiction in the Jersey City case, the city would have to request permission for the increase and demonstrate that the new rate provides a "reasonable" return on its investment.

Jersey City is building a \$30 million water treatment plant at its Bontion Reservoir.

"When a municipal water company serves customers in another town, those customers are entitled to the rate-making protection of the board," the PUC spokesman said.

"But it's not clear whether Jersey City, when it sells water wholesale to other cities, would be a utility coming under the PUC's jurisdiction," he said.

He said that although the board had not yet received Ranieri's request — and had not even been aware of the rate increase — the PUC's legal staff will research the jurisdiction question. He added that the board has no authority to review rates charged by a municipality to its own residents.

"I know full well that the PUC's initial reply will be that it has jurisdiction over privately owned water works but that municipally owned water works are not under its jurisdiction," Ranieri said.

But, he added he feels the Jersey City rate increase to municipal customers does fall within the PUC purview because those customers are in three different counties making the city a "statewide public utility."

The Hoboken councilman also contended that the rate change is "not reasonable" because Jersey City charges bulk customers the same unit rate charged to small residential users; the new rate is based on a 43 per cent loss through leakage and faulty meters in the Jersey City water distribution system; and is based not only on the costs of the treatment plant but also on the operation costs of the Jersey City municipal system.



HEADS STUDY CENTER — Richard J. Sullivan, right, former head of the state Department of Environmental Protection, shakes hands with Dr. Kenneth N. Rogers of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. Dr. Rogers and Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, center, jointly announced the appointment of Sullivan to head the Center for Municipal Studies and Services to be run by the college and the city

Scan Hoboken Budgets Today With Eye to Cuts

By ELIZABETH PARKS
Hoboken councilmen today will go over the city's municipal budget and the board of education's budget in an attempt to keep the tax rate stable and slash some \$300,000 of suspected "fat" in the board's budget.

For the first time yesterday, it was revealed by Councilman-at-Large Robert Ranieri that the board has a \$14 million balance in its general fund.

Ranieri, who found out about the surplus through questioning, said it was "interesting" that the board has never before publicly announced that fact.

If the surplus in the general fund does not include a \$220,000 unencumbered balance mentioned in this year's board budget, the overall surplus could be over \$1.5 million, Ranieri said.

Ranieri said that school secretary Thomas Gallo has confirmed the \$1.4 million figure. But Gallo pointed out that \$245,000 of the surplus has been pledged to the school's Title I program.

"There is still at least \$1.2

million in surplus free, however," Ranieri said, "surely more than enough of a cushion for the board to settle on this year."

"Since the board is obviously financially solvent," he added, "it can afford to cooperate with the city council in reducing this year's local tax contribution by \$300,000."

Hoboken taxpayers, without the reduction, would be paying \$4,010,000 of the board's \$10.9 million expenditures.

The council is also expected to cut \$10,000 of the \$16,000 the board has appropriated for expenses and conventions.

Most councilmen say they will have a much clearer idea of what they will cut in both budgets after "we sit down together and seriously go over everything."

All councilmen have pledged to hold the tax rate at its present rate of \$108 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The proposed budget, however, does not include provisions for salary increases for city workers. The city's 150 policemen and 200 city workers have already agreed to increases totaling re-

spectively \$1,000 and \$750, and firemen are indicating that they can live with a similar settlement.

Ranieri said the finalized increases will probably total \$530,000, an expenditure that could jump the tax rate \$5.50.

However, Ranieri said, each department will be responsible for juggling its budget to absorb the increases. "Each director will have to do some mechanical engineering," he said, "and that includes possible layoffs and transfers of priorities."

Shrubs to be planted on 11th Street

Hoboken will go ahead with plans to have shrubs planted on the islands that divide east-west traffic on 11th Street but it is going to hold back some \$25,000 until the city is satisfied that the contractor has performed satisfactorily.

Edwain Chius, coordinator of the Safe and Clean Streets Program for Hoboken, said today that the 11th Street shrubs were not planted in the fall because the contractor did not get to them until the weather had turned cold. By then it was too late and

the planting had to be postponed until the spring.
Council President Martin J. Brennan had asked Chius to look into the matter because he knew the city has the money for the project but the shrubs hadn't been planted.

Approve Hoboken Housing, Factory Conversion Plan

By ELIZABETH PARKS
The \$4.5-million conversion of Hoboken's Keuffel and Esser (K&E) factory into a 173-unit middle income apartment complex is expected to be underway before the end of this week a Model Cities spokesman said yesterday.

At a special meeting the city council approved a building permit on property at Third and Adams st., removing what was described as the last "legal technicality" holding up the project.

Robert Armstrong, Director of Redevelopment at Model Cities, said he expects the developers, Volt Information Science Inc. of New York, to close on the property by tomorrow.
"Work on gutting out the factory," he said, "should begin by Thursday."
City officials are planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony next month and it is estimated that the project will be completed in about a year.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he is "very pleased" that the project is so close to a reality. Cappiello called the

project the first factory conversion in the city's history, "a major step forward for the community."

He said its success will be carefully watched and evaluated by other communities with housing problems.

According to Volt Information, factory conversion is 30 per cent cheaper than conventional construction, primarily because walls, floors and draining systems are already in place and building time and expenses can be cut back.

The L-shaped factory will not be demolished. Its insides will be completely removed and apartment units built.

There will be 16 efficiency apartments costing about \$152 a month; 73 one-bedrooms at about \$166; 60 two-bedrooms at about \$188; 23 three-bedrooms at about \$206; and 14 four-bedrooms at about \$216.

There are also plans for a 50-space parking lot, a children's park and playground and a mall area for adults.

Ranieri says no bond posted by contractor on mini-school

3/5/75 J.J.

The construction company that is building the new mini-school in Hoboken hasn't posted a performance bond with the Board of Education, Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today.

According to the councilman, he has read correspondence from the construction company (Pisani and DeBar) cancelling out its \$874,088 performance bond as of Sept. 12, 1974 because "no bond was desired or required by the school board."

"This is highly irregular and puts the Board of Education in a very weak position," the councilman said. "I have never heard of a public project being built without a performance bond being posted."

Ranieri said he has started his own investigation into the stalled project and has come up with some "interesting but confusing information."

No work has been done at the construction site, 524 Park Ave., since December when the building at 524 started to slide into the open excavation. That building, owned by Corrado DeCandia, had been undermined by the excavation and pile driving work, according to James Caulfield, city building inspector.

Caulfield issued a stop-work order and condemned the well kept five-story, eight-family tenement. When both the Board of Education and the contractor declined to accept immediate responsibility for taking down the dangerous building, the city hired a Newark contractor to do the job for \$18,680, to be paid by the city.

Ranieri said that the reason the contractor wouldn't act immediately may stem from an insurance problem.

"I have seen a letter from the contractor to the Security Insurance Group dated Jan. 7, 1975 advising the group that the liability insurance on the project was cancelled as of Nov. 24, 1974 — almost a month before the city was forced to take the building down," he said.

"Another letter dated Jan. 6, 1975 shows that the Commercial Insurance Company picked up the liability insurance as of the same date with coverage of \$100,000 per incident or \$100,000 aggregate."

"I am informed that both insurance companies feel the other is responsible for settling the problem with the owner of

520 Park Ave. As a result it will probably be a long time before the matter is brought to a conclusion."

The councilman said he was confused by the letters and couldn't understand why the construction company would write to its insurance company cancelling its insurance two months in the past.

Meanwhile, Ranieri said he and Council President Martin J. Brennan will move to eliminate a resolution that would place an \$18,680 tax lien on DeCandia's property, equal to the cost of the demolition.

"That would be adding insult to injury," the councilman said. "Mr. DeCandia is the innocent and injured party in this matter. His house was ruined through no fault of his. There isn't any reason why he should be held accountable for it."

"For that reason Council President Brennan and I are going to introduce another resolution setting the responsibility for the \$18,680 demolition costs with the builder, the school board and the insurance company or companies. Furthermore, I think the city should institute suit against them in an effort to collect what is due, plus interest."

Jersey City, Hoboken join to seek water plant funding

3/19/75 J.J.

Jersey City and Hoboken have pledged to work together to seek state and federal aid for the former's water treatment plant, while the latter will continue to fight the water rate increase approved by Jersey City.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said his city would seek relief in the courts and through the state's Public Utility Com-

mission in the wake of a 212 per cent water rate rise.

Even Jersey City Mayor Paul T. Jordan agreed it was the right thing for Cappiello to do. "If I were in Steve's shoes, I'd go to the PUC and the courts," said Jordan.

The increase in water rates for other municipalities passed by an 8-1 vote yesterday. Council-

man William Thornton dissenting. An accompanying resolution waiving the 20-day waiting period was rescinded.

Aside from mapping joint plans to seek financial aid for the \$39 million water treatment plant being built at the Boonton Reservoir, Jordan promised to meet with Cappiello and the mayors of three other

municipalities which purchase water from Jersey City to see if there are alternatives to the huge increases.

The spirit of cooperation wasn't so evident earlier in the day, when Hoboken officials rapped Jersey City for both the substance and the style of the water rate increases.

Also protesting was Mayor

Ernest Cirrone of North Arlington, who was also representing Lyndhurst. Cirrone said both municipalities were seeking another water supplier.

Jordan later said he doubts any of Jersey City's present customers (which include Montville and West Caldwell) would be able to get a better deal elsewhere. (Also approved yesterday were increases of 87.5 per cent for Jersey City residents and 150 per cent for businesses. Councilman Thomas Maresca voted against these increases and Thornton abstained.)

Cirrone, it was later revealed by Jersey City officials, owns four properties in Jersey City on which real estate taxes are owed. Rents at two of the sites are being collected by the city.

The present monthly water billings for Jersey City customers are Hoboken, \$83,000; Lyndhurst, \$17,000; North Arlington, \$17,000; West Caldwell, \$7,000; and Montville, \$1,800.

Addressing the City Council prior to meeting with Jordan, Hoboken officials objected almost as much to the manner in which they learned of the increase as they did to the increase itself. They said they first learned of the proposal in the newspapers.

"The manner in which it was done was sneaky," said Cappiello. Hoboken Council President Martin Brennan said he was "greatly appalled" by the manner in which it was handled.

Korn said telegrams were sent to the affected municipalities as soon as the city decided on the new rates, but apologized if any other officials felt the notice was inadequate.

County Clerk James Quinn, who said he was appearing as a Hoboken homeowner, felt the increase would "devastate the city." If approved, he said officials could "put a big 'For Sale' sign on Hoboken."

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri told the Jersey City legislators that his city "simply cannot afford the rates you propose." Ranieri said the water rate increase would force owners to abandon their properties, as well as destroy the city's real estate market.

Ranieri criticized Jersey City officials for not seeking available federal funds. He said Hoboken staffers are ascertaining the availability of state or federal aid. Korn replied that Jersey City had already explored that possibility, but was unsuccessful.

Fred Hillier, comptroller of Maxwell House, the largest taxpayer in Hoboken, said the firm was considering "phasing down" certain operations to pay the higher water rates. The firm will pay nearly \$2 million a year for water now. Hillier noted the firm employs 670 Jersey City residents and 245 Hoboken residents.

Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli of Hoboken called on the leaders of both cities to use their political muscle to get state aid. He said Gov. Brendan T. Byrne and his administration should be made to realize that Hudson helped elect him. Local Democratic leaders should "find out once and for all if they (the state) even care about the problems of Hudson," Fusilli said.

Steve Hornik, business agent for Local 56 of the Meatcutters' union, presented petitions with 2,000 signatures of employees at Maxwell House and Standard Brands, protesting the increase. Robert Holton, operations director of Henkel, Inc., which employs 120 persons at its Hoboken chemical plant, said the firm would consider expanding at its other out-of-state sites rather than locally because of the water rates.

Other speakers against the increase included Hoboken Councilman Walter Cramer; Frank Piscatella, North Arlington borough attorney; North Arlington Councilman James Mulhern; James Fitzpatrick, Standard Brands plant engineer; and William Crisman, director of buildings and grounds at Stevens Institute of Technology.

The Jersey City Chamber of Commerce gave its support "reluctantly," but only on the condition that the city amend the rate ordinance soon to provide a discount for large users.

"It is particularly important at this time that industry receive some consideration because it is industry that must pay the new payroll tax, as well as absorb its share of the property tax increase," said spokesman Edward Babcock. "It is always easy to suggest that one more cost can be passed on to business, but Jersey City is in no position today, considering the state of its economy, to make it tougher for business to operate here. We cannot continue to lose jobs or the taxes that established businesses pay and expect the city to continue to live."

He said certain "statutory conditions" — such as the age of the Morrisstown water system — that entered into the Supreme Court decision may not apply in the Jersey City case.

Planting of Hoboken Trees, Start of Bloom

3/11/75 J.J.

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken sixth warders are about to challenge the proposition that a city has to be all concrete and cement sidewalks.

Sixth Ward Councilman Edward McLaughlin is implementing an intensive "beautification" program designed to replace the cold urban look of the city with the warmer greener horizon of trees and bushes.

McLaughlin has already arranged for Model Cities Director Michael Coleman to provide an "unlimited" number of trees. Residents can reserve trees now.

City council has passed a resolution authorizing Coleman to hire Hoen Miers, architect, designer and landscaper of various inner city malls, highrise grounds and other public thoroughfares.

According to McLaughlin, the plan isn't to splatter the sixth ward with a few trees, call it beautification and let it stand at that.

McLaughlin envisions a whole new look for the city, a sort of hybrid matching of the best qualities of suburbia with the best features of a small viable urban city.

McLaughlin has asked Miers to draw up a diagram of each section of the ward. Some of the sketches will feature malls, others fountains, some may investigate the possibility of putting plants and vines on street lights and poles as some Canadian cities do.

McLaughlin has also asked that the city hire and train someone to be responsible for maintaining trees and shrubbery for the city in the future.

The training would include a six week course at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.

"Eventually," the councilman said, "if the program works in the sixth ward, the same beautification effort would be expanded to include the whole city."

Cramer says PUC can act on water rate

3/28/75 J.J.

As Hoboken prepares to appeal Jersey City's water rate increase to the state's Public Utility Commission, Councilman Walter Cramer contends that a recent State Supreme Court ruling gives the PUC clear jurisdiction to review the rate increase.

Hoboken next week will file a petition for relief from the 212 per cent rate increase that Jersey City wants to impose

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WELL, WELL
On Page 12.

beginning April 14 on water it supplies to Hoboken and four other municipalities, according to Councilman Robert Ranieri.

If the PUC refuses to hear the appeal on the ground that it lacks jurisdiction over bulk water rates charged by one municipality to another, Ranieri said Hoboken will seek a court order directing the commission to review the increase.

He said the city next week will also file in Superior Court for an injunction against imposition of the new rate pending any PUC hearings.

However, Felix Florenza, chief PUC regulatory officer, yesterday restated the commission's position that it has no power to regulate rates for water supplied wholesale by one municipal water department to another.

But Cramer contends that the PUC's jurisdiction in such cases is clear, based on a 1967 Supreme Court decision which directed the PUC to hear an appeal of an increase in retail water rates charged by Morristown to individual customers in surrounding municipalities.

Cramer said the unanimous decision called for regulation of rates charged by a municipality to customers outside its boundaries and made no distinction between retail and wholesale purchases.

According to Cramer, Justice John J. Francis wrote: "A municipality which sells water outside its own boundaries is a private or proprietary enterprise."

"If the users in the adjoining municipalities were being served by a privately owned utility, obviously the rates would be subject to regulation by the Board of Public Utility Commissioners."

"Logic compels the conclusion that the Legislature would not intentionally protect such consumers against arbitrary or unreasonable charges of a private utility and leave them without equal protection against discriminatory rates of a municipal utility."

