

Sidewalk vacuuming twice a week?

The Sunday morning vacuuming of sidewalks in Hoboken's shopping district along Washington Street has been so successful that the city's Retail Bureau may attempt to have the vacuuming done twice a week, it was learned today.

William Roth, a member of the bureau's executive board, said that the bureau was "completely satisfied" with the program which it sponsors jointly with the city's Public

Works Department. The area that is vacuumed with two city cleaners is from Observer Highway to Seventh Street on both sides of Washington.

"The results have been most gratifying," asserted Roth. "Washington Street is actually the cleanest place in the city come Monday morning and that's a far cry from what it used to be."

Two Public Works employees, one using the vacuum and the other sweeping up larger pieces of cardboard and paper it can't handle, work

in the Sunday cleanup program. They are paid by the Retail Bureau. The bureau has been paying the cost out of its treasury, said Roth. But now that the program is a success it is going to appeal to all Washington Street merchants and businesses to assist with a donation of \$1 or \$2 a week.

"If we can get enough businessmen contributing on a regular weekly basis we should have enough to pay the two men to do the cleaning twice a week, if that is all right with their

superiors," he added. According to Roth, the individual cleanup is working so well that the city might be wise to consider it as an alternative to its street sweeping program. "We've got two \$40,000 vacuum street sweeping trucks that are nothing but junk," he asserted. "They do a terrible job cleaning the streets. And it becomes absolutely horrible when you compare the job they do to the job done by the two men who work for the bureau on weekends."

Hoboken may have to add several new cops to force

Hoboken may have to appoint several new patrolmen even though it probably doesn't want to, it was learned today.

According to a high city source, the state Civil Service Department has announced a list of approximately 1,800 state residents who have taken and passed the Civil Service examination for patrolman and are eligible for appointment.

The source said that while Hoboken doesn't have any plans at this time to make any new appointments to the department, it is only a matter of time before Civil Service orders them to. It may also order the removal of five temporary patrolmen currently assigned to the Tactical Patrol Force.

"Civil Service regulations prohibit the use of temporary employees where there is a valid list of eligibles willing to take the jobs," he continued. "The city has two choices — either remove the temporaries and replace them with people from the new list, or remove the temporaries and leave the position unfilled."

He added that only two of the city's temporary patrolmen passed the examination but are not near the top of the list and could still lose their jobs to eligibles who are. He said that a number of Hoboken residents were

scattered throughout the list, including two disabled veterans who were close to the top. Many of the others on it, including a few women, were among those who took a special course offered last year by Police Chief George W. Crimmins.

"The city doesn't plan any immediate action but that doesn't mean nothing is going to happen," he continued. "Civil Service can and probably will force the issue by telling us to make the appointments or take the five temporaries off the payroll. If Civil Service doesn't act, some of the

people on the list could notify it that they want appointment and we're in the same predicament."

He said that if the city is notified by Civil Service and doesn't comply, Civil Service will refuse to approve the city's payroll.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director, and Crimmins were not available for comment on the matter. The chief is attending the League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City and the mayor is on a 10-day visit to Israel.

Hoboken bluecoat labor unrest is brewing

Hoboken appears to be headed for more labor unrest with its police and firemen as a result of the city's decision to take out of its contract proposals all items that pertain to manpower and the need to fill vacancies in the departments.

According to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, contracts are being prepared and will soon be turned over to the three labor organizations — the Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA), the Fire Fighters

Association, and the Fire Officers Association.

The first thing the union will notice is that the number of policemen and firemen the departments are to have has been taken out of the contract — even though it was included in last year's.

The second thing they will notice is that the city would no longer be required, according to the proposals, to make promotions when there is a vacancy in a higher grade or appoint

new men when patrolmen or firemen are promoted.

And the last thing they will notice is that pay increases agreed to earlier this year wouldn't be paid until the contracts are signed. In the past the city has made the payments, once they were agreed to in negotiations and out of the way, while the rest of the contractual items were being negotiated.

Ranieri said that manpower is a management choice and in this case

management chooses not to include it in the contract.

The presidents of the three unions were not immediately available for comment. However, spokesmen for them said that the city was acting arbitrarily and its action was "not in good faith."

"The inclusion of the manpower in the contracts was something the city agreed to in past contracts," said one. "The courts said that the city didn't have to negotiate manpower but the city did negotiate it. It cannot just decide to take it out of the contracts, at least not without negotiating it out."

Officials of the fire unions were particularly upset by the city's decision, since they had just about wrapped up their negotiations. The firefighters had concluded negotiations with the city several months ago. The fire officers also accepted the package with the exception of a \$2,000 ceiling on longevity payments for deputy chiefs.

According to some union members, a joint job action involving both policemen and firemen is highly probable.

Rubbish transfer site to be fenced in

Hoboken's Public Works Department plans to fence in the city's rubbish collection transfer area to prevent further unauthorized dumping there.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said he intends to erect an eight-foot-high chain link fence around the entire transfer area, situated next to the city sewage treatment plant between 16th and 17th streets.

Vitale said a department employee is measuring the area and by Monday should have cost estimates for the fencing.

The city uses the area to dump refuse from Sunday refuse pick-ups, street sweepers and street litter baskets into large steel containers, which are periodically trucked to landfills and emptied.

Vitale said the area is also used by unauthorized persons, mostly small contractors from the area, who "sneak in" and dump construction debris and other refuse.

He said that after the area is fenced in, the Public Works Department will clean out the debris that has accumulated.

"There's a lot of garbage to clean

out, but we're going to do it," Vitale said.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he has received complaints about the dumping from residents in the nearby Shades section of Weehawken.

Hoboken may quit regional sewer group

Hoboken is seriously thinking about pulling out of the Hudson County Regional Sewerage Authority and instead upgrade its treatment facility on its own. Mayor Steve Cappiello said today.

At this particular point in time, Hoboken is in a very delicate situation," said the mayor. "There is great concern that our continued participation in the regional approach to upgrading the treatment of sewage could very well cost the city a lot more than the cost of doing it ourselves."

"The city's position is one of being caught in the middle. On one hand, we are under federal mandate to initiate upgrading to secondary treatment by next July. On the other, we are involved in the regional authority, which may or may not be able to reach that goal."

Cappiello said that local industry is very concerned with what the cost of the regional program will be. The city isn't able to answer them and can't get firm information from the regional authority.

"I don't think it's a question of not wanting to answer, but one of not being able to," he added.

The mayor has called a special meeting of the city council for 7 p.m. tomorrow night to discuss the sewerage authority and possible consideration of a resolution withdrawing Hoboken's commitment to it.

"In recent years, there have been a number of technical breakthroughs in sewage treatment which make it appear that Hoboken just might be able to take care of its own sewage treatment upgrading at a cost considerably less than some of the estimates of the city's cost for the county-wide plan," Cappiello stated.

Job action by cops seen in Hoboken

Some type of job action by Hoboken police loomed today following a showdown meeting with Mayor Steve Cappiello in which the city was firm on withdrawing a table of organization from any new contract.

This would give the city the right to determine how many men should be in the department and in each particular rank. The organization table was in the last contract with the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association but the city wants to withdraw it this year.

The city and the PBA have agreed on a new labor pact but it has not been signed and the PBA is objecting that the organization table is now being withdrawn without further negotiations.

Cappiello, who met the PBA members yesterday at City Hall, said he would not be surprised if the police resorted to some type of job action. The mayor, who also is police director, said this was indicated to him by several PBA members.

Cappiello said he didn't know what form the job action would take but felt it might involve a stepped-up traffic ticket drive.

As for the city's intention of having the say on manpower, the mayor said: "This is something that was going to happen sooner or later but it was prompted by recent court decisions involving Hoboken fire manpower."

Cappiello said the men will continue to work under the old contract and Councilman Robert Ranieri will continue to negotiate with them for the city.

In another development, David Solomon, attorney for the PBA, notified the city that an unfair labor practice has been filed against Hoboken with the Public Employment Relations Commission. The police are maintaining that the city is renegeing on \$56,000 worth of benefits retroactive on last Jan. 1. It is the city's position that the payments agreed upon won't be made until a new contract is signed.

Missing sewer line fixed

There's a good reason why untreated sewage was backing up into buildings along Hudson Place and River street in Hoboken — a 12-foot section of sewer line which would have connected them to the city's sewer system was missing.

The problem has been remedied. A new connection has been installed and the job should be finished today. But what happened to the old connection remains a mystery.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said that city records show

that the line was hooked up — at some time in the past.

"The best we can estimate is that the line or connection was taken out approximately 12 years ago," he continued. "We had some work done in that area. Apparently the connection was never put back."

Why did it take 12 years for the sewage to back up into buildings connected to the sewer line?