Florenza said there has been "no formal decision" by the courts dealing specifically with bulk jurisdiction over bulk water rates.

Florenza said that because "the facts" behind the Morristown case were different, the PUC takes the position that the 1967 high court ruling does not imply the commission's jurisdiction over the Jersey City rate increases.

He said certain "statutory conditions" — such as the age of the Morristown water system — that entered into the Supreme Court decision may not apply in the Jersey City case.

Charges Budget 'Copout' By 2 Hoboken Officials

3/28/75 J.J.

Hoboken Councilman-at-large Francis Leahy yesterday criticized two ward councilmen for "failing to do their job and adequately represent the people of the city."

Leahy accused First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano and Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francane of "deliberately" missing the city council's special meeting Wednesday on the board of education's 1975-76 budget.

According to Leahy, Romano who works for the board of education as business manager, and Francane, who works for the board as maintenance director, "intentionally avoided the meeting so they could escape voting on the sensitive issue of amending the board's budget rejected by city voters last month."

The seven councilmen at the meeting voted unanimously to cut the \$10.9 million budget by \$325,000.

Leahy said Romano had a "moral obligation" to taxpayers to attend the meeting and "vote on the amendments taxpayers want."

According to Leahy, both men knew about the meeting but chose to go into a huddle on the top floor of city hall rather than attend.

Romano, however, dismissed Leahy's criticism as "emotional." He said he had no intention of avoiding the meeting, but was detained and could not arrive on time. The meeting, however, was a half hour late in getting started.

Francane said he missed the meeting because he had an ear infection and had to go to the doctor. He said Leahy "flew off the handle without even waiting for an explanation."

Leahy, however, dismissed their excuses as "less than straight forward."

He said that while the council meeting was in session, Romano and Francane were in the Business Administrator's office upstairs talking with other city officials.

"Taxpayers have a right," Leahy said, "to know which councilmen are acting in their best interests and which are not. Voters rejected the Board's budget and it was up to each councilman to sustain that vote."

2nd woman in Hoboken ward races

3/4/75 J.J.

Another woman has picked up nominating petitions for Hoboken's May ward elections, City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso said today.

Mrs. Ann Maresca has picked up petitions for the Sixth Ward. Mrs. Maresca is the sister of Fred Mezzina who ran for the Second Ward council seat in the May 1963 special ward election for the seat vacated by Vincent J. Fusilli, now a Hudson County freeholder.

Mrs. Florence Amato has already filed her petitions for the Fourth Ward Council race as has Mrs. Grace Scutellaro in the Third Ward.

Cemelli is told more patrols will control youths in park

3/21/75 J.J.

Hoboken officials have assured Third Ward Councilman Salvatore Cemelli that additional measures will be taken to provide better security at Church Square Park in response to complaints from residents in the area of large bands of youngsters gathering there at night.

Cemelli said today that he has spoken to Mayor Steve Cappiello and the city's public safety director, Capt. Daniel Kieley, who is in charge of the police department's uniformed division, and George Crimmins Jr., head of the Public Employment Program which supplies guards for

the park, and all promised to take action.

"I have received many complaints from persons living in the vicinity of the park about youngsters drinking and excessive noise and rowdiness," said Cemelli. "There have also been a few complaints concerning acts of open lewdness."

According to Cemelli, the youngsters congregate in the park from the early evening hours to as late as 1 a.m. in spite of the fact that the Public Employment Program has guards working there.

"I talked with Crimmins and was told that the men working Church Square Park are also required to patrol in other areas during their tour, which usually ends at 11 p.m.," Cemelli said. "So there are times during the evening, when the security guards aren't in the park."

Cemelli said that as a result of

his talks he has been promised that more checks will be made by the regular police at night, and a greater effort will be made to have the security patrols assigned to Church Square Park spend as much time there as possible.

The councilman added that he also discussed a security problem that has arisen at the city's Madison Street Park, between Fifth and Sixth Streets. Youngsters have been vandalizing private property adjoining the park.

"On one occasion a youngster showed up with a bucket of paint and started painting on the wall of the building at the north end of the park," Cemelli continued. "When the owner came out and held the youngster until police were called, the youngster's mother physically attacked the man, and the boy got away."

Cemelli said that police will also improve security at that park.

Hanrahan Swears in New Member Of Hoboken Board of Education

3/19/75 J.J.

By STEPHEN PAYNE

Hudson County Superior Court Judge Joseph P. Hanrahan last night swore in the three newly elected members of the Hoboken Board of Education before about 50 people, including Freeholder Director Anne O'Malley, Freeholder Vincent Fusilli, Mayor Steve Cappiello and a number of councilmen. Sworn in were Michael Costello and Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar, and incumbent member Anthony DeBar. Board President Otto Hottendorf was reelected unanimously to his post, while Jack Raslowski was selected again as vice president.

Former board member Candita Padin, who resigned last month, was appointed to a \$9,000 position with the board as a "liaison agent" with the community under the Title 7 bilingual program. The only negative vote on the appointment was cast by Donald Singleton, who cited her "susceptibility to political pressure" as his reason.

Singleton also cast solitary "nay" votes on several expenses items, including a provision for board members to attend an education confer-

ence in Miami Beach next month. Mrs. Gaspar abstained on a number of expenditure resolutions, claiming she was unfamiliar with them as a new board member.

The school board's \$10.9 million budget, which was defeated by voters at the polls, will be reviewed by city council members on Saturday, according to City Council President Martin Brennan. Councilman Robert Ranieri added that the delay is being caused by the failure of the board to provide them

with specific information. Regarding the budget, a resolution concerning funding for the city's summer high school program was tabled by the board, with action delayed until the city council makes its views known on what should be trimmed.

Singleton, chairman of the school board's finance committee, offered the resolution to table, and also warned that in the event of budget trimming, one of the first things to go may be the use of the high school gym by outside groups.

Cappiello asks traffic law review

3/24/75 J.J.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he is going to ask Hoboken police officials and the city council to review all the city's traffic ordinances for possible amendments that would bring them up to date and meet the needs of the city.

The mayor said he was taking the action in response to criticism of the city's efforts to ban truck traffic on certain streets from Daniel Manobianco, a former Hoboken Parking Authority commissioner.

"I agree entirely with Mr. Manobianco," said the mayor, "but there is more to an effective system of traffic control than posting a few signs. There have to be laws and regulations backing them up. That is one of the main problems right now."

Manobianco had complained that he has been trying to get the

city to do something about heavy truck traffic on Park Avenue for five years without much success. He said that large trucks heading north on Park cannot make the left turn onto Fourth Street — Park ends at that point because of Church Square Park — and become stuck. They must then jockey their large rigs back and forth on the narrow street until they can squeeze through.

The mayor said that there wasn't any ordinance prohibiting trucks from using the street. Amending local traffic ordinances to include a ban would not be a difficult task, he said, but would be only a token since he felt that the ordinances in general need "an overhaul."

"I feel it would be better to take the traffic ordinances as a whole and revamp them rather than doing it piecemeal, which

with the necessary public advertising, can be an expensive proposition," Cappiello said.

However, Manobianco said that concerned residents weren't interested in a legal means of punishing drivers who used Park Avenue. They are interested in giving them adequate warning

before the get stuck and create a hazardous condition.

Manobianco has suggested that a flashing sign be put up at Observer Highway and Park Avenue warning drivers that if their truck is over 33 feet long they will not be able to make any turns once they have proceeded north on Park, and the street should be avoided.

"I don't look at the sign as a warning to truck drivers as much as a courtesy to them," he said. "They don't want to get all tangled up for hours trying to get out of the city. The vast majority of truckers who see such a sign, telling them that the street is narrow and they won't be able to turn once they're on it, will stay away."

According to Manobianco, he has been keeping track of the incidents over the years and he

has found that every time a truck does get stuck at the intersection of Park Avenue and Fourth Street the driver is usually new to the area.

"Once they go through the experience of having to jockey back and forth for an hour or so to get on to Fourth Street they don't attempt it a second time," he asserted. "I'm not trying to punish drivers who make the mistake, I only want them to have adequate warning about the problems they could have — and the problems they make for people who live in the area."

Mayor Cappiello said he would study the possibility of such a flashing sign and would discuss it with Police Chief George W. Crimmins. However, he didn't think the city could put it up without authorization by ordinance.

Stand Cleared By Cappiello

3/8/75 J.J.

By ELIZABETH PARKS

A threatened clash between Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello and members of his city council over what some councilmen called the mayor's "rash and frightening pronouncements of the last few days" was avoided yesterday when the mayor clarified what he called "options open to Hoboken."

Councilmen who saw and heard about a televised interview which featured Cappiello and Jersey City Mayor Paul Jordan discussing the advantages of merging various aspects of the two cities said they were basically reassured about Cappiello's position.

"He seemed to be stressing a merger of not the communities, but of some of the community services," Sixth Ward Councilman Edward McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin, who Thursday sharply rapped Cappiello for asserting that Hoboken might not be able to solve its economic problems on its own, but might have to be absorbed into Jersey City, said "I'm happy, relieved — that he realizes consolidating the two cities would never work."

Council members as a whole said they thought it was "inconceivable" that either Hoboken or Jersey City taxpayers would ever want to

give up their own "special and personal identity" to be merged into one big conglomerate "with all the problems attendant on big conglomerates."

Council President Martin Brennan said he felt Cappiello had failed to distinguish "between all the possibilities that every administrator must consider and the probabilities that he might try to effect."

Brennan called the merger of the two cities into one "a highly unlikely possibility" and the merger of some essential services like police, fire or purchasing departments "a probability that should be investigated."

Cappiello, after meeting with the state director of Local Finance, John Laezza, called the possibility versus probability distinction "correct."

The mayor said Laezza was "very optimistic" that Hoboken and Jersey City, under the provisions of the state's interlocal services act, will be eligible for some of \$650,000 in newly available state funds available for "studying the feasibility of consolidating services."

The mayor said Laezza advised him that 80 New Jersey communities over long periods of time have merged their various services, reducing duplication of services and saving tax dollars.

Well, well 3/28/75 J.J.

In the days when Edgar Allen Poe, Stephen Foster and others lived in Hoboken, an arm of the Hudson River actually reached into the city and formed a lake, long since filled in and built upon.

But there is plenty of solid rock under the city and pure water in and beneath it. In fact, years ago the northern part of the city got its water from artesian wells.

There came a day when the Hackensack Water Company was able to supply water cheaper than the well-diggers and, still later, Hoboken began buying its water from Jersey City which then had an ample — and cheap — supply.

Now that Jersey City is increasing its water rates to Hoboken by 212 per cent, the artesian wells look good again, or at least worth trying. Big factories in the city are looking into the prospects.

Dig down about four feet in parts of Hoboken and you strike an underground body of water which comes from the Hudson River. Even if the water is not potable, it could be used for industrial purposes.

As for drinking water, the city is dicker again with the Hackensack Water Company. In the long run, Jersey City may be doing Hoboken a favor by raising its water rates.

Efficient 3/29/75 J.J.

The Hoboken Board of Education no doubt is literally correct in declaring the leaking roofs and rotted windows of several schools desperately need repair. It may even be proper to insist such repairs should have priority over the need to cut the budget to hold down taxes.

Still, one may be equally correct in wondering why the schools were allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair that their situation is suddenly desperate. Surely the roofs did not start to leak like sieves overnight and the windows did not rot since the last budget-making time. They must have been deteriorating over a period of years. Good maintenance means keeping ahead of deterioration and not permitting it to get out of hand.

The board is fighting the cuts made in its budget by the city council on the ground that the repairs so jeopardized are essential to a thorough and efficient education. Indeed they are, but let us have thorough and efficient maintenance, too, or a thorough and efficient replacement program when needed.

These are the responsibility of the board of education.

Cappiello upholds tickets

3/14/75 J.J.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that the tickets issued by several special patrolmen before they had been appointed by the Hoboken City Council are legal.

"I have discussed it with the law director (Lawrence Florio) and it is his opinion that the tickets issued by the men during

the two-week period between the time they were sworn in by me and appointed by the council are legal," said Cappiello.

When asked what city ordinances or state statute the director had cited, the mayor replied that none had been mentioned.

"But I will question him again about it so the record on this will be straight once and for all," the mayor added.

Most of the tickets were issued for blocking the path of the city's street sweeper. A question arose as to the legality of the tickets, due to the fact that more than two weeks lapsed between the time the mayor swore the men in and the time their appointments were officially made by the city council.



Fred Mezzina, left, emphasizes point as Mayor Cappiello listens impassively.



Hoboken Council uncertain on funding employe raises

The Hoboken City Council hasn't yet decided whether to pay for salary increases for city employes by raising taxes, cutting other areas of the budget or a combination of both methods.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said the pay agreements the city has reached with police and non-uniformed employes, and the anticipated cost of its settlement with the firemen, will add about \$600,000 to the \$15.8 million in general appropriations listed in the budget under discussion last night. Few of the 18 speakers at

last night's public hearing made any detailed suggestions about cutting the budget.

If the council does not decrease other budget areas, Cappiello said, the tax rate would increase by about \$6 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Councilman Robert Ranieri says he's committed to holding the tax rate steady, but Council President Martin Brennan said the council will not decide what to do until after Saturday's budget study session.

A majority of last night's

speakers were firemen or their supporters. They urged the council to accept the firemen's demands that three men and a captain operate each rig that rides to a fire, that each shift have a specified minimum number of men, and that money for this should be included in the budget.

Fire Captain William Bergin said, "We're not fighting over dollars and cents, but the fear of not being able to do a job for you and the people."

Fireman Michael Davaro said the number of men has dropped from 173 when the present council took office to 147 now, with several other members slated to leave soon.

Brennan said the council "can't promise" that no firemen will be laid off because its finances are still uncertain.

Echoing the sentiments of Bergin and Davaro were Robert Gearhart, John J. Sheehan, Joseph Vitolo, John Lisa, Robert Moore, John Smith, Charles Roberts, James Kilbride and Mrs. Ruth Tompkins. Many in the crowd of about 200 persons at Hoboken High School cheered the firemen's comments.

Firefighter Vitolo said, "We're not mice, we're men and we're going to stick together like a brick wall."

Mark Cirrone suggested the council cut money from the line item for salaries for non-uniformed employes, and stop paying an employee to maintain the parking authority's meters.

Maurice DiGennaro said the council should work harder to obtain more money from Stevens Institute of Technology and the Port Authority.

Thomas Vezzetti spoke against tax abatements. Ann Maresca complained that no provisions for salary increases were in the original budget. She also said if the cost of the proposed Jersey City water rate increase is "passed along to the homeowner, the small homeowner will be crushed."

Fred Mezzina said the council should not allocate an additional \$15,000 for public safety director, a post Cappiello now holds without salary in addition to his position as mayor. Cappiello indicated he plans to resign and appoint someone else as public safety director.

Bernard Ziegler and Leo Genese advised the council to keep the school budget intact.

In the business meeting prior to the budget hearing, the council hired James P. Dugan's law firm for the Community Development program for \$10,000. Vezzetti suggested there might be "conflict of interest" involved in hiring the state senator from Bayonne.

In other action the council confirmed Alfred Avitable as a member of the rent leveling board by a 6-2 vote, with Ranieri and Francis Leahy voting against the confirmation. Councilman Walter Cramer was not present. The council tabled adopting specifications for bids for five police cars but approved specifications for two public works trucks. It received five bids for printing the Community Development brochure; approved renewing \$400,000 in revenue notes and adopted specifications for theatrical lighting for the multi-service center.

Hoboken Working Out Water Rate Increase

Hoboken Public Works Director Raphael Vitale has begun working out a water rate increase for city homeowners, but Vitale said he is not including the 212 per cent increase recently inflicted on Hoboken by Jersey City.

Vitale said yesterday that he has asked Model Cities Coordinator Edwin Chiusi to work out a water rate increase that would reflect the cost of converting the Hoboken's water system to the Hackensack Water Co. Vitale, who met with city officials and Hackensack representatives Wednesday to consider a possible conversion, said he is optimistic that Hoboken could wind up paying "substantially less by converting to the Hackensack system."

The director pointed out that the Hackensack Co. manages all aspects of water supply, including providing meters and repairing and maintaining lines and pipes.

"Jersey City," Vitale said, "wants to raise our rates 212 per cent but they're only selling

us water. We have to supply and install our own meters and pay the upkeep of all maintenance."

Vitale said he cannot estimate how high the increase may be until Chiusi finishes working out the expense of various alternatives.

He said the increase will be predicated on the expense of converting, on inflation and on the necessity for Hoboken to reduce its 25 per cent deficit in the water department.

Hoboken loses about \$350,000 a year in the water department. Vitale said, he will review them with the city council and the finalized rate will be introduced in an ordinance.

Vitale said yesterday there won't be definite data with which the council can work with until perhaps the middle of April. Jersey City's water rate increase takes effect legally Apr. 1, but Hoboken is planning to appeal the increase to the state's Public Utility Commission.

'City Within A City' in Area Eyed

By ELIZABETH PARKS

What is now described as "under-utilized potentially valuable land" on the Hoboken-Weehawken border may one day give birth to "a city-within-a-city" dream complex featuring marinas, two-to-four-family housing units and ball fields.

The first step toward redeeming the land, now committed mainly toward a proposed oil tank farm and various trucking operations, was taken by the Hoboken city council last week when it passed a resolution authorizing an extensive feasibility study of the entire northern section of the town past 14th st.

Noting that the study, however, will concentrate only on studying the Hoboken section of what local environmentalists call the Hoboken-Weehawken cove area, Hoboken Councilman Robert A. Ranieri has written Weehawken officials asking them to participate in a joint study.

Hoboken Planning Board Chairman Robert Goodman said yesterday he will follow through on Ranieri's request by setting up a meeting with the Weehawken Board for some time this month. (April).

Both Goodman and Weehawken Planning Board Chairman Robert Dorian agree that "joint planning is a very good idea and the most practical way to proceed when developing land along a common border."

In conjunction with the Cosmopolitan be turned into a used to support recreational Stevens Tech Cited Goodman, who pointed out he advocated the same plan 11 years ago, said the little community could become a "city within a city in the same sense Stevens Tech is now an independent community inside the larger one."

The area could also be zoned to include light industry which could bring in the type of jobs, which, according to Dorian and Ranieri, "can offer futures to the people who work there."

One of the major criticisms against Cosmopolitan is that it would bring in very few jobs and would ruin the surrounding area for the type of esthetic and recreational community Ranieri is proposing.

Helen Manogue, chairman of the Hoboken Environmental Committee, says the cove area "is priceless, a unique and almost unheard of opportunity for two modern restricted urban communities to plan out a whole new area of redevelopment."

Manogue said that Hoboken presently only devotes two tenths of one per cent to recreational use or public space.

"If we can use this area to close the gap," she said, "it would be a masterful accomplishment."

However, both men caution that it can take years before concrete projects emerge from the proposal.

Goodman points out that a large portion of the land, which covers approximately 36 acres, is presently owned by the Cosmopolitan Terminal Co. of New York.

Cosmopolitan is seeking state and local permission to build oil tanks on its property, a project both Ranieri and Goodman decry as both dangerous with little benefit to the two communities.

Although the Hoboken board approved the project several years ago, Goodman said, the board has been reviewing its decision and may decide to revoke it and reconsider the case again.

The Weehawken Board has so far withheld its approval.

Schools Proposal Is Scored

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Two Hoboken councilmen yesterday called the board of education's \$10,966,789 budget an "arrogant reflection of the board's insensitive disregard for the taxpayers of Hoboken" and urged that voters reject the budget at the polls Tuesday.

The attack launched by Councilmen Robert Ranieri and Edward McLaughlin was described as unusual but necessitated by the board's "persistent refusal to be honest and fair with Hoboken taxpayers."

Both men argued that with the substantial increase in state aid received by the board this year, there should have been "provisions made to lift some of the local tax burden off the shoulders of Hoboken taxpayers."

Ranieri rejected the board's contention that its budget reflects an \$88,000 savings for taxpayers, claiming the true figure is only a \$681 saving. "Hoboken taxpayers have carried the burden for the board of education for a number of years now," McLaughlin said. "The board had a chance to return the favor by saving the taxpayer some money this year at no loss to itself and refused."

The board claims that the budget may have a deficit this year, but Ranieri said the claim is a "smokescreen to hide the fact that the board has an uncommitted surplus of \$320,000, perhaps more, from last year's budget."

The city council wanted the board to use some of that surplus or the additional \$1 million in state aid received this year to reduce the \$4,010,330 that taxpayers will have to contribute to the board this year.

If the budget is defeated at the polls, it will go to the city council for pruning and the final version will then either be accepted or rejected by the State Board of Education.

McLaughlin said the city is prepared to substantiate any cuts the council may make as "necessitated by the state of financial affairs facing the city."

Ann Maresca complained that no provisions for salary increases were in the original budget. She also said if the cost of the proposed Jersey City water rate increase is "passed along to the homeowner, the small homeowner will be crushed."

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In other action the council confirmed Alfred Avitable as a member of the rent leveling board by a 6-2 vote, with Ranieri and Francis Leahy voting against the confirmation. Councilman Walter Cramer was not present. The council tabled adopting specifications for bids for five police cars but approved specifications for two public works trucks. It received five bids for printing the Community Development brochure; approved renewing \$400,000 in revenue notes and adopted specifications for theatrical lighting for the multi-service center.

The Hoboken Board of Education has authorized the issuance of bonds to replace temporary bond anticipation notes to pay for the construction of the Wallace School.

The city issued the temporary notes to obtain the necessary funding for the \$4 million school which opened in 1972. However, Robert Taylor, board counsel, explained that under state law the board now must convert to permanent bonds for the financing.

The board last night also renewed a temporary note of \$15,000 to cover some of the construction costs at the \$1.3 million mini-school being built at 524 Park Ave. State funds are expected to pay virtually all of that school's building costs.

Fusilli will support all incumbents

Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli of Hoboken said today that he will support the entire six-man ticket being backed by Mayor Steve Cappiello in the city's May 13 election. The mayor is supporting all six incumbent ward councilmen.

To dispell any rumors here and now, the incumbent councilmen are being supported by the organization, and I consider myself an organization man," he said. "I will support all six."

It had been rumored that Fusilli might not go along with the selection of Sixth Ward Councilman Edward A. McLaughlin to round out the mayor's ticket. Reports have also been circulating that Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy will not support McLaughlin. But in Leahy's case they're true.

"I will not support the candidacy of Councilman McLaughlin, with or without organization support," said Leahy. "There are other loyal organization people who deserve consideration first. As I said before, I can't see supporting someone who did not support me or the organization."

The mayor's own political club is divided on this selection. If the mayor is such an organization man as he claims, why didn't he consider someone from the organization?"

Leahy added that he didn't know if he would endorse any candidates in the Sixth Ward, but he will probably come out for the other five ward councilmen — Anthony H. Romano, Salvatore Cemelli, Walter S. Cramer, Louis Francone, and Martin J. Brennan — if they ask for his support.

Meanwhile, Anthony Russo filed his petitions for the Third Ward council contest to become the third official candidate in Mayor Steve Cappiello's home ward. The other two are Grace Scutellaro and Patrick Yocodine.

Petitions have also been issued to Anthony (Tony Mike) DeVincenzo and Daniel Salvino Jr. for the Third Ward, but neither has filed as yet.

All the potential candidates have until 4 p.m. Thursday to get their petitions in to City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso. If any of the candidates should change their minds about running they have to notify Amoroso no later than 4 p.m. on March 31 that they are withdrawing from the election.

According to Amoroso, he has tentatively set April 10 as the day he will pick ballot positions for the candidates. However, he said that he is thinking about pushing up the day. If a change is made the candidates will be notified.

Hoboken Seeks Grant On E-L Terminal Job

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken City Council tonight is expected to approve a resolution that may lead to a \$43 million modernization of the city's weather-beaten Erie Lackawanna Terminal on Hudson st.

The council is to vote on a resolution giving Mayor Steve Cappiello the authority to file a preliminary application with the United States Department of Transportation for a \$43 million grant under the Urban Transportation Act of 1974.

According to Robert Armstrong, director of redevelopment at Hoboken's Model Cities, the preliminary application will put the transportation Hoboken is interested in the grant and is working on a special project that will conform to the requirements of the Transportation Act.

Armstrong said that if the federal government approves the preliminary application, it will allocate the \$43 million in its budget for next year. "Hoboken," Armstrong said, "will then formally apply for the \$43 million next year and will stand an excellent chance of getting the funding."

Improvement Studied Model Cities recently completed a \$30,000 feasibility study on improving the Erie Lackawanna terminal.

According to Armstrong, the city is interested in renovating the terminal so that what is presently "dead space" could be transformed into shopping centers, malls, modernized waiting rooms and a more effective coordination of transportation services.

One of the main objectives would be to improve the flow of commuter traffic. To coordinate the arrival and departure of PATH trains, buses, taxis and passenger cars so that people reach their various destinations easily and smoothly.

Armstrong said the project could take two years or more "with luck" to get off the ground. He said its ultimate success depends on the receptivity of the Department of Transportation and the cooperation of the agencies now involved in the Terminal, Erie Lackawanna Railroad, Public Service, PATH and the Port Authority.

"So far," he said, "everyone has cooperated in developing the project. It's not pie-in-the-sky, but a real possibility."

The young men hired as guards in Hoboken's federally-financed Public Employment Program are doing good work . . . but there are not enough of them.

The other day two of them out-ran and caught a purse-snatcher at Church Square Park. It was fortunate for the victim they were around.

But Church Square Park is a popular rendezvous for loiterers who carouse and make noise until 1 a.m., to the annoyance of park neighbors. The guards are not always there to keep order.

Hoboken has PEP employees assigned to other types of needed municipal services, too. Obviously there can never be enough to do everything that is needed. Still, these PEP people can be deployed according to priorities, which means a preference should be given to jobs where they can do the most good.

Priorities are a matter of opinion, of course, but it has been shown that guards at the park do help and the residents clamoring for more of them have a good case.



NEW SITE MANAGER — Mrs. Vera Pascale (seated, right), a volunteer with the Senior Nutritional Project of the North Hudson Regional Council of Mayors, goes over project registration forms with Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello (left), and Mrs. Helen Buonorata, (left) the new Hoboken site manager. John Connors (right), the project director, looks on.

Priority Council meets on Kueffel zoning

The Hoboken city council scheduled a special meeting for 12:15 p.m. today to approve zoning variations for the Kueffel and Esser housing project.

Councilman Robert Ranieri said the special session was called because federal authorities who are in charge of the project want to eliminate any problems that might arise later.

Ranieri said the officials want the city to waive a series of zoning restrictions such as requirements for yard setbacks and parking spaces for the factory building that is being made into apartments.

The City Council feels that the best possible equipment at the best possible price," he said. "The more companies and auto agencies able to bid on the cars, the better chance the city has of saving money through increased competition."

According to a council source,

Hoboken purchases five police cars

Discussions between the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association and various city officials on the kind of police cars the city should buy have been ended—by the city council.

Specifications for the purchase of five new Ford police cars have been sent back to the business administrator's office by the council with instructions to open the bidding to several and possibly all manufacturers.

City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso said that the council decided at Wednesday's caucus that it would like to see what other manufacturers could do to meet the city's specifications and what they would be asking for each car. He said that both Chevrolet and Plymouths were mentioned by the council but he was not given any special makes to recommend to be included in the revised specifications which were being sent back to the business administrator.

Amoroso said he expected members of the council's public safety committee would discuss the matter with Director Herman Brier prior to the April 2 council meeting and explain what they wanted the new specifications to say.

The PBA has been discussing the possibility of switching from Fords to other makes of cars with the mayor, Brier, Police Chief George W. Crimmins and

Sgt. Frank Garrick, the department's head mechanic, for several months.

At present Hoboken's police fleet is made up of all Ford cars. The PBA contends that the car Ford suggests for police work is not a factory manufactured model but one to which various heavy duty equipment has been added by the dealers. It argues that other car manufacturers produce a "factory-made" police vehicle which is generally "cheaper and more reliable."

The city's position has been that it is satisfied with the performance of the Fords but it was willing to "test" one or two cars of other makes.

According to a council source,

Hoboken Seals \$3.6 Million Deal

By RICHARD VEZZA
Special to The Dispatch
State, federal and Hoboken officials met yesterday and closed a deal on a \$3.6 million construction project which will rehabilitate 138 apartments and provide a million dollars worth of jobs in the city.

Representatives of the city's model cities program met with officials from the state's Housing Finance Agency (HFA) in the federal government's Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) offices in Newark and signed the papers giving the go-ahead for the rehabilitation of 14 five-story buildings. The building, located at 911-21 Clinton av. and 250-262 11th st., will be rehabilitated by Applied Housing Associates, and will cost \$3.6 million. The HFA is giving the developers a \$3.3 million short term construction loan, while HUD is expected to come up with a long term mortgage for the project.

In addition HUD has agreed to supply tenants who eventually move into the buildings with a rent subsidy. Applied Housing will be allowed a limited profit on the units, up to six per cent, and will have to put up 10 per cent of the cost of the project.

The structures will be completely gutted and rebuilt inside and should be completed within a year, according to city officials. An HFA official said yesterday that the project would generate a \$1.5 million construction payroll, employing some 68 full time construction employees.

The rehabilitation of the 138 units is part of the city's Project Rehab program, which started uptown, and is now beginning to move downtown with this particular project. State Commissioner Patricia Sheehan of the Department of Community Affairs, which includes the HFA said yesterday "the development should go a long way in helping to provide much needed safe and sanitary housing for Hoboken's low and moderate income families who have been priced out of the private market."

She went to add that the HFA is "currently financing 100 per cent of all construction of multi-family housing in Hoboken." Mayor Steve Cappiello hailed the development as a step forward in improving the city's housing stock. "Despite the downward trend economically in the country and the faltering construction industry, we in Hoboken are doing well," he said.

Hoboken firemen see agreement near

Mayor Steve Cappiello and Hoboken firemen will meet again next week to try to resolve contract differences which have been dragging on for 14 months. According to sources close to the negotiations, the main issue remaining is departmental manpower. The firemen and officers want the city to maintain 23 privates (firemen) and seven captains on duty at all times. The city has refused.

But the Mayor did say that he believed the matter would be resolved without having to go to fact-finding which the state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) has ordered. It was learned that the city has offered the firemen and the fire officers the same wage package — \$750 with differential for superiors and four extra paid holidays for a total of nine — which was accepted by the Police men's Benevolent Association (PBA) last week.

According to union sources, the offer will probably be accepted although it raises some questions as to credibility of the mayor and Public Safety Council committee. "Most of the firemen and officers are tired of the whole thing and want to get it over with," remarked one former union official. "But a lot of us can't help feeling that we've been had and that the city didn't bargain in good faith at all."

"When the mediator from PERC stepped in, the mayor and council swore that a \$750 across-the-board pay raise and three extra paid holidays was the most the city could afford. Not one more penny could be found. But when the mayor and the council committee sat down with the PBA they suddenly found enough extra money to allow for differential payments and an extra paid holiday. "Between the police and fire departments that's going to cost the city close to \$30,000 more for the year."

The city made the offer Tuesday during a three-hour meeting with the firemen in the mayor's office. Another meeting is being scheduled for Monday or Tuesday.