"We believe that waste was just absorbed into the ground, much like a dry-well or septic tank," he explained.

"But the area reached saturation and that's when it started backing up."

The line has been fixed, but now the city has another problem to face. Will property owners in the area who have been paying charges demand reimbursement from the city?

"So far, no one has mentioned anything about that," said the director. "I think that's a problem we'll have to confront if and when it comes up."

No Christmas lights for Hoboken?

Christmas in Hoboken just won't be the same this holiday season.

The tinsel garlands and twinkling lights that adorned the city's main shopping thoroughfare — Washington Street — will be absent, according to a spokesman for the city's Retail Bureau.

"It's regrettable," said William Roth, a member of the bureau's executive board. "But circumstances beyond our control make it impossible for the bureau to have the Christmas lighting and decorations put up for this year."

Roth said that the bureau has been notified by the contractor who has been doing the job for at least the last 40 years that he can't do it this year.

"Several of his key men left or were injured and he doesn't have enough men to do the job," said Roth. "And it's a little too late to get anyone else to do it, if we could find someone

we felt comfortable doing business with."

Roth said that there was a lot of putting up and taking down the decorations, much more than most people realized.

"There's insurance, electrical connections and getting permission from property owners to have the

poles and decorations on their property," he continued. "We have been dealing with this one firm for many, many years and have never had a complaint."

What about next year? Roth said the bureau would have to wait until then to see what the situation would be.

Hoboken Council receives bids today

The Hoboken City Council will receive bids at today's 8 p.m. meeting on rock salt, chlorine, the towing of abandoned cars and the repair of the heating system at the Jefferson Street recreation center.

The meeting is being held tonight to accommodate city officials who will leave after the meeting or tomorrow morning for the annual League of Municipalities convention underway in Atlantic City. The caucus will be held at 7 p.m.

Four ordinances revising the salary scale and fringe benefits for police and firemen for 1976 and next year will be introduced for their first reading at the meeting. The figures

haven't been accepted by the unionized employees who are still negotiating with the city on a new contract. However, the ordinances deal with money items which have already been accepted by the blue coats.

The council is expected to award a contract to the Burlington Construction Co. for the demolition of a building at 325 Monroe St. The company was the low bidder on the job with a price of \$2,320.

Two contracts between the city's Community Development Agency and engineering firms are expected to be approved by the council. One contract

is with a Boston firm for the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the City Hall building. The other is for the rehabilitation and improvement of the public works garage.

Both contracts will be awarded with the understanding that they will be void unless the city gets federal Public Works Act funds to pay for the projects.

Hoboken driving to get easier

Motorists who have found Hoboken intersections blocked by digging and pipe-laying equipment should soon have an easier time driving around the city.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said he has asked the contractor who is carrying out the city's water line rehabilitation project to park his equipment more carefully so motorists can pass.

He said that at some intersections, the contractor, the Ameron Co., placed its equipment near the center of the crossroads rather than on one of the cross streets.

"Three or four intersections have been tied up daily," he said. "People can't get through the city."

Vitale said the problem was compounded by the fact that sections of streets near schools are closed off during school opening and lunch-time hours.

State's criticism of relief office in Hoboken under study

The Hoboken Local Assistance Board will meet within two weeks to decide what action, if any, it should take as a result of a state audit showing that close to \$100,000 in city welfare expenditures is questionable, it was learned today.

According to a high city source, the board has met with Mayor Steve Cappiello concerning the state report on the welfare department but board members are not making any public comment. They refer all questions concerning the situation to the Hudson County Prosecutor.

The local assistance board has its regular meeting Tuesday night. But board sources say that nothing special is on the agenda other than regular business. However, a special meeting will probably be called for sometime next week for the sole purpose of reviewing the welfare situation.

While the full contents of the state's audit haven't been made public, it has been learned that

"poor" business and administrative practices have led the state to question between \$85,000 and \$100,000 in payments made by the welfare department.

According to the city source, local assistance board members have reviewed the audit but don't think there is anything new in it except for the amount of questionable expenditures. Ongoing investigations by city police and the state had already shown the administrative practices of the welfare department weren't good.

Jerry Forman, city welfare director, feels he and his staff will be exonerated when the investigation has been completed. He blames an inadequate staff and poor working conditions for the errors.

Forman says he is short-handed and has been for more than a year, and that three moves of the welfare department since last year added to the confusion and disorder.

Judge would get highest salary in Hoboken

Who is Hoboken's highest paid employee? If proposed city department budgets for 1977 are allowed to stand unchanged, it won't be the mayor or the law director or the city comptroller. It will be Municipal Court Judge Rudolph R. Naddeo, who will be getting approximately \$33,000 a year.

A review of the proposed budgets shows that most salaries are unchanged. However, in the municipal court division of the business administrator's office, it was noticed that Naddeo is in for a raise of more than \$13,000.

City records show that the judge is now getting \$17,500 a year plus 10 per cent longevity. His new proposed salary would be \$30,000 a year, or \$33,000 with his 10 per cent longevity.

Business Administrator Herman Bier said he didn't prepare the budget for the court office. It was done by someone on the judge's staff. Bier submitted it to Mayor Steve Cappiello as it was submitted to him.

Why such a large increase? According to the judge, it is to compensate him for eliminating most of his private practice so that he is more of a full-time judge.

"I will have to make myself more available for court business which would include court Wednesdays and any other days that a judge is needed," he continued. "It will mean the elimination of most, if not all of my private practice."

Naddeo said he doesn't think \$33,000 a year is excessive.

"The municipal court judges in Jersey City will be getting \$36,000 a year," he said. "I believe the amount of work I handle is equal to what they perform."

Although Naddeo will be more of a "full-time" judge it will not eliminate the need for the city to have an acting judge, a post now held by Chris G. Pappas.

Naddeo said that the city has to have a part-time judge sit when he was ill or on vacation. But those are the only times Pappas is authorized to fill in. Pappas gets \$7,500 a year.



FOR THE NEEDY — Josef Haas, left, Ralph Fabiano and Nancy Tortorelli, members of the National Junior Honor Society of Demarest Jr. High School, Hoboken, pack boxes with Thanksgiving foodstuffs they collected which will be distributed to needy families in the city.



This is the lane created on the east side of Hudson Street, Hoboken, to enable emergency vehicles to travel quickly in either direction between Fourth Street and Observer Highway.

Shore Road happiness a 1-way street?

By William H. Taft

Hoboken Councilman Walter Cramer said today he contemplates introducing an ordinance to make Shore Road one-way southbound, to eliminate what he said was a serious traffic menace at its northern terminus.

He said he may also ask to have Hudson Street made one-way southbound for its entire length from 14th Street to Observer Highway. It is

now one-way only from 11th Street south.

Shore Road, idle for many years, was restored to use early last summer, and has been attracting more and more traffic.

Cramer said that at the point where it swings west from the Hudson River and runs into the intersection of 11th and Hudson streets, traffic from Shore Road runs smack into the exit road of the parking lot of the Maxwell

House coffee plant.

This has caused a very serious condition when the day shift is leaving between 4:15 and 4:30 p.m., he said. "There was a bad accident when the lot was emptying out last week," the councilman said. "And there are many near misses and near fights. It's awful."

Shore Road is being increasingly used by fast traffic, and the situation is aggravated by cars parking on it near the coffee factory while the

owners await the hundreds of departing employees.

Cramer added that he would bring up the matter at the council's caucus Monday night.

He said that in his opinion the only alternative would be to install a traffic light at the three-way intersection, but this would cause tremendous backups in the Maxwell House parking lot, which the city would like to avoid.



THE BEST — Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, left, presents the 1978 Little League Championship trophy to Israel Quinones, center, and Salvatore Grasso, members of the team sponsored by St. Joseph's Church, during hot dog party held over the weekend for the champions in the Hoboken Young Democrats headquarters.

Hoboken welfare audit topic of special meeting

A special meeting of the Hoboken Public Assistance Board has been called for tomorrow night in the office of Mayor Steve Cappiello to discuss a report on a state audit which shows that almost \$100,000 in welfare funds were spent improperly, it was learned today.

Although city and welfare board officials and the Hudson County Prosecutor's office received copies of the report last week, no one is willing to comment on its exact contents — at least not for the record.

However, it was learned from high city sources that most of the irregularities deal with vouchers issued by the Hoboken Welfare Department that were not signed by Director Jerry Forman. Other vouchers were apparently issued improperly by welfare staff members, and in others the vouchers had not been signed by the welfare recipients or witnessed when the welfare customer could not write and used on "X."

State welfare officials confirmed that the report dealt with these items but would not pinpoint any employees or Forman as being directly responsible.

Meanwhile, Forman, who has not seen the report but has been apprised of its contents, said he wants "full disclosure" of the investigation, including details that apparently were left out by the state.