See Police Pay Hike Voted

By ELIZABETH PARKS
The Hoboken City Council will probably approve the \$1,000 per man plus salary increase worked out between Mayor Steve Cappiello and the Policemen's Benevolent Assn. when it comes up for a vote in the next few weeks. Although one councilman said he is against the package because it includes an unexpected \$15,000 to \$30,000 provision for differentials, the majority of the council say they are either for it or studying it.

Most of those who say they are studying it explain that there is some confusion over what Mayor Cappiello actually promised the PBA. Cappiello may have restricted his private offer to just police superiors and not to the men on the beat. The mayor was not available for comment yesterday and the PBA was noncommittal.

PBA President Mario Mercado said the mayor did verbally promise the men that he would approve a limited range of differential payments but Mercado would not discuss the details. A meeting between the mayor, the PBA and Councilman-at-Large Robert Ranieri, who challenged the agreement, broke up hastily when Cappiello had to leave for New York. Ranieri said later, "I knew more about the situation when I went in than when I came out."

Up until Thursday Ranieri and most of the council say they thought the PBA voted last week to accept a \$750 salary increase and three paid holidays for a total of roughly \$1,000 per man. Thursday, however, Ranieri said he discovered the mayor privately told police superiors that there would be four holidays plus an approximately \$8,000 a year differential.

Ranieri said he objects to the "secret and private nature" of the agreement and added his figures show it will cost closer to \$30,000 a year since firemen will be expected to seek the same arrangement. "The city," he points out, "is pledged to treat everyone equally." Councilman Louis Francione and Sal Cemelli, however, say the cost is minimal compared to the time and trouble it would take to revoke the offer and begin renegotiating from scratch.

"It's settled," the two men say, "and it's a fair settlement that should be finalized." The council is expected to come to a general consensus sometime today at an informal meeting. The vote to accept or reject the settlement will probably be taken at the next council meeting Apr. 2.

Cappiello 3 in, budget out

BY PETER HALLAM
The three candidates backed by Mayor Steve Cappiello's administration — Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar, Police Sgt. Michael Costello and Anthony DeBari — will be sworn in to their three-year board of education terms before the end of the week. Organization support and absentee ballots made the difference, but even that failed to get Hoboken voters to approve the school board's 1975-76 budget or the \$220,000 bond issue for repairing the John F. Kennedy Veterans Field.

Costello, who heads the Hoboken Police Department auto squad, was the high vote-getter on the ticket with 2,874 ballots. He was followed by DeBari with 2,617 and Mrs. Gaspar with 2,476. For the Citizens for Better Education (CBE) the election was a bitter disappointment. The only organized opposition in the field, it managed to get only one of its three candidates — Leo Genese — among the top six.

Genese placed fourth in the vote count with 1,364. He was followed by Leo McLaughlin, a superintendent on the Hoboken piers, with 1,203, and Fireman Charles Roberts with 1,125. The other two CBE candidates, Edith Duroy and the Rev. Edson Lewis finished seventh and eighth in the 14-candidate field with 1,049 and 941 votes, respectively.

Joseph Salinardi, another independent, was ninth with 883 votes. The remaining six candidates, including Aurelio Lugo and George Paproth, who withdrew as active candidates too late to have their names taken off the ballots, were far out of the running. However, council for revision. Under new state law, the budget, if defeated, must be submitted to the municipal governing body within two days of the election. And the governing body must make its revisions within 5 days and send it back to the school board.

If the council makes cuts that are excessive in the eyes of the school board, it will send the budget to the state commissioner of education who has the final determination. School board officials predict that the council's cuts will be excessive and plan on sending the revised budget to the state. According to Robert W. Taylor, board attorney, for every \$1 the council cuts the budget, the state is going to take away approximately \$3 in aid.

Hoboken Signs Water Project Pact

By ELIZABETH PARKS
Hoboken officials yesterday signed a \$3.2 million contract with a Newark construction firm for an extensive water improvement program which should begin within the next 30 days. Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said that the planned renovations should save the city half of its 1.3 billion gallon annual water loss. The savings in dollars could approach \$100,000 a month. According to Vitale, Hoboken has been plagued with an exceptionally high water loss rate since the 1920's. Through undetected leaks, regular eruptions and other factors, the city is losing 40 per cent of the water which it buys each year from Jersey City.

Since the city buys nearly \$4 billion gallons of water a year at an approximate rate of \$90 a month for each million gallon, Vitale said the loss is "staggering." The contract signed with the Spiniello Construction Co. calls for the refurbishing and replacing of water mains, water lines, and fire hydrants in the downtown section of the city.

Approximately one third of Hoboken's entire system will be renovated stretching north from Observer Hwy to Fifth st. and west from River st. to Marshall st. Spiniello's fee is \$3.2 million but the entire project will cost \$4.2 million. The city will float a \$1.5 million bond issue to pay for part of the construction and the federal Housing and Urban Development Agency will put up the other \$2.7 million. The city has already borrowed \$350,000 in bond anticipation notes to pay for a preliminary study on the project.

Vitale estimated it will take anywhere from one to two years to complete the work. Adams st.; and Anthony (Tony Mike) DeVincenzo, 457 Fifth st. Race in Fourth Ward In the fourth ward, incumbent Louis Francione, 58 Madison st., faces Florence Amato, 550 First st. In the fifth ward incumbent council president Martin Brennan, 1118 Park av., is running against Mark Cerrone, 814 Garden st.; Frank Sesty, 801 Willow av., and Pino (Joseph) Morin, 925 Garden st.

In the sixth ward, incumbent Edward McLaughlin, 623 Park av., is being challenged by Nunzio Malfelli, 633 Willow av. Four candidates who had picked up petitions for the race failed to file yesterday. They were Thomas Vezzetti in the second ward and Ann Maresca, Gerald McGraw and Charles Roberts in the sixth ward. City clerk Anthony Amoroso said there will be a drawing for ballot positions 3 p.m. Apr. 10 in the City Hall courtroom.

Hoboken fire headquarters occupy new facilities soon

Hoboken's fire headquarters should be moving out of its building at 124 Hudson Street into new facilities at Second and Jefferson Streets within two weeks, Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director, said today. "The move will coincide with the temporary completion of the new fire alarm system," the mayor said. "The contractor has all of his wiring in and the system is ready to hook up. But there has been some problem in getting the main electrical panel from the manufacturer."

Cappiello said that the contractor still doesn't have that panel — it has been on order for several months — and the six months the city gave him to do the job has just about expired. "Rather than delay the move of headquarters and turning the old building over to the new owner, the contractor has agreed to rent a main panel and use it temporarily until the city's new one is delivered," the mayor said. For the last two months, city carpenters and workmen have been converting the fire house at Second and Jefferson Streets into a new headquarters. According to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, that job has just about been completed.

The fire headquarters was auctioned off by the city for more than \$30,000 to a private developer last July. A new banking facility is proposed for the general area, it is reported, which includes the lot occupied by the fire house. Candidates in the third ward include incumbent Salvatore Cemelli, 606 Madison st.; Daniel Simone Jr., 501 Jefferson st.; Anthony Russo, 10 Church Towers; Grace Scutellaro, 611 Monroe st.; Patrick Yoccodine, 717

Hoboken Bid Slated by 21

By ELIZABETH PARKS
Hoboken's May 13 council elections will have a total of 21 candidates running for the six available council seats. Yesterday was the deadline on filing for the election. Monday is the last day for withdrawals. Running in the first ward are incumbent Anthony Romano, 119 Washington st.; Carmine Trombetta, 333 Washington st.; and Rafael Castillo, 326 Washington st. Competing in the second ward are incumbent Walter Cramer, 1000 Hudson st.; Eleanor Taylor, 934 Castle Point Ter.; Robert J. Gallagher, 1210 Park av.; and Roy Haack, 1205 Park av. Candidates in the third ward include incumbent Salvatore Cemelli, 606 Madison st.; Daniel Simone Jr., 501 Jefferson st.; Anthony Russo, 10 Church Towers; Grace Scutellaro, 611 Monroe st.; Patrick Yoccodine, 717

Adams st.; and Anthony (Tony Mike) DeVincenzo, 457 Fifth st. Race in Fourth Ward In the fourth ward, incumbent Louis Francione, 58 Madison st., faces Florence Amato, 550 First st. In the fifth ward incumbent council president Martin Brennan, 1118 Park av., is running against Mark Cerrone, 814 Garden st.; Frank Sesty, 801 Willow av., and Pino (Joseph) Morin, 925 Garden st. In the sixth ward, incumbent Edward McLaughlin, 623 Park av., is being challenged by Nunzio Malfelli, 633 Willow av. Four candidates who had picked up petitions for the race failed to file yesterday. They were Thomas Vezzetti in the second ward and Ann Maresca, Gerald McGraw and Charles Roberts in the sixth ward. City clerk Anthony Amoroso said there will be a drawing for ballot positions 3 p.m. Apr. 10 in the City Hall courtroom.

Cappiello has no plans for a payroll tax

Hoboken's financial problems will have to become a lot worse before Mayor Steve Cappiello even starts to think about asking the state legislature to pass legislation allowing the city to impose a payroll tax on local businesses and industry. "Every property owner in Hoboken, including business and industry, is already taxed at a rate that borders on being excessive," said the mayor. "To force them to pay even more in the form of a payroll tax would probably wind up doing more harm than good for the city."

Cappiello asserted that a payroll tax would only serve to drive existing companies out of the city and discourage any new ones from coming in. "Our tax rate is enough of a disadvantage without adding a payroll tax to it," he continued. "For the bigger cities like Newark and Jersey City it might be a partial solution to their tax problems, or at least a temporary one. But Hoboken doesn't have anywhere as much to work with in the way of ratables or taxable payrolls."

There are really only two companies in the city that employ large numbers of workers — Bethlehem Steel and General Foods (the Maxwell House Coffee plant). The rest of our business and industry is small by comparison. "If either of these two companies should ever decide to move out of Hoboken it would be disastrous for the city. A payroll tax just could be the last straw and prompt such a move."

Fact-finder named in Hoboken dispute

A Fort Lee attorney, Stanley L. Aiges, has been selected by the state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) to serve as fact-finder in the contract dispute between Hoboken and its firemen, it was learned today. Aiges is one of three attorneys recommended by PERC to the attorney's for the city and the fire unions to serve as fact-finder.

Under PERC's new powers, fact-finding was invoked without either the city or the firemen asking for it. The cost will be borne by PERC within time limitations set by law. Should Aiges' services be needed beyond that point, the executive director has the authority to authorize further expenditures but only in extraordinary circumstances. Usually the two factions pick up any additional cost if the initial time limit is exceeded.

Whether or not Aiges' services will be required remains to be seen. The city council met over the weekend to go over the city's proposed 1975 municipal budget and the board of education's 1975-76 school budget, which was rejected by local voters on March 11. According to a council spokesman, the city may offer the firemen the same package that was accepted by local policemen last week — \$750 across the board with a differential for superior officers, nine paid holidays and for days off. However, there is still some disagreement on whether or not the city should agree to set manpower requirements, as the firemen have demanded.

Hoboken sets April target for \$3.2 million waterline job

Hoboken's \$3.2 million waterline replacement program should get started sometime next month, Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today following the formal signing of contracts with the Spiniello Construction Co. of Newark. The company was selected as the low bidder more than a month ago by the city and its consulting engineer firm for the project, Mayo, Lynch and Associates.

Vitale said that barring any unforeseen difficulties with the weather or obtaining the necessary materials, the job should begin during the early part of April. It will entail the replacement of approximately one third of the water lines in the city's southern section. According to the director, Hoboken is losing approximately 45 to 50 per cent of the water it buys from Jersey City through undetected waterline breaks. But replacing one third of the water lines should cut the amount lost by more than one third.

"The area the replacement program will be centering in probably has the highest concentration of broken and leaking lines in the city," he explained. "So I'm hoping that by replacing the lines we can effect a reduction of at least 40 to 50 per cent of what we are losing now." The federal government is paying for almost 70 per cent of the replacement cost.

PUC asked to void water rate increase

There was no "good neighbor" policy between Hoboken and Jersey City today, as angry officials of the former denounced the latter's plan to raise water rates as "a moral and economic disgrace." "As matters now stand, Jersey City is poised with an economic stiletto ready to be plunged into the heart of Hoboken," declared its city council president, Martin J. Brennan. "Jersey City is the executioner, seeking to destroy the continuance of Hoboken," he said.

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri meanwhile asked the state Public Utility Commission to void the planned increase, which would raise the rate 212 per cent for Hoboken and four other municipalities which buy water from Jersey City. The others are Lyndhurst, West Caldwell, North Arlington and Montville. The new rates, slated for approval at today's council meeting, would mean an increase of \$7.5 per cent to Jersey City homeowners and 150 per cent to businesses.

"It is an economic and moral disgrace," said Brennan, "and nothing but an obvious attempt by Jersey City to pass its problems to smaller, struggling communities." The Hoboken official was especially concerned about the effect of the water rate increase on Maxwell House, the city's largest taxpayer, at \$800,000 a year. He feared the firm might leave Hoboken.

Officials of the firm were more restrained in a letter sent to Mayor Paul T. Jordan, asking reconsideration of the water rate increases. While not mentioning leaving Hoboken, they did warn the new rates could "dampen" expansion plans.

The firm said its water bill would increase \$1.3 million. It said it was willing to pay its "fair share," but asked the proposed increase be scaled down. The firm employs about 1,800 including 670 Jersey City residents.

A spokesman for Jordan said Jersey City officials would be available to meet with Maxwell House, but while stating the mayor was "mindful of the firm's dilemma," was hesitant about promising there would be any changes. Ranieri, in requesting PUC action, contended Jersey City failed to get authorization to raise the rates. The councilman asked that PUC Chairman Anthony Grossie "make a determination as quickly as possible."

Hopes that Hoboken might resume buying water from the Hackensack Water Co., which supplies most of North Hudson, have been dashed, Ranieri said. According to the councilman, the water firm sometimes must supplement its supply by buying from Jersey City.

Charges Hurlled at Education Board

Classroom overcrowding, political patronage, an ineffective utilization of budgetary resources, and the corresponding inability of many Hoboken children to read, write and add properly were among a series of charges leveled against the present Hoboken Board of Education by nine candidates for board seats speaking at an open forum at St. Francis Youth Center Thursday night. Only five of the 14 candidates competing for three board seats in the Mar. 11 election failed to turn out for the forum, which attracted about 55 parents and taxpayers.

George Paproth was the only candidate to launch a serious attack against the board's proposed \$11 million budget, \$1 million higher than last year. Pointing out that many books now used in the Hoboken system are 12 years old, Paproth asked the present board to account for its spending appropriations. Candidates Edith Duroy, Rev. William Lewis and Leo Genese, all running on the Citizens for Better Education ticket, struck out at Hoboken's failure to provide the majority of its public school students with quality education. Duroy said the city needs a board "more responsive to the needs of the people."

Several taxpayers at the meeting questioned the ability of Mary Stack Gaspar, the only candidate at the forum with an administrative endorsement, to function as an "independent." "There are no strings attached to me," Mrs. Gaspar, the mother of six children, responded. "The mayor elected to endorse me because of my qualifications. I never said, endorse me and I'll do as you say. I have six children in Hoboken. I'll do what I think is best for them and their contemporaries." Charles Roberts pledged he'd keep "an open line to the taxpayer" if elected. He said the board should be free of political intervention and should reflect the will of the people.

Angel Colderardo argued for more discipline in the city's schools, an elimination of vandalism and truancy, an effective implementation of the city's expanding bilingual program and a search for the techniques that would eliminate the problem of children who can't "read or understand English."