"I am not contesting what the report says, but what it doesn't say

and the implications that result by this failure," he said. "There have definitely been a number of technical oversights but I believe these can be accounted for by the fact that this office is greatly understaffed and has been forced to move three times during 1975. Moving alone was enough to throw everything into a state of confusion."

"It is true that some of the vouchers were not signed or initialed by me. But it should be explained that we have a system of checks to account for this. If the voucher wasn't signed or initialed the requisition authorizing payment was."

According to Forman, the amount questioned by the state is some \$96,000. Of that, \$48,000 was for medical bills at St. Mary Hospital.

"I doubt very seriously if anyone believes that St. Mary Hospital would bill the city and welfare for services it did not perform," he continued. "The voucher for this wasn't signed or initialed but the payment authorization was."

Forman added that the state has a number of "quality control" staff assigned to the Hoboken welfare office and they haven't found anything drastically wrong with the operation.

The director said that the office was moving again this week — from 360 First St. to a new office on Second Street, just off Washington Street — and that would probably put things into a state of confusion again.

Hoboken must resubmit 3 of 6 projects to US

By ROMAN CZAJKOWSKI

Hoboken must resubmit at least three of six applications for construction projects the city wants funded under the federal Public Works Act.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said yesterday applications for approval of the projects were returned because items on the applications were "missing or incorrectly prepared." The three projects are the rehabilitation of public schools; completion of the city's water line repair program; and rehabilitation of John F. Kennedy Veterans Memorial Stadium.

According to a letter from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Commerce Department, which handles the applications, the city must resubmit the applications by tomorrow if it wants the projects to be included in the EDA's top selection category.

"It's ridiculous," the visibly annoyed mayor said. "I receive the letter today and we have only until Dec. 1 to resubmit the projects."

"I think it's an effort to avoid automatic approval" of the projects, Cappiello added.

Law Explained

Under the 1976 Public Works Act, an application for project funding is deemed to be okayed "if it is not approved or disapproved within 60 days after receipt," according to guidelines set down in the bill.

The three projects, for which the city is seeking a total of \$9.1 million, must be resubmitted for approval primarily because they are located in an area officially designated as wetlands, and therefore prone to "special flood hazards," according to the EDA.

Cappiello said the area, located in the western part of the city, originally consisted of swamps before it was filled in.

The EDA now wants the city to submit with the applications, information from the U.S. Corps of Engineers on that land, the mayor said.

"I'll have to turn the applications over to the project writers and consulting engineers, and we'll probably have to hand deliver them" to the regional EDA office in Philadelphia to meet the Dec. 1 deadline, the mayor added.

The three projects the city must resubmit for approval are part of an \$18 million grant Hoboken is seeking from the federal government under the Public Works Act.

In addition to the three projects, the city has applied for \$3.6 million to rehabilitate and restore City Hall; \$730,000 for rehabilitation and improvement of the city's public works garage on Observer Highway; and \$4.8 million for redevelopment of the Erie Lackawanna terminal.

Hoboken set to act if bluecoats sign

If Hoboken's police and fire unions sign new pacts with the city by tomorrow's city council meeting, the city fathers will immediately complete the paperwork required to assure bluecoats' pay raises for 1976-77.

The local unit of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA) is expected to sign its contract today, while their counterparts in the local International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) are due to ratify their agreement tomorrow.

Under the respective contract proposals, Police Chief George Crimmins and Fire Chief Patrick Carmody, each of whom bargain separately for their pay, would have their present annual pay of \$25,800 raised to \$26,645 immediately retroactive to Jan. 1 and to \$28,945 a year by Jan. 1, 1977.

Should the council approve the contracts at tomorrow's session, the bluecoats would also be entitled to immediate payments of \$845 in "holiday

increments" per man for 1976 retroactive to Jan. 1.

Deputy Fire Chiefs and police captains, under the proposed pacts, would earn \$21,573 a year for now and \$23,396 a year for 1977.

Fire captains and police lieutenants, as outlined in the contracts, would collect an annual pay of \$16,674 now and \$18,967 next year.

Police sergeants would, under the agreement, get \$14,738 a year this year and \$15,960 next year.

There would be parity pay for rank-and-file patrolmen and firemen: Starting pay would go from the current scale of \$10,000 a year to \$10,845. The new pay rate for three years of service would be \$12,795 this year and \$13,845 in 1977.

Other matters discussed at last night's council caucus were:

- Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer's concern about a "dangerous" traffic situation at the northern end of Shore Road, particularly by 11th and Hudson streets, near Maxwell House parking facilities. Mayor Steve Cappiello said he'll have the "police experts look at it."

- Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francione's desire to have 226 Madison St. torn down. Public Works Director Raphael Vitale says "people in the area can't get (fire) insurance" because of conditions in the vacant four-story frame building.

- Foreclosure proceedings against the owners of the Fifth and Sixth Street piers, former Todd shipyard and an old factory site overlapping Observer Highway and Bloomfield Street, which owe the city more than \$1.2 million in back taxes.

- Plans by Brennan to allow prospective bidders to mail their prices in sealed envelopes to the city clerk rather than having to appear at a council meeting.

- Reappointment of Richard Eversen as a member of the city parking authority effective tomorrow. Eversen, currently chairman, would have a five-year term.

Hoboken puts off paying for new alarms

Hoboken has decided to hold back almost \$40,000 owed to a company that installed 10 voice fire alarms, it was learned today. Mayor Steve Cappiello, who is also Hoboken's Public Safety Director, said the city is refusing to pay because of problems with the system and dissatisfaction with efforts to put things in order.

The mayor said that after discussing the situation with Thomas Vecchione, head of the signal division, he decided to withhold the payment.

Vecchione said nine of the voice alarm boxes have been installed, but most of them don't work properly.

"We are still using double alarms on the poles," he said, "the voice alarms plus the old pull-type alarms because we can't rely 100 per cent on the voice alarms."

Vecchione said that the contractor was the J. W. Signal Co. The alarms were manufactured by the Harrington Corp.

Hazard eliminated

A large steel plate covering an excavation on Fifth Street, where men were working on Hoboken's water lines, has been put back in place, eliminating a hazard to passing cars.

The plate, located just east of Willow Avenue on Fifth Street, had been shifted last week, leaving a gap into which the tires of small compact cars could have easily fallen into.

Cappiello won't take any more of their rubbish

Representatives of three Hudson County private carting firms don't know it yet, but they're to have a private audience this week with Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello to get the word — stop dumping illegally in Hoboken or be arrested the next time they do it.

According to the mayor, several private carting firms have been illegally dumping rubbish at the city's rubbish staging area on Grand Street — between 16th and 17th Streets — for some time. Three of the firms have not been identified.

"I won't say who they are because they haven't been notified yet, and I wouldn't want them to read

it in the newspapers before hearing from me," said the mayor. "But I am scheduling a meeting with them for this week to advise them that they must stop or get arrested."

"I could have summonses issued to them right now for illegal dumping, but that would be too easy for them. They'd pay the fine and that would be the end of it. Besides, they are small private firms, which makes it easier to handle on a personal basis."

"When we meet they will be advised that the city has had the dump watched and photographs have been taken of trucks from their firms dumping rubbish in the city's lot on Grand Street. We will continue to watch the area and if their trucks are ever seen dumping in it again, the operators of the trucks will be arrested and a police officer sent to the office of the company to arrest representatives of the firm."

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said that the illegal dumping has gotten the city into trouble with the state, which on several occasions has threatened to close the dump site because of the mess.

"The city dumps there, but the

rubbish we dump goes directly into large containers and is compacted," he said. "When the containers are full the contractor hired by the city takes them away and puts in an empty one."

Vitale said that the private firms don't bother with the containers, and dump their rubbish anywhere in the area so they can get out as quickly as possible.

The area was fenced off by the city, but the carting company drivers get around the fence by going through the parking area of a company just west of the dump site.

Hoboken forum set on sewerage issue

How is Hoboken's recent withdrawal from the Hudson County Sewerage Authority going to affect city residents?

The Hoboken Environment Committee hopes to find that out tomorrow night when it meets with representatives of the authority, the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and city officials at Stevens Institute of Technology.

A spokesman for the committee said that the forum will start at 8 p.m. on the second floor of the college library. The event is open to the public. Admission is free.

By a formal city council resolution,

Hoboken withdrew from the county authority several weeks ago.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said the city had good reasons for withdrawing from the authority.

"Some of our larger industrial taxpayers are concerned with what the cost of the authority is going to be to them," he said. "And we couldn't tell them."

"However, we have good reason to believe that because of our industry Hoboken would be paying a bigger share of the county-wide authority's cost than other municipalities with the same or larger populations."