Board President Calls Budget Cuts a 'Rip-Off'

Despite the Hoboken Board of Education's contention that it's 1975-76 budget is "bone-dry," the city council yesterday slashed it by \$235,000, reducing the amount taxpayers must spend for education this year by \$162,500. Board President Otto Hottendorf called the cutbacks "a rip-off motivated by political arrogance" and said the board will appeal the reduction to the state commissioner of education. By law the council has to forward the amended budget to the county board of taxation immediately. The board of education then has 20 days to accept the amendments or appeal them.

Hottendorf said the cutbacks will make it "impossible for the board to guarantee the safety of the city's school children in any of the system's deteriorated buildings."



STEPPING ALONG — Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, left, 3/17/75 marches with County Clerk James Quinn.

Traffic light returning near school

A new traffic light should be blinking at Fourth and Hudson Streets, Hoboken, in the next four weeks, First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano said today.

"I have checked with county officials and I have been assured that the new light will be in within this period — barring any unforeseen complications," Romano said.

For many years, there had been a traffic light on the southeast corner of Fourth and Hudson Streets, across from St. Peter and Paul's Church, but the light was removed last year when workmen put in a new sidewalk for the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza. The old light was never replaced.

"The traffic light is needed at that intersection because of the church and the St. Peter and Paul School in the middle of the block," Romano said. "However, since it is considered a county road, not a city street, replacing the light is the responsibility of the county."

Romano said that parents of school children, school officials and the parish priests at St. Peter and Paul's asked him several months ago to get some action on the light. He in turn passed the request on to the county.

Ranieri asks state about builder bond

A Hoboken councilman has written to the state commissioner of education asking him to look into "questionable circumstances" surrounding the construction of the city's new mini-school.

Councilman-at-Large Robert A. Ranieri said today he has asked Commissioner Fred G. Burke to look into the mini-school matter and find out why the Hoboken Board of Education did not require a performance bond from the contractor building the school.

"There is more than \$1.7 million in public funds involved in this construction, yet the board of education and its attorney admit they have no guarantee should the contractor fail to meet his deadlines or specifications for the job," the councilman said.

"Furthermore, because of the problems that have developed at the construction site it is almost certain that the contractor will not be able to complete the job on time."

"As a result, the public's money is unprotected."

"In addition, there is no work being performed at the site now, the value and condition of what has been done are in question, and the cost of continuing probably will be staggering."

"In the light of all this, isn't it essentially most important to protect the public? The answer is not with the board of education and its glib attorney but with the state and I have asked it to provide that answer."

According to Robert W. Taylor, the board's attorney, the performance bond was not required of the contractor because it would have added to the overall cost of the school. He added that only contractors certified by the state were eligible to bid on projects constructed with state funds and the board felt that that certification was sufficient to make the contractor live up to all aspects of the contract. If he didn't, he would lose his state certification and couldn't bid on any other projects.

Taylor also said the liability policy Ranieri asked about was on file at the school board but the board wasn't going to send it to the councilman. He could come to the board if he wanted to see it.

Ranieri has asked about the policy because of the problem encountered by the contractor with 520 Park Ave., next to the construction site. The building's foundation was undermined by excavation and pile driving work. As a result, it started leaning towards the school site and had to be demolished with the city picking up the \$18,000 demolition costs because neither the builder, the board of education nor the insurance company had moved to do the job.

At the insistence of Ranieri, the city council has passed a resolution setting responsibility for the repayment of the money to the city with the board, the builder and the insurance company and ordered the law department to start suit by April 5 if the account isn't settled.

"It is very like Mr. Taylor and the school board to sit on ceremony," the councilman said. "Does it really matter whether I go to the school board or the school board sends someone to me with the insurance policy? The important point is whether or not there is a policy or policies? And I challenge Mr. Taylor to produce it."

Hoboken Council hones ax with school budget on way

The Hoboken Board of Education's \$3.6 million 1975-76 school budget, rejected by the voters in Tuesday's school board election, was to be in the hands of the city council today.

The council has 15 days to work on the budget, increasing it, decreasing it or leaving it as it is, before returning it to the school board.

City Council President Martin J. Brennan would not make any predictions on what the council is going to do.

"My first thought is that the school board or a committee from the board should sit with the council and try to work out a mutually agreeable settlement,"

he said. "The city's comptroller and municipal auditor also should be included. If there is anything that could be trimmed from the budget they are the ones most likely to know from where."

The proposed budget is actually more than \$10 million. The \$3.6 million local residents voted on represents the amount the city will have to pay through property taxes. The remainder of the budget is state and federal funds.

Under new state law, a budget rejected by the voters must be in the hands of the municipality's governing body within two days of the election. The governing

body, in this case the city council, has 15 days from the day it receives the budget to make its change, if any, and return it to the school board. If the board feels that the city has cut too much, it can submit the budget and changes to the state Commissioner of Education for a final determination.

According to Councilman-at-Large Robert A. Ranieri, the council's efforts with the budget will probably center on unincumbered balances and the capital improvements planned by the school board.

But getting the council and the school board together may be difficult, if not impossible, the councilman said.

"I talked with the board's attorney (Robert W. Taylor) shortly after the results were in Tuesday night and he said the board planned to reopen negotiations with the teachers and give them what they really deserve, and add to the capital improvement budget to improve the schools," the councilman said.

"His indication was clear, the school board is going to take the budget to the state regardless of what the city council does with it."

According to Taylor, the board of education will lose \$3 in state and federal aid for every \$1 the council cuts from the budget. But the councilman took exception to this.

"It may wind up that way when you compare city dollars to state and federal dollars,"

Ranieri asserted. "But I doubt very much if federal and state funds to the city schools are contingent upon the school board getting so many dollars from the city. In other words, Hoboken doesn't have to put \$1 into the school budget in order to get \$3 in aid."

"If this was the case why didn't the school board ask for \$6 million so we could get \$18 million in outside aid. The reason is that it doesn't work that way."

Meanwhile, the three winning candidates in the school board election will be sworn in Tuesday night prior to the board's annual reorganization meeting. They are Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar, Detective Michael Costello and incumbent Anthony DeBari.

The final totals for the three lowest vote getters in the school board election which were not ballots yesterday, were 322 ballots for Alan Brause, 352 for Joseph Natalicchio, and 277 for Archangel Calderaro.

School board plans appeal of Hoboken budget cuts

Ignoring protests from the school board, the Hoboken City Council is cutting the school budget today — the deadline for such action — but the board says it will appeal the cuts to the state.

Both school board and city council members met in a futile attempt to compromise on budget cuts but came full stop when the board solidly refused to agree to any slashes.

"We agreed to disagree," said the board president, Otto Hottendorf, after the session which followed a brief special board meeting last night. "We are opposed to making any cuts at all."

"When we made up this budget

we cut out everything that wasn't crucial," said Hottendorf. "There are no provisions for employee raises and you can be sure if there was any fat in this budget the teachers would have found it."

Vincent Indelicato was appointed school board auditor at the special session.

A spokesman for the city council said the panel would probably trim "in the area" of \$250,000 from the \$4 million to be raised by taxpayers to support the \$10 million total budget.

"We have a mandate from the people to cut this budget," said Councilman Robert Ranieri. "They voted it down and we have to do something and the deadline is now."

Under state law the defeated budget must be trimmed by the city council and then turned back to the school board. If the board does not agree to the cuts it can appeal to the state commissioner of education in Trenton for a final decision.

The law requires the council and the school board to meet at least once on the budget within 15 days after the voting when a decision must be made by the council. That time period expires today.

"If it weren't so serious it would have been amusing," said Ranieri after the meeting with the board. "They actually suggested raising the budget rather than lowering it. The whole thing was antagonistic and uncooperative."

Ranieri said he and the other council representatives suggested that a large chunk be cut from what he said were surplus monies totaling \$350,000 to \$500,000. According to Ranieri, the school board claims the money is not surplus but Ranieri said he could find no indication that it was earmarked for any specific purpose.

In addition, he said the council wanted to cut \$5,000 from the \$13,000 earmarked for board members' expenses for trips and dinners as well as other smaller items from board and administration expenses.

The third area where cuts are expected, he said, is for capital improvements to school buildings. Ranieri said repairs and improvements should be done on a large scale with a bond issue that could be paid off over the life of the work.

Hottendorf objected most strenuously to this proposed cut saying it would mean elimination of desperately needed repairs to leaking roofs and rotted windows in several school buildings.

"The board is unanimous in its decision to appeal any cuts," said Hottendorf. "We are sworn to uphold the constitution that provides for thorough and efficient education."

21 candidates file for seats for six wards in Hoboken

BY PETER HALLAM

Unless someone has a change of heart by Monday there will be 21 candidates running for six ward seats on the City Council in Hoboken's May 13 election.

Yesterday was the last day for filing nominating petitions with City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso and only four of the 25 persons who took them out failed to make the 4 p.m. deadline.

2 vie to lead Hoboken city union

Frank Lally, Hoboken's assistant city clerk and president of the Municipal Employees Association, will be the only association official with opposition to his reelection at the April 4 meeting.

Edward McIntyre, a sanitation inspector in the city's public works department, will be running against Lally for the association's top spot.

With the exception of one year, Lally is the only president the association has had since it was formed back in the 1890s. The exception was when William Van Wehede headed the group.

The other officers running for reelection are George Paparoth, vice president; Helen Lodato, financial secretary; Agnes Hanagan, recording secretary; Thomas Field, sergeant-at-arms; and trustees Thomas Thill, David Ward and William Quinlan.

Organization unity suffered something of a setback when Roy Haack, son of former First Ward Councilman Loretta Haack, filed petitions for the Second Ward council race to unseat incumbent Walter S. Cramer.

Haack has been a long time associate of First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano but Romano says he will not support Haack and has pledged his backing to Cramer.

Romano said he talked with Haack for more than two hours Wednesday night after learning that he had picked up petitions, in the hope of convincing him not to file them and preserve organization unity.

"In the end it was a personal decision he had to make," the councilman said. "I assume that by filing his petitions he has made it."

Romano asserted he was giving his full support to the administration's ticket, and that included Councilman Cramer — not Haack.

Romano, who is one of the six administration candidates, will be facing Carmine Trombetta

and Patrolman Rafael Castillo for reelection in the First Ward.

In the second Councilman Cramer will have Mrs. Eleanor Taylor, Patrolman Robert Gallagher and Haack to contend with.

Five candidates will be trying to oust Third Ward Councilman Salvatore Cemelli, the most opposition in any of the contests. They are Grace Scutellaro, Patrick Yocodine, Daniel Simone Jr., Anthony Russo and Anthony (Tony Mike) DeVincenzo.

City Council President Martin J. Brennan, who represents the Fifth Ward, will have three other candidates seeking his seat on the council. They are Mark Cerrone, Frank Sesty and Joseph (Pino) Morin.

Only two of the ward contests are sure to be decided on May 13 without the possibility of a runoff — the Fourth and Sixth Ward.

In the Fourth Ward, incumbent Councilman Louis Francione will be facing Mrs. Florence Amato. She is the wife of Andrew J. Amato, standard bearer of the Hoboken Outlook.

And in the Sixth Ward, Councilman Edward A. McLaughlin will be facing his longtime political rival, Nunzio Malfetti. Once political allies, Malfetti and McLaughlin went their separate ways prior to the 1971 ward elections.

Those who took out petitions but did not file them are Thomas Vezzetti in the Second Ward, Ann Maresca, Charles Roberts and Gerard McGraw, all in the Sixth Ward.

The candidates have until 4 p.m. Monday to withdraw.

Hoboken to Push For Back Taxes

Hoboken will initiate foreclosure proceedings against the owners of the 5th and 6th st. piers next month for failing to pay over \$128,000 in back taxes, the city council said yesterday.

Council President Martin Brennan said the city's Law Department will also be told to foreclose on four pieces of property owned by Maxine and Stuart Hoff.

According to the city council, the Hoffs owe the city \$32,284 and haven't paid taxes in the past three years, plus 12 percent interest due on the taxes.

Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer pointed out that the four buildings, 50, 52, 54, and 56-11th st. are 10-family tenements from which the Hoffs steadily collect rents at \$6,000 per month.

The Hoffs was the Management Realty Co., 5918

Bergenline av., West New York.

Cramer and Brennan said the city was no longer going to tolerate "delinquent taxpayers who make a profit at the expense of hard working, tax burdened Hoboken citizens."

The two men sent a memo to Hoboken Law Director Lawrence Florio asking him to direct the city's director of revenue and finance to publish a list of delinquent taxpayers as speedily as possible.

The list was compiled by the city's tax department two weeks ago, and, according to Tax Collector William Reynolds, "will be published as soon as we're told to do so."

Cramer says he hopes the list will force delinquents to pay up back taxes in order to avoid the embarrassment of being named in the newspapers.

Hoboken Begins Waterline Project

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Work has started on a \$3.2-million waterline replacement program that should correct the leaks and breaks causing Hoboken to lose 50 per cent of the water it buys yearly.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said that the Spiniello Construction Company of Newark yesterday began "cement mining" the city's water mains and watergates in the downtown section.

The project will include replacing malfunctioning valves, installing new mains

and repairing old ones from River st. west to Marshall st. and from Observer Highway north to Fourth st.

Initial construction is at the intersection of Monroe st. and Observer Highway. Vitale said residents will not suffer any loss of water as construction continues. He said the company will erect bypass lines during construction to avoid water shut-offs.

The city also is applying for an additional \$1-million in HUD funds to extend the work to Sixth st., according to original plan.

Fire Pact Closer In Hoboken

Hoboken firemen and city officials are close to striking what one source called "an uneasy truce" on a contract settlement.

Fire association leaders and Mayor Steve Cappiello agreed yesterday to meet later this week, either Thursday or Friday, for what one City Hall source said will probably be the last or next to last bargaining session.

Association leaders, according to the source, are expected to accept the city's offer of a \$750 raise, a percentage differential for officers and four paid holidays.

The offer would then be taken back to the membership who would vote on accepting or rejecting it. Police have already accepted the same offer.

The issue that has been preventing a settlement for the last few months, manpower, will probably be set aside for the time being.

Courts Would Settle Issue According to one source, a clause will be written into the contract suspending all talks on manpower until the issue is resolved in the courts.

Firemen are said to be weary of trying to convince the city that it is foolish and dangerous to let the department's on-duty manpower contingent fall below a certain level.

Mayor Steve Cappiello has refused to negotiate manpower because he says it would mean giving away a managerial prerogative.

The mayor's position was sustained by the Superior court of Hudson County in a judgment last year, but firemen are appealing the decision.

According to Fire Officers Assn. President William Bergin, the men are tired of fighting the issue with a "deaf and dumb" mayor and city council, but Bergin says the manpower determination is too crucial to be just set aside.

Danger Seen

"If trucks go out with men short," Bergin said, "it affects and endangers the lives of every man in the department and every citizen in the city."

"If our houses are left understaffed and a fire strikes and someone dies, then the mayor is responsible for that loss of life and we want the public to know he's responsible."

"We'd like the public to get in touch with the mayor too and ask questions or express their opinions before it's too late."

What does the city's law department have to say about the matter. At first, Law Director, Lawrence Florio could not be reached for comment although a member of his staff said he was in the City Hall building.

Other members of the city legal staff refused to comment on the matter saying that they had been instructed by the director not to comment or discuss the city's legal business with the press. They added that all comments were to come from the director.

Florio is seldom available at his City Hall office during the morning hours. He usually arrives after noon. Attempts to reach him at City Hall by telephone have been unsuccessful. On the one occasion he was contacted he refused to answer any questions saying he was too busy preparing a contract that had to be ready in "15 minutes." But he did promise to call back. He did not.

When the director was eventually contacted concerning the seven special policemen he declined to comment on the matter. He said it was his opinion that the law department and the city's legal staff members were not "disseminators" of news.

Florio said that before he would make any comments concerning the activities of any other city departments he would first have to be given permission by the director of that department, but he would not actively seek such permission.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, who is also the city's public safety director, said he would ask Florio for an opinion on whether or not the tickets issued by the seven men are legal.

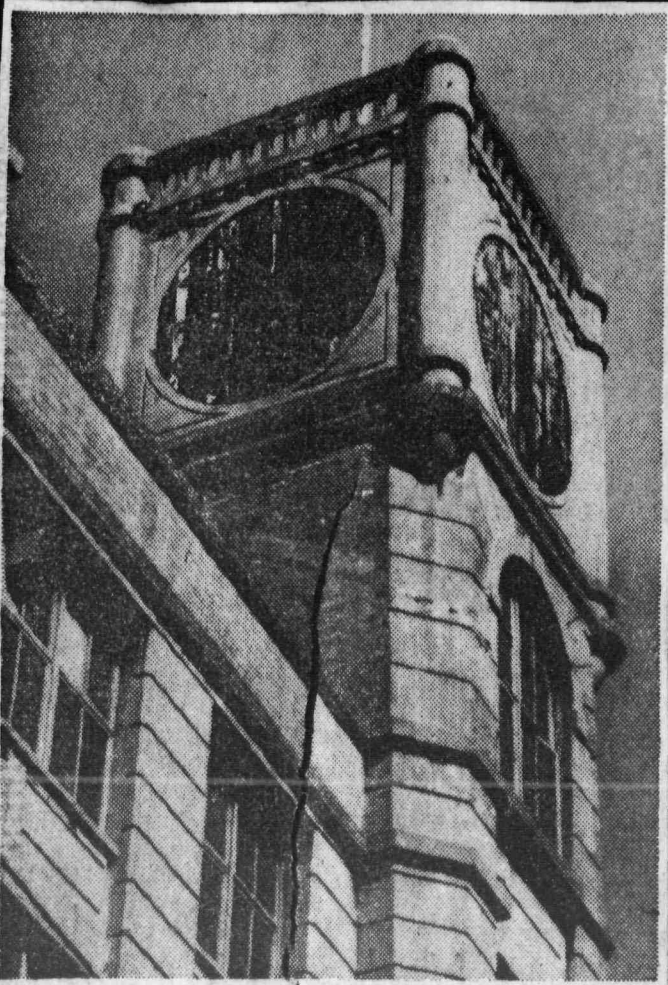
The seven men, are all employees of the Public Employment Program and are being paid with federal funds. They were the city's public safety officer trainees until the project met stiff resistance from the police and fire departments.

When they completed their police and fire training they were assigned to various duties. Four work as guards in the city's parks, two ride with the city's street sweeper giving out tickets, and one walks Washington Street looking for parking violations. The men rotate their duties from week to week.

"We have a lot of young guys on the force," Sweeten said yesterday, "by taking the three-man police relations bureau out of the classroom where the rap sessions they hold with city school children can too often be dismissed as easy talk that falls apart as soon as the real world intrudes and kids get back on the street."

"We'll end, we hope," he continued, "with a police force that respects every member of the community it deals with even the young and flippant, and with a community that, in turn, trusts and respects our policemen."

"We have a lot of young guys on the force," Sweeten said, "some just out of their teens. If we get them to work side by side with 14 and 15-year-old girls and boys just starting to get into trouble, we may be able to save their futures



This is the clock on the former Keuffel and Esser Building which Hoboken city officials want repaired.

Restoration of clock sought in Hoboken

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he will ask the developers of the Keuffel and Esser project to repair the large clock in one of the building's towers to its original condition, and preserve it as a "Hoboken landmark."

Work on the conversion of that old factory into a modern middle-income housing project was to start this week. Volt Information Sciences is the developer of the 178-point project.

"The old clock for many years kept Hoboken on time," said the

mayor. "But when Keuffel and Esser moved out it was neglected and now is without hands."

The clock is in the tower on the northwest corner of Third and Adams Streets. For many years the tower was one of the tallest edifices in the city until some of the larger apartment houses were built.

Cappiello said that he and officials of the Model Cities program will ask Volt officials to include the repair and upkeep of the clock in their plans for the rehabilitation of the building.

Hoboken Ed Board to appeal budget

The Hoboken Board of Education will take its 1975-76 school budget to the state's commissioner of education in the hope of reinstating the \$325,000 taken out by the City Council last week.

Robert W. Taylor, attorney for the school board, said today that the board still can't officially comment on the cuts made by

the council because it hasn't received anything in writing.

"The school board should take this matter up tonight at a special business meeting," he continued. "But I think it is safe to say that it will appeal the council's reductions to the state."

Taylor added that the schools have been closed since last

Friday so it was not known if notification of the council's action had been officially sent to the board.

He said that he could not comment with any authority on the council's action until he had actually seen the notification and explanation of what had been taken out or changed.

The council took \$200,000 which

the board had shown as surplus and applied that money to areas in the budget which the school board had expected to cover with city tax dollars. This reduced the amount to be raised in taxation by an equal amount. It also took out \$19,570 in school administration expenses, \$100,000 from mechanical contracted services, and \$5,430 from the

capital outlay fund for an additional \$125,000.

Taylor said the board will probably ask the commissioner of education to reinstate at least the \$325,000 but will not stress any one area more than another.

"The board will explain its budget and its position to the commissioner and let him make the final decision," Taylor said.

and make our own jobs more satisfying."

Minor Crimes

The first step in effecting the change is for foot patrolmen to find kids on their beat who have been in trouble for minor crimes and whose families have not been successful in helping them.

In a recent case patrolman Martin Kiley began talking with a 14-year-old Puerto Rican boy who has spent several years in foster homes, is one of 8 children, has been arrested four times for various small crimes including breaking and entry and possession of stolen property, and is now trying to live like an adult by working 13 hours a day, six days a week as a clerk in a grocery store.

"That boy," Sweeten said, "is not a hardened criminal. He stole to survive. He stole because he's a child with no one to protect him and no one to turn to who cares about him."

'Decent Future'

"Right now he thinks he can go on working and take care of himself. Our job is to show him that he'll never have a decent future without an education and that the problems that he has keeping him from an education are not insurmountable."

To achieve his rather formidable objective, Sweeten wants to ally the police department with all the available social resources provided by the community.

The two policeman and one female social worker in our Relations Bureau will talk to the boy, they'll visit the parents—in this case, there is only the mother—and see what new kind of liv-

ing arrangements can be worked out," he said.

"We'll try and find out what interests the boy has and see if we can go about developing them."

"We'll refer him to places like the city's new Multi Service Center which should shortly begin classes in art, typing, photography, acting, etc. and try to give kids new horizons."

Repair Facilities

"We'll ask the Housing Authority if the kids can clean off the basketball court that's been vandalized and we'll let the kids fix it and police it themselves. We'll use city painters to fill in lines that have been erased and we'll get the recreation department to supply nets and balls."

"Eventually, Sweeten hopes and kids will be working and playing side by side in various activities including learning karate and physical when the new gym is available at the Multi Service Center."

"We already have one of our patrolmen, a black belt holder, lined up to teach the course several nights a week," Sweeten said.

To sum it up, Sweeten said, "We're hoping kids will stop seeing cops as men in blue who just push them around. We want them to know us as people. And by the same token, we want our cops to stop thinking of potential trouble areas as inhabited by animals. We don't want men swinging a club at a boy if he can help it. We want him talking to the boy instead."

"Maybe someday that boy will be serving on the same force with the cop who briefed him."

Hoboken Playwright Ready to Make Broadway

4/1/75

Dispatch

By LEWIS M. GITLIN

In recent years, Broadway has witnessed a decline in top rate drama, giving way to lighthearted romps and a musical comedy.

Well, Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller step aside, if you please, for Hoboken's favorite son of the dramatic arts. When playwright Louis LaRusso 2nd makes his Broadway debut this coming September, the heyday of the "great" play may be resurrected. Probably one of Hoboken's most flamboyant residents, the 39-year-old LaRusso has authored 18 plays since 1970, of which six have already been staged off-Broadway.

Born and raised in the mile square city, LaRusso writes all his material from the antique desk in the quaint Willow ter. townhouse that has been in his family for the past 80 years.

LaRusso writes about real life; his life. A graduate of Demarest High School, the six-foot-tall playwright has tasted his share of overwhelming success and tragedy, and his life reads like a Harold Robbins novel.

Works as Longshoreman

LaRusso worked his way through the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York as a longshoreman on the Hoboken docks. "They used to call me Louis the Actor," recalls the amiable artist, a glimmer of nostalgia in his eye. "Those were good times."

Two years in the academy convinced LaRusso that acting was not his calling, so he pulled up stakes and moved to Greenwich Village where he took up the life of a Beatnik. In 1962, living in a loft with Bergen County artist Mick Barry, LaRusso published his first book; a book of poems called "More than Just Words."

The book was less than a financial success, and though penniless, the young author left New York to see the world. "I literally bummed around Europe for

a few years and learned about life," LaRusso recalls. More destitute than when he left, the dark-featured playwright returned to the states hoping to find himself. He settled in Boston.

"It was incredible," remembers LaRusso, "literally everything I touched turned to gold." Overnight, through what can only be explained as the application of personal charm and salesmanship, LaRusso backed his way into the presidency of 11 corporations.

"I made millions. I had a 24-room Spanish mansion in Brookline, a Rolls and a Mercedes, and a high-class Bostonian wife," reminisces LaRusso as if relating a dream. "I also had a son." I was miserable.

Wealth, grandeur and security could not suppress the artist's urge to create. "I left it all; my wife, my son, my business, everything."

In late 1969, LaRusso returned to his Hoboken home, less destitute than in the past, but not really much better off than the days in the Greenwich Village loft. The Willow ter. house was now his, purchased after the untimely death of his mother.

"My mother's death was probably the most traumatic experience in my life," recalls the artist soulfully. "It took me years before I could even think about writing 'Mamma's Little Angels.'"

"Mamma's Little Angels," will be LaRusso's "first Broadway production. Starring Sal Mineo, Ben Gazzara, and Mercedes McCambridge, the play is based loosely on the death of LaRusso's mother and the aftermath.

LaRusso does not write funny plays. "The humor in my plays is the humor one finds in life. Most importantly, the characters must be real, interesting, and have depth."

Characters in a LaRusso play are always drawn from real people. "Great playwrights," says LaRusso,

"are always reformed cads. This trait gives them the insight to analyze the people and events around them."

According to the up and coming author, great plays are not just works of art, they are a business. By this, LaRusso means that economics must be considered when composing a play.

"I try to limit the amount of characters to seven, and the scenery to one set. This keeps production costs down and doesn't effect the play's contents." By comparison, the average Arthur Miller drama costs \$250,000 to produce while any of LaRusso's works range from \$100,000 to \$120,000 to stage.

Presently, LaRusso runs an off-Broadway theater known as the Churchyard Playhouse at 342 West 53rd st., in New York.

Proving Ground for Plays

The playwright uses this small auditorium, located in the basement of a Spanish church, as a proving ground for his many productions.

From its shabby appearance and seeming informality, the Churchyard Playhouse is not the kind of place where one would expect to see topnotch drama featuring well-known actors. But actors flock to the playhouse to work gratis in LaRusso's plays.

Appearing tomorrow through Friday at the Churchyard is "Wheelbarrow Closers," a play one critic called "the antithesis of Death of a salesman," and which probably is LaRusso's best play to date.

"Lamposit Reunion," the next production to be staged at the little theater, depicts Hoboken's leading citizen (a singer whose initials are F.S.) returning to his old neighborhood to get together with the old gang.

"I produce my shows in New York because of the proximity to Broadway," explains LaRusso, "but my goal is to one day open a theater in northern New Jersey where playwrights can stage their original productions. I think the time is ripe."

Hoboken Adopts Budget; Tax Holds

4/9/75

Dispatch

Hoboken council yesterday approved its \$15,689,043 municipal budget for 1975-76, assuring taxpayers that the current tax rate of \$108.69 will remain stable.

After a brief public hearing at which only two residents spoke, one criticizing the council for not acting on the budget earlier in the year, the council voted unanimously to adopt the measure.

In attacking the budget, administration critic Thomas Vezzetti said the council should prepare its budget sooner and not wait for the year to be a quarter old before taking action.

The council said such a course was impossible. Six members of the city's fire department, currently negotiating with Mayor Steve Cappiello and the council's public safety committee for a new contract, also attended the session, but postponed their discussion with the council after negotiations are complete.

Firemen, who attended a negotiation session immediately after the hearing, said they are optimistic the talks will soon be completed.

"We're making progress," Capt. William Bergin, president of the International Assn. of Fire Officers reported as he left the mayor's office later in the day.

According to both sides, the only issue now to be resolved is manpower. A second meeting is scheduled for this afternoon and indications are that it may be the last.

Firefighter Michael Bavaro, president of the Firefighters Assn. will take the city's final offer back to his membership tomorrow night and Bergin will report back to the fire officers Thursday.

If the city and the associations agree on a mutually satisfactory figure, firemen are expected to accept the contract.

They'll be getting the same \$750 across the board increase, plus differential for superiors as the city's other workers.

Hoboken Firemen to Question Council on Manpower Funds

By ELIZABETH PARKS

About a dozen members of Hoboken's two Fire Associations are expected at today's noon public hearing on the city's amended \$15,689,043 budget to question the city council about its appropriations for manpower in the city's fire department.

Firemen said they are hoping the city council will promise that the city will fill all 157 positions in the department new appropriated for.

Following the public hearing, the firemen have a negotiating session scheduled with Mayor Steve Cappiello and the three members of the council's Public Safety committee, Anthony Romano, Louis Francione and Robert Ranieri.

If firemen are satisfied with the council and mayor's position on manpower, the session could end the 14 months of haggling over a contract settlement.

Capt. William Bergin, president of the Fire Officers Association, said association leaders have decided to take

the city's \$750 offer of a salary increase back to the men for a vote.

The president of the Firefighters Association, Michael Bavaro, has scheduled a membership meeting for Wednesday night and Bergin said the fire officers will also meet, either Tuesday or Thursday.

Only Question

Bergin said the only question still open is "what size department does the city want us to work with?"

He said that with a figure less than 157 men, the department will either have to work understaffed or the city will have to pay substantial sums of overtime.

"With a 157 man department," he said, "we can manage. There'd be some need for overtime but not much and the city could rest secure in the knowledge that there would be enough men on duty at all times to handle emergencies."

The department now has a staff of 141 men with 10 more men scheduled to retire in the next six months. An agreement on overtime would mean that the city council could not hold in reserve the difference in salaries between what is spent and what is appropriated.

Some City Hall sources say

the council would like to keep that reserve as a cushion against emergencies, but Bergin said maneuver could only be considered "final finagling."

Amended Budget

The city council introduced its amended budget at last Wednesday's council meeting. The difference between this budget and the original is that \$564,833 has been introduced for salaries and wages.

The money to pay for that increase comes from a \$162,500 reduction in what taxpayers will spend on education; a \$200,000 reduction in county taxes; and a \$266,000 increase in anticipated revenue from un-

collected delinquent taxes. \$108.69 per \$1,000 of assessed evaluations tax rate will only increase by two cents.

According to city comptroller John Erbach, the current

Hoboken to collect rents for back taxes

4/1/75

g.g.

A Hoboken property owner who has been collecting more than \$6,000 a month in rents from his four houses on 11th Street but has run up a bill of more than \$32,000 in unpaid taxes to the city is going to have a new partner beginning May 1—the city.

Revenue and Finance Director Frank J. Bartletta said today that the city is going to start collecting rents in the buildings at 50, 52, 54 and 56 11th St. on that day and apply the proceeds to the unpaid taxes.

The buildings are owned by Stuart L. (Buddy) Hoff, Bartletta said. He added that the buildings were also under violation for various infractions of the city's minimum housing code, and have tax liens on them since last November.