Law department asks OK for Hoboken foreclosures

The Hoboken Law Department will seek authorization from the city council to institute foreclosure proceedings on three properties — including the old Holland American Piers — for non-payment of taxes.

A resolution authorizing the action is on the agenda for the council's meeting at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Also included in the resolution are the Condenser Service building and land on Observer Highway between Bloomfield and Garden Streets, and the Cosmopolitan Terminals Inc. property in the northeast section of the city, formerly the Todd Shipyard. The city already has tax liens on all of the properties.

The council is expected to approve the resolution.

Council approval is also expected on specifications for the demolition of 124 Jefferson St. and the advertising for bids on the work. The owner of the building, Michael Spano, had promised the council last month that he would have the demolition work done himself and was able to get the city to put aside taking action on specifications at that time.

But according to a Public Works Department spokesman, the demolition never took place and the city is

now going to have it done for him. A lien will be placed on the property equal to the cost of the work.

Bids on the repair and replacement of the boiler and heating system in the Jefferson Street Recreation Center are to be rejected by the council on the recommendation of Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale and new estimates sought. The new proposals will be due at the council's Jan. 5 meeting.

Conflict holds up \$200,000 for Hoboken

Legal technicalities appear to be holding up the payment of approximately \$200,000 to Hoboken by the owners of the two apartment houses in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza complex, it was learned today.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he is arranging a meeting between the owners, the city and its law department, and, if necessary, representatives of the state Housing Finance Agency (HFA) which financed the two 25-story dwelling units.

"There is a difference of opinion over how that money should be applied," said the mayor. "The owners feel that it should be used to cancel out some \$40,000 in back taxes owed on the land that the buildings were erected on. The city's opinion is that the \$200,000 are funds collected in rents and should be the total in lieu of tax payment with no portion being applied to the back taxes."

Hoboken recently took possession of a tax title lien on the two pieces of property because the owners — Marineview Housing Associates — had not paid any taxes on them since

taking title several years ago. Under the terms of the agreement with the city, the corporation was to pay taxes on the land until the buildings were constructed and started to rent. At that point the owners would start paying the city 15 per cent of the money collected in rents instead of taxes.

"I have spoken with representatives of the owners and they assure me that there is something like \$200,000, maybe more, in escrow which will be paid to the city when this matter has been settled," continued Cappiello.

The mayor said he was trying to have the meeting at the earliest possible date because he wanted the matter resolved in time to include the money in his budget for next year.

"If we can work this out before the end of the year the city possibly could get the payment and include it in next year's budget as a surplus," he said. "Additionally, we could anticipate a like amount as revenue for the city during 1977."

The mayor added that he wasn't taking the word of the owners that there was money in escrow for the city and has asked them to provide the city with official verification from their bank.



Mrs. Rose Gastelu and her grandson Gary Gastelu relax in the renovated kitchen at 337 Washington St., Hoboken.

They help to rebuild Hoboken

By Peter Hallam

No one can deny that within the last 10 years Hoboken and her officials have been able to reverse the city's downhill course basically through ridding the city of blighted areas and providing new and rehabilitated housing.

But they have had help and it has come from an unexpected source — private property owners who have spent thousands to make their buildings better for themselves and for their tenants. And most of the

money came from their own savings, not from low interest government-financed programs.

Isidro and Rose Gastelu, the owners of 337 Washington St., are more than prime examples of the average small Hoboken property owners who have spent money to improve and keep up their buildings. Gastelu is 72 and his wife, the family spokesman, is 68.

The Gastelus bought the building 18 years ago. Four years ago they started improving it. First, they had the north side of the corner building re-bricked. Last year, the back of the building was done. And this year it was the front. Next year the south side will be done.

During this period, the Gastelus also had the kitchen in their top floor apartment done over.

Why should this elderly couple invest a sizable portion of their life savings on their home?

"We love Hoboken," explained Mrs. Gastelu. "Our parents and grandparents helped build this city and we like to see it looking nice. It's the people who buy property in buildings but live out of town that ruined this city. They just didn't care about it as long as they were making a buck."

People do move out of Hoboken, but it is Mrs. Gastelu's opinion that they take a small part of the city with them and never completely get it out of their systems.

"They may move out but their hearts are still there," she says. "I don't know how many people I know that moved out — and then moved back after a couple of years. They couldn't stay away."