"The city is sending out letters to all of the tenants advising them that as of May 1 they should pay their rents to the city rent collector—not the owners," Bartletta said. "The rents will be applied to the back taxes until they are paid in full plus interest."

"It is beyond me how anyone

can take in \$6,000 a month and yet not be able to pay his taxes or maintain his buildings," added the director.

Bartletta said that he has received a letter from Hoff asking for an additional 30 days to settle his back taxes which indicated that a sale of the property was pending. However, Bartletta said that he was refusing the additional time.

The director also said that he has asked the law department to initiate foreclosure proceedings against the owners of the Fifth and Sixth Street piers—Mervyn's Midnight Waterfront Beauty Inc.—for non-payment of taxes. The city has had a tax lien on the piers since last November for \$128,000 in back taxes.

Under amended state laws a municipality can begin foreclosing six months after the lien has been imposed. The six months is up next month, Bartletta said.

The city should be ready to publish a list of property owners who are delinquent in their tax payments to the city by next week, continued Bartletta. He said that the list has been ready for several weeks but his

department kept amending it as the owners came in to pay up their accounts.

"The list is being amended now, I believe, for the third or fourth time," he said. "It will be the last time. Whoever is on the list as of Monday will stay on it

and the names will be published in the local newspapers."

The advertising of the names of property owners who haven't paid their taxes was the idea of Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer and was approved by the City Council last June.

Hiring halls

4/2/75

Consolidating the longshoremen's hiring halls in Jersey City and Hoboken may bring some advantage to the bi-state Waterfront Commission which runs the halls, but has the commission thought out all the possible consequences?

To begin with, the Jersey City and Hoboken longshoremen's union locals have not been exactly friendly for as long as anyone on the waterfront can remember. Would it not aggravate the antagonism if they were forced to share the same hiring hall, especially when either the Jersey City men would lose their hall and have to go to Hoboken or else it would be the other way around?

Violent clashes involving hiring of longshoremen are an old story on the Hudson County waterfront, and it would not take much to start a new chapter.

The Waterfront Commission has kept the violence out of the hiring halls since it took over the supervision of hiring some years ago, but there is still a potential for violence if the two locals are forcibly brought together under the same roof.

Why not let well enough alone?

Hoboken Amends Its Budget And Keeps Tax Rate Stable

4/3/75

Dispatch

By ELIZABETH PARKS

The Hoboken city council introduced its amended budget yesterday with the tax rate still stable despite a \$564,833 increase for salary adjustments.

The new budget raised the amount to be collected through local taxes by \$408,885, up to \$6,868,850 from \$6,459,974.

However, City Comptroller John Erbach says there will be no corresponding raise in the tax rate because the increase is offset by reductions in other amounts to be paid by taxpayers, particularly payments to the board of education reduced by \$162,500 and

\$200,000 less that will be paid to the county this year.

The salary adjustments, which will finance \$750 raises to police, firemen and city workers, plus salary differentials for the public safety department, are to be financed through a projected \$266,000 increase in collecting delinquent taxes; through \$200,000 to \$400,000 anticipated state aid, and through the \$162,500 that has now been diverted from the board of education budget.

The board, however, is fighting to have the money reinstated. The state commis-

sioner of education, who has the final say, is expected to make a determination some time this month.

Other Business

A City Hall source said that if the money for the raises fails to come through from the sources anticipated, then the city will have to lay off workers and cut back services to balance its budget. The source said, however, that was "a slim possibility."

In other business, the city council approved the appointment of Mary Lemanowicz, 74 River st., a housewife, to the

seventh position on the city's rent control board.

For the first time in months, the board now has a full set of members and chairman Joseph Hottendorf said the board will now be forming committees to investigate special problems of rent control and housing.

The city council also granted a 15 per cent in lieu of taxes abatement to the Mount Carmel Guild for all First St. between Grand and Adams.

The Guild is planning on building a \$5 million senior citizens housing complex on the site.

Floating Dorm at Stevens Will Be Shut Down in May

4/1/75

Dispatch

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Inflated cost of heating oil and the expense of renovating a deteriorated plumbing system are sounding the death knell for the 6,000-ton cruiser used as a floating dormitory at Stevens Tech, Hoboken.

Tom Lunghard, assistant to president Kenneth Rogers, said yesterday that the ship will definitely be sold, probably for scrap, sometime after this semester ends in May.

Lunghard said school administrators sympathize with the approximately 50 students who are protesting the ship's demise, but added, "there really is nothing we can do. The costs of operating the ship have risen so high we have to charge students an unrealistic amount to maintain it."

Lunghard said it costs \$40,000 a year to heat the 473-foot former merchant marine cruiser and it would entail an additional \$100,000 to renovate the ship's plumbing and electric lines.

"We'd have to charge students almost twice the \$750 a year they now pay to cover rising costs alone," he said. "That fee would not even include repairs."

No Mass Protest Seen

Although several students protested the president's decision to sell the ship, named Exedon, is "special and private and one of the best features of the campus," Lunghard said there are no known plans for protests or mass demonstration against the transaction.

"Students may not like it, but they know we have no choice. No one would even consider sell-

ing it if there were any other solution," Lunghard added.

Stevens has used the ship as a floating dormitory since 1967, when it was purchased from the merchant marine for \$130,000. It cost \$200,000 to renovate the ship, built in 1944, and Lunghard estimated that if sold for scrap metal today, it would bring in approximately the same \$200,000.

"Actually, when we bought it, we only expected to get five years use out of it," Lunghard said. "So in most respects we got a bargain," he declared.

For the last three years, however, the ship has been deteriorating. Heating is a big problem and the loss of hot water through boiler trouble is another.

"We once had a waiting list for the 140 dorms," Lunghard said yesterday. "But since problems started cropping up on shipboard, occupancy has been declining."

This year, only 94 students are living aboard the ship, and Lunghard estimated that if the university were to keep the vessel, the increase in rental fees next year would probably be half that figure.

The ship served as a troop ship during World War 2. It originally was one of the "four Aces" of the former American Export Line, later American Export Isbrandtsen Lines, Inc.

The ship had been in mothballs in the Hudson River off Stony Point, N. Y., before its purchase by Stevens Tech on Sept. 26, 1967. The vessel was renovated at the Bethlehem shipyard in Hoboken.

The original plan by Tech officials was to assign two students to each cabin of the 14,893-ton ship. Lounges on each deck were to be used as recreation and meeting rooms.

Asks Civic Study on Hoboken Pay Guides

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said Tuesday he wants a conglomerate of independent civic and business groups to set a salary guide for top city administrators and directors, including himself.

The mayor said he will invite a selection of independent agencies, including the chamber of commerce, to come in and prepare guidelines so there could be a "strictly objective determination."

In effect, the invitation rescues the Hoboken City Council from facing the difficult decision of authorizing raises for top brass in an election year.

Cappiello admitted that he has discussed raises for directors with the city council. He said that it is only fair that directors get some salary increase this year, "since they have received no raises last year and their salaries, in comparison with other communities and other city

employees, are low."

Despite reports to the contrary, Cappiello said no official in the city has determined how much of an increase should be offered. One source had reported that Cappiello was dickering with the city council for a \$5,000 raise for himself and \$1,200-\$2,000 raises for six other officials.

Most members of the city council refused to discuss the proposed increases, saying reports of raises are "speculative and premature."

No Work Yet

Councilman-at-Large Robert Ranieri said there has been no paper work on an ordinance for raises. Council President Martin Brennan said he feels the directors, the city comptroller, and the city clerk are entitled to raises. "Like everyone else."

Brennan said no figure has been decided upon yet, but he doubts that the raises will amount to more than \$1,200.

City officials have agreed to

give all city workers, including police and firemen, raises of \$750 across the board plus differentials for public safety superiors. The differentials, an offer made initially by Cappiello but not challenged by the city council, would bring the raises for superiors to an average of \$1,000 each.

The council has not ratified the agreement yet. Some members have complained privately that the differential constitutes the highest increases to men who are already earning the highest salaries.

If the council refuses to ratify the agreement, already accepted by police and municipal employees, with

firemen reported close to accepting the offer, the city would be forced to resume con-

tract negotiations which have already dragged on for more than a year.

Hoboken Council to get raises for mayor, directors

4/1/75

g.g.

BY PETER HALLAM

The members of the Hoboken City Council won't be getting any pay increases this year but they will have to act on some proposed pay hikes for other high city officials.

It was learned today from a high city source that an ordinance increasing the salaries for the mayor and all city directors is being prepared for submission to the city council in late May—after the upcoming municipal election.

Topping the list is Mayor Steve Cappiello, whose salary will go from \$28,000 to \$29,000 with longevity, an additional 10 per cent, for a total of \$31,800.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale will get the next largest raise of \$2,000 bringing his salary to \$17,000 a year with 10 per cent longevity, or \$18,700. However, Vitale is also director of Health and Welfare, Recreation, the

water department and the sewage department.

Directors Herman Bier and Frank Bartletta will get \$1,200 raises, bringing their salaries to \$18,200; Law Director Lawrence Florio will go from \$17,000 to \$18,200 with an additional 10 per cent longevity; Comptroller John Erbach goes from \$23,500 to \$24,700 with an additional 10 per cent; and City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso goes from \$16,500 to \$17,700 with 10 per cent.

All other city employees and officials will get a \$750 a year increase, the same pay hike accepted by the Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA).

Several members of the council are already private, saying that they will not approve the proposed increases, especially since they had preached economy in dealing with lower echelon employees and their pay raises.

225 books ordered by Hoboken Library

4/4/75

g.g.

A total of 225 new books were ordered by the Hoboken Public Library last month, Lucille Cunningham, director, said today. Many of the new books are now available to library members.

They include:

Here at the New Yorker, by Brendan Gill; Attack on Privacy, by John Curtis Raines; The Working Class Majority, by Andrew Levin; Gerald Ford and the Future of the Presidency, by J.F. TerHorst; You Can Get There From Here, by Shirley MacLaine; Tyrants, Destroyed and Other Stories, by Vladimir Nabokov; The Promise of Joy, A Novel, by Allen Drury; Beauty and Sadness, A Novel, by Yasunari Kawabata; The Underground Woman, A Novel, by Kay Boyle; The Dreadful Lemon Sky, A Novel, by John D. MacDonald; The Female Imagination, by Patricia Meyer Spacks; The Trial of Martin Luther King, by Alan F. Westin and Barry Mahoney; Anniversaries: The Life of Gesine Cresspahl, by Uwe Johnson; Healing: A Doctor in Search of a Miracle, by William A. Nolen, M.D.; Woman in the Year 2000, Edited by Maggie Tripp; Intelligence Can Be Taught, by Arthur Whimbey; Who Shall Live? Health, Economics, and Social Choice, by

Victor R. Fuchs; Paths of Power, by Kenneth B. Clark; Sandition: A Novel, by Jane Austen and Another Lady; One Just Man: A Novel, by James Mills; The Comic: A Novel, by Brian Glanville; Hopscotch: A Novel of Suspense and Adventure, by Brian Garfield; The Crouching Fury: International Politics and U.S. Foreign Policy, A Forecast, by Roger Hilsman; Capital Punishment: The Inevitability of Caprice and Mistake, by Charles L. Black Jr.; Charles A. Lindbergh and the Battle Against American Intervention in World War II, by Wayne S. Cole; Japan: The Fragile Superpower, by Frank Gibney; The Land Remembers: The Story of a Farm and Its People, by Ben Logan; Before the Fall: An Inside View of the Pre-Watergate White House, by William Safire; Cagney: A Biography, by Michael Freedland; Jefferson, Nationalism, and the Enlightenment, by Henry Steele Commager; The Rise and Fall of the DCU, by John Godson; The Silver Dove: A Novel, by André Bely; The Witness and I, by O. Edmund Clubb; Journeying: Travels in Italy, Egypt, Sinai, Jerusalem and Cyprus, by Nikos Kazantzakis; The Ultra Secret, by P.W. Winterbottom; and Flying, by Kate Millett.

Ask State Overrule For Hoboken Voters

4/10/75

Dispatch

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken Board of Education has asked the state commissioner of education to overrule voters who rejected a \$220,000 bond issue for the high school stadium last Mar., by giving the board authority to float the bond anyway.

Board attorney Robert Taylor said yesterday the board "has no choice" except to petition for the ruling, since the state mandated construction of equal athletic facilities for girls.

The bond issue referendum included a \$70,000 provision for construction of locker rooms and showers for girl athletes. The board filed its petition with the state commissioner yesterday. In addition to the request to reinstate the bond, the board is also asking Commissioner Fred Burke to put back the \$325,000 which the city council deleted from the board's 1975-76 budget.

"If the state mandates that

local boards implement certain programs," Taylor said, "and voters reject the funds for that program, what course can a board of education take?"

"The commissioner then must overrule the voters or provide the municipality with additional state aid," he said.

Taylor said it would be impossible for the board to transfer money for new athletic facilities from some other part of its budget.

"In the first place," he said, "the city council has left us bone dry by cutting out \$325,000 and in the second place, the budget as we initially prepared it, was as tight as we could get it. Providing this service would mean cutting out some other essential service. It's a fiscal impossibility."

Hoboken Fire Hq., Office Move Within Week

4/4/75
Hoboken's fire headquarters should be moved into new offices at the Second and Jefferson st. firehouse before the end of next week, a source in the fire department said yesterday.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said yesterday that the city's carpenters and painters will be finished remodeling the new offices by today.

"The Chief and his staff can move in anytime after Monday," Vitale said.

According to a fire official, the chief and his staff will move first and the fire company now housed in the 128 Hudson st. headquarters will move later in the month.

Dispatch
The company will not be shifted from headquarters until electricians finish installing a centralized communications network on the third floor of city hall.

Complete by May
Thomas Vecchione, police and fire signal foreman, said the new system should be temporarily hooked up by April 18 and completely in operation by the end of May.

Although the new system will centralize all police and fire communications in one physical location, Vecchione said the system will operate basically in the same manner as before.

The one big change will be ten new call boxes which Vec-

chione said should "help tremendously in reducing the number of false alarms received and responded to."

The ten special boxes will be located in what Vecchione calls "trouble spots" in the city. They'll be mainly uptown on the west end, in the center of the city, downtown on the west side and in the projects.

Phone Receiver
Inside each new box there'll be a telephone receiver. When someone wants to report a fire, he or she will open the box and lift the receiver as though they were going to dial a phone.

As soon as the receiver is lifted, an alarm sounds in the firehouse and the dispatcher automatically knows where in

the city the call is coming from.

The person seeking assistance can request an ambulance, a police car or fire trucks. Vecchione said it's been proven that dispatchers can tell whether the alarm is false from the person's manner of speaking.

The city intends to start with 10 new boxes, and according to Mayor Steve Cappiello, to gradually buy more in the years to come if "they work as well as expected and if vandalism doesn't become a problem."

Each box costs \$1,300 and can be fitted right over the boxes now in operation. "If we find vandalism is a problem in one part of the city," Vecchione

said, "we can easily shift the boxes around."

The entire conversion is being financed half by the city and half by state safe streets and clean neighborhood funds.

PUC hearing on water rate resumed

4/4/75
Hoboken officials will go before the state's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) again today to get the PUC to rule on Jersey City's 212 per cent water rate increase, according to Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Lawrence Florio, city law director, and Carl Shaefer, an assistant city attorney, appeared before the commission yesterday to argue that the increase was within the commission's jurisdiction and a proper hearing must be held first before any increase could be authorized by the PUC.

North Arlington, Lyndhurst, Montville and West Caldwell, which buy water from

Jersey City, are joining in the argument. Jersey City is opposing it.

The hearing was continued until today 'so that the two Hoboken attorneys could present more information to substantiate their contention. The water rate increase went into effect Tuesday.

The mayor said the city is prepared to seek a judgment from the chancery division of the Superior Court should the PUC refuse to take action on the increase.

Hoboken is basing its case on a similar situation that arose in Morris County several years ago

and brought to the city's attention by Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer.

Cappiello said that in that case Morris County increased its water rates for a neighboring municipality it serviced without petitioning the PUC. The municipality contended that since it was not within the municipal boundary of Morris County, the municipality had no right to increase the rate without a PUC hearing and decision.

"The PUC refused to hear the case so the municipality took the matter to court," said the mayor. "The court ruled that the matter was within the jurisdiction of the PUC and ordered it to hold hearings."

Cappiello said he didn't know what the outcome of the hearings was but he believed Hoboken had a good case for a reduction.

"To charge non-municipal users an additional 212 per cent while users within the municipality got only an 87 per cent increase is a form of discrimination if nothing else," said the mayor. "Especially since we got nothing but water from Jersey City while its municipal users also get service and maintenance of the water lines."

Meanwhile, Hoboken is losing

large quantities of water through several recent major water breaks. Yesterday's total usage was around 11.7 million gallons—almost 700,000 gallons more than normal, according to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

The city has one major break at First and Clinton Streets, another at Ninth Street and Willow Avenue, and several smaller leaks at other locations.

More than 100 families were without water in the vicinity of the Clinton Street break Wednesday and again yesterday. Vitale said that the leak was repaired Wednesday but when the water service to the area was restored another major leak developed.

2 councilmen find mini-school project hazard for children

4/1/75
How secure is the water-filled site of the Hoboken Board of Education's mini-school at 524 Park Ave.? Not secure enough, according to two city councilmen who say they saw children playing inside the fenced-in area over the weekend.

Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy and Third Ward Councilman Salvatore Cemelli both reported to Mayor Steve Cappiello yesterday that youngsters were observed playing inside the chain link fence that encloses the area over the weekend—and no guards were visible at the time.

The mayor, who is also the city's public safety director, said that he has instructed the police chief to increase the number of checks made by his men during the course of every 24-hour period and is reaching out to the contractor to advise him of the

matter and see what action he is going to take.

"Actually, this is a problem that should be handled by the board of education since it owns the property," the mayor said. "But the school board is closed for the Easter holiday so I'm acting in an unofficial capacity until school officials can be advised of the problem and take action on it."

Work at the construction site has been stopped since Christmas Eve and won't be resumed until additional soil tests are taken to determine if further excavation work can be done. The work stopped when a neighboring building at 520 Park Ave. started to lean towards the open excavation. The building was eventually evacuated and demolished.

Ground and rain water have been accumulating in the open pit and is now reported to be at least four feet deep. Residents of the area, as well as the Anthony Russo Civic Association, had complained to city officials that the situation presented a safety problem and health hazard to local youngsters who might be tempted to play there.

Russo, the standard bearer of the association and a candidate for the Third Ward Council seat, has now written to city, county and state health officials, the school board and the mayor asking that immediate action be taken to eliminate the problem.

Robert W. Taylor, attorney for the school board, said that a special business meeting of the board has been scheduled for tonight and the problem will be discussed at that time.

3n HC THE JERSEY JOURNAL, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1975

Hoboken gets bids for dump trucks

Three companies submitted bids to Hoboken for the purchase of two new dump trucks for the public works department at yesterday's city council meeting, the lowest coming from a Brooklyn firm — Bruno GMC Truck Sales. Its price is \$10,973 for each vehicle.

The other companies were Center Ford of North Bergen, \$11,461; and Haul-All of Daytona, Fla., \$11,611. All of the bids were sent to the Public Works Department for evaluation.

Bids were also received by the council for the purchase of theater equipment for the new multi-service center at Second and Grand Streets. The only bidder was Times Square Theater Corp of New York with a bid of \$8,629.

The council accepted by ordinance two properties behind the multi-service center from the Housing Authority. The city will develop them into a park as part of the Community Development Program.

A resolution authorizing the payment of \$33,008 to C.F. Malanka and Sons of Union City as partial payment for work completed on the 11th Street divider islands was tabled by the council after some members questioned whether or not work had been done other than planting some trees.

The council confirmed the appointment of Mrs. Mary Lemmon as a member of the city's Rent Leveling and Stabilization board by Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Although the city doesn't own it, an application for funds to establish a bike path along Shore Road will be sent to the state's Department of Community Affairs. The city has hired a private attorney to negotiate with the Shore Railroad, the owner of the road, for the purchase of the road which runs along the waterfront from 11th to Fourth Streets.

Approval was given of the planning board's action in giving a variance to Andrew J. Amato for his building at 113, 115, 117 Madison St. The variance allows Amato to operate a women's clothing manufacturing factory. It was previously the HOPES Inc. multi-service center.

The council will receive bids on various supplies and also

equipment for police cars at the April 16 meeting. At its May 7 meeting the council bids will be received on the resurfacing of various city streets.

Final approval of the tax abatement for the Mt. Carmel Guild and its senior citizen project for First and Grand Streets was also approved by the council.

During the public part of the meeting, Thomas Vezzetti questioned the pay raises authorized for the police and fire departments and other municipal employees. He said he felt the \$750 across the board was adequate and no differential should be paid.

Vezzetti was informed that the Public Safety Committee of the

council hasn't voted on the pay increases authorized by the mayor but most members felt that the differential would not make that difference.

On several occasions during the meeting Vezzetti also urged the council not to grant any further tax abatements in the city. He said it just put additional burdens on taxpayers who didn't have abatements. But when it came time for the council to vote on an abatement—for the Mt. Carmel Guild—it approved the measure.

Maurice DeGennaro asked the council why the city didn't move faster to put tax liens on properties whose owners didn't pay their taxes, why it didn't move to foreclose within the six months as now authorized by state law, and why it didn't have more sale of city properties.

Council President Martin J. Brennan replied that he has asked the tax department when the next sale would be and was told sometime in the fall. The last sale of city-owned property was last July. Brennan said he

was assured by the tax department that it was moving as quickly as possible to place liens on properties and foreclosing on them.

Hoboken may lengthen run of own bus

4/2/75
Hoboken business Administrator Herman Bier will ask the city council to officially expand the route of the city's cross-town bus, he said today. The route, a loop, would be enlarged so as to serve the Fox Hill Gardens senior citizen housing project and also connect with the transportation terminal at Hudson Place and River Street.

Bier also said the long-awaited new replacement for the worn-out cross-town bus should be delivered within 90 days.

HE SAID that the Flexible Southern Co., the firm that manufactures the body for the vehicle, has received the chassis from the Ford Motor Co. and can immediately begin assembling the bus.

Work on the vehicle had been held up because Ford stopped production on the chassis required for the bus last September and didn't expect to resume making them until the end of March or early April. Bier was advised of this by a Ford representative in a letter received last week but also was assured that Flexible would get one of the first chassis to come off the assembly line.

"I assume that Ford kept its promise," said Bier. "I received a telephone call from Flexible yesterday morning notifying the city that the chassis had been delivered and production of the body was underway."

"WE CAN Expect delivery of the vehicle within 90 days but I expect it will be sooner than that. At least I'm hoping it will be due to the very poor condition of the existing bus."

The bus now in use carries 16 passengers. The new one will carry only 10. However, city officials feel that a larger vehicle is not needed — studies have shown that the bus seldom carries its full capacity and results in an operating loss for the city of approximately \$30,000 a year.

Bier said that the new bus isn't expected to eliminate the operating loss but it is expected to cut it a good deal.

The administrator added that while the city is waiting for delivery of the vehicle, which is costing Hoboken more than \$16,000, he will approach the city council again about expanding the route.

HE SAID that the council has unofficially agreed to a new route that would have the bus serve the PATH train and bus terminal at Hudson Place and River Street, and the new Fox Hill Gardens senior citizen project at 13th Street and Willow Avenue.

"However, the council must take some official action to change the route before the bus can start using it," Bier continued, "either by resolution or ordinance; I'm not sure of which."

The City may need the sanction of the state Public Utility Commission to change the route because the new one might conflict with routes serviced by the independent Washington Street buses and the giant Transport of New Jersey bus firm.

Bier said that he felt confident that if the mayor and city council started working on the bus matter now, all could be ready by the time the new bus is delivered.

Cappiello says he wouldn't accept 'that big' a raise

BY PETER HALLAM

Mayor Steve Cappiello, in response to the report that he was due for a \$5,000 pay increase this year, said today that he thought the jump from what he is now making was "too big" and he probably would not accept a raise that large.

However, the mayor said that he felt the proposed raises for city directors and high officials were "reasonable" and "in line

with what employees of similar responsibilities are getting.

"Nevertheless, I would like to see the question of raises for elected and appointed officials decided from outside the political arena," continued the mayor. "I would like to see a committee formed consisting of representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and various citizens groups and take up the question of salaries and increases."

"It is too easy for an ad-

ministration to arbitrarily vote itself a pay increase without considering whether or not the increases are commensurate with the work being done."

The mayor said that a police lieutenant or fire captain now makes more money than some city directors, while police captains and deputy fire chiefs make more than any of the directors. The raises they will be getting this year will equal or surpass the \$1,200 that is generally proposed for most directors.

"Because the directors are political appointments of the administration in power at any given time their salaries have felt the effect of this," Cappiello continued. "They have often gone without increases over the years because it was easier not to give them any more than other city employees."

But the mayor asserted he felt the \$5,000 raise proposed for him was more than what was required.

"These are financially difficult times," he continued. "How can the city ask the little employees to tighten their belts if the big ones aren't doing the same thing. A raise of \$5,000 can't be considered tightening one's belt."

Cappiello now makes \$20,000 a year.

Meanwhile, a candidate for Hoboken First Ward Councilman, Carmine Trobetta, urged the City Council not to approve the proposed increases, at least nothing above \$750 which is the amount other city employees will be getting.

Trobetta said the raises were "outrageous and shocking."

"The city is smack in the middle of the worst economic conditions in 20 years but the mayor and the director have the nerve to take raises as high as \$5,000 which they were planning to hide until after the May 13 election," he said.

"The city's policemen, firemen and other municipal employees negotiated for over 14 months and ended up with only \$750 to cover a two-year span, supposedly due to the city's poor financial condition. Yet the mayor and director can take large raises without batting an eyelash."

Trobetta urged the City Council to vote against any raises.

Officers Accept Hike Fire Fighters Rejected

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken fire officers have accepted a salary increase rejected by fire fighters. But instead of forming a new alliance with city officials, fire officers have sworn to stand by their firemen "in whatever action they may take" in continuing their fight for a commitment on manpower.

Capt. William Bergin, president of the Fire Officers Assn., accused Mayor Steve Cappiello of "doing everything possible to split the two associations." He added, "as far as my local is concerned, it (the tactic) did not and will not work."

Bergin added: "We will cooperate with the firefighters whenever, wherever we can. We'll do everything possible to help, and more." Asked if that meant the officers would sanction a strike already threatened by the firefighters, Bergin would only affirm that officers and privates have the same objectives and problems.

"The mayor has told both associations that he

wants complete control on manpower," the fire captain continued. "He has refused to work with the chief in setting up a workable plan and in refusing, he has made it plain that he doesn't care about our society or the safety of the people."

Up until Wednesday, Cappiello had been telling the firemen that he was working with the chief trying to formulate a staffing plan for the busy summer months when men are on vacation.

The mayor promised to have a plan ready in time for Wednesday night's firefighters' meeting. Four hours before the meeting, the mayor abruptly told firemen that he could not give them a plan on manpower until after Monday when he intended to consult with the city council on costs.

Firefighters voted on the city's offer of a \$750 increase, unanimously rejecting it. They said this was because the provision on manpower was denied them.

Temporary Path Set For Hoboken Cyclists

4/4/75
Hoboken cyclists should have a temporary path a week from this Sunday.

According to Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri, who proposed the path, the temporary arrangement will be for a three-week pilot program.

Since the path is temporary, Ranieri said, it is not necessary for the council to pass an ordinance approving it before the state Department of Transportation gives its approval.

Ranieri said he expects the state department approval will not be necessary because it's a temporary program.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale, meanwhile, has ordered the city's street cleaners to clear off the debris and fill in the pot holes that litter River st. near the Grogan Marine View project.

Tentatively the city plans to block off River st. for the last three Sundays in April, either from 9 to 1 a.m. or from 10 to 2 p.m.

If the program is successful, Ranieri said, the city will expand it into the rest of the spring and summer.

Meanwhile, the city council yesterday passed a resolution authorizing Mayor Steve Cappiello to apply to the state department of transportation for a \$90,000 federal bikeway aid grant.

If the application is approved, the city plans to use the money to build a bikeway alongside Shore Rd. when that thoroughfare is rehabilitated.

The Shore rd. project is being held up because of legal technicalities, but some of those involved in the project are hopeful construction can begin later this summer.

Get going

4/1/75
Hoboken is planning to set up sprinklers in all schoolyards this summer to give the youngsters showers and, perhaps, prevent them from opening fire hydrants to cool off.

This is great. It is great for the youngsters who will not have to dodge cars and trucks on the street. It is great for motorists who will not have to dodge youngsters or plow through flooded roadways. And it will be great for taxpayers who will not have to pay for water that is largely wasted.

The schoolyard showers will be supervised to prevent harmful horseplay, protect the sprinkling systems, and give all the youngsters a fair shake.

While the announcement is welcome, will the wheels of bureaucracy really turn swiftly enough to get the program going in time?

The Board of Education can do its part by speedily granting permission for the playground use. After that, let us see an efficient follow through by City Hall to get the sprinklers operating by mid-June when they will be needed.

Service chairman finds school food better in Hoboken

4/18/75
Mrs. Mary Gaspar, a Hoboken Board of Education member who has complained about the quality of sandwiches served in the school lunch program, said she found nothing wrong with lunches served yesterday but added, "I intend to continue to make spot checks of the schools."

Mrs. Gaspar yesterday displayed a liverwurst sandwich to school administrators which she said was offered to children on Wednesday. She said it consisted of old-looking meat and dried bread.

As chairman of the board's food service committee, she reported she made another inspection yesterday and found the food "fairly decent." She came into the food picture after

the sandwich was shown to her and after she conferred with other mothers about the program, she said.

After visiting the schools, she said she is also concerned about waste with left-over sandwiches because some students are absent.

"I hate to see food wasted," she said. "Some people might be going hungry. How about sending it to jails? Maybe they could use it. If it's good enough for school children it should be good enough for prisoners."

As for the liverwurst sandwich that started the furor, she said she has concluded that if the sandwiches served were delicious "we'd never have eaten it."

2 Hobokens Will Greet In Visit

By ELIZABETH PARKS

A senator from Hoboken, Belgium, will be visiting Hoboken, New Jersey later this month to pave the way for what may become a cultural exchange program between the high schools of the two cities.

Senator Joz Wijninckx, a member of the Senate and First Alderman in Hoboken, Belgium, and his wife, will meet with Mayor Steve Cappiello and members of the city council to discuss the possibility of establishing a sister city relationship between the two municipalities.

Wijninckx will also be the guest of John Vervoot, a retired insurance executive, at a Kiwanis and Lions luncheon.

Vervoot was instrumental in arranging the visit.

Wijninckx's visit to the state is sponsored by the federal Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. He will be touring most of America in the spring, and is tentatively scheduled to be in Hoboken April 23.

In a letter to Mayor Cappiello, Wijninckx said he has been "struck with the similarities between the two cities, particularly their similar size, industries and economic and social problems."

Cappiello said yesterday he is looking forward to Wijninckx's visit and may arrange a tour of the city to show him about.

The mayor said he will discuss the possibility of forming a student exchange program similar to the one Bayonne, New Jersey has with Bayonne, France.

Last year councilman at large Robert Ranieri proposed such a program to the Hoboken Board of Education but the idea was rejected when Board Attorney Robert Taylor said it might cause insurance problems.