If one can spare the time to take a tour of Hoboken it isn't difficult to spot buildings that are owned by people who think the same way as Rose and Isidro Gastelu. They're old but well kept. Usually they sport fresh coats of paint, new siding and clean sidewalks.

The Gastelus definitely aren't alone. There's a whole lot of people who are about Hoboken — especially their little part of it.

Probe cause of derailment in Hoboken

ConRail officials today were trying to figure out why a boxcar carrying potash derailed from a 28-car freight line, damaging a Hoboken commercial firm in the process.

No injuries were reported by either Con Rail or local police.

A ConRail spokesman said the train, running on an old Erie-Lackawanna single track, was traveling west from Weehawken to the Croton freight yards near the Jersey City-Seacaucus border.

Police said one car near the middle of the line toppled over around 5:20 p.m. in the area of 800 Jackson St., striking the west wall of Casolino's Fuel Service, operated by William Casolino of Ho-Ho-Kus and owned by Charles Casolino of Jersey City.

The wall, which police described as about 20 feet high and 50 feet long, collapsed and the rubble fell on an auto owned by Fred Buckley of Lakewood and a diesel tractor parked inside the building.

Police said the debris covered piping, a welding machine, copper tubing and oil burning equipment. They said the building's roof and yard were also damaged.

The derailment, said police, left 11 cars stranded on the track and a ConRail crew worked into the night trying to hook the overturned car back onto the track.

Apparently no one was inside the Jackson Street property at the time of the incident.

The ConRail spokesman said only a conductor, engineer and brakeman were aboard the train at the time.

Vitale warns on water

Continued from Page 1

quires periodic shutdowns so that the company can work on repairing and replacing the lines," said Vitale. "But shutting down the system without giving any advance notice so residents can prepare for it isn't right."

Vitale said the number of complaints the city has been getting has been increasing steadily since the

summer. The situation has been brought to the attention of the company a number of times in the past.

"The company that did work on our water lines last year didn't have any problems with giving residents advance notice," continued Vitale. "So there isn't any reason why this company can't do the same thing."

Four applications being revised

Hoboken Community Development Agency planners and consultants are racing against time to revise four applications for more than \$12 million in federal Public Works Act funds before 4 p.m. today — and they expect to make that deadline.

The "mad rush" was dictated by the regional office of the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Agency (EDA) in Philadelphia, which notified the city Monday that three of its six applications for Public Works funds were being

returned and yesterday returned a fourth one. The city was also notified that it still wanted the projects considered for funding in the "top selection category" the applications must be resubmitted by no later than 4 p.m. today with the needed corrections. All of the applications were returned because certain items were "missing or incorrectly prepared," according to Mayor Steve Capriello.

Capriello said that the applications were for \$4.5 million for the repair of the schools, \$4.3 million for water line replacement, and \$341,250 for improvements to the John F. Kennedy Veterans Memorial Stadium. Yesterday, the city's application for \$3.6 million to rehabilitate City Hall was returned.

The mayor said that the applications for \$730,000 for the rehabilitation and modernization of the city's public works garage and \$4.8 million for the redevelopment of the Erie Lackawanna terminal area haven't been questioned but he wouldn't be surprised if they, too, were returned.

Mayor Capriello and CDA planners were very disturbed by the return of the applications.

Employees due to OK pact

Hoboken non-uniformed municipal employees today were expected to give their approval to a new one-year labor contract which their negotiators and the city tentatively agreed to last night.

Councilman Robert Ranieri, the city's labor negotiator, said the new pact would cover all clerical and blue collar workers. It was the second formal session held by Ranieri with an eight-member employee negotiating committee headed by Mrs. Helen Ladato and George Paproth.

Ranieri said he was pleased that

an agreement had been reached. He pointed out that when he accepted the role of labor negotiator he hoped to complete all labor talks by Jan. 1. With last night's apparent settlement, he said, only five officers remain without a contract. He urged them to sign a proposed new contract bearing the same wording concerning vacancies and promotions as that in firemen and police contracts.

Terms of the new agreement with the non-uniformed workers will not be announced until the membership has been polled, Ranieri said.

Hoboken Oks pact with police; firemen wait

The Hoboken City Council has approved the new three-year police contract but has delayed for three weeks approval of the firemen's contract because fire department officers are still balking at the package.

The council acted last night on the police agreement which calls for no salary increase this year, an 8.9 percent increase next year and a 7.8 percent hike the following year. It covers both policemen and officers.

But because the fire contract has not been approved by the rank and file but not by the officers a similar ordinance covering both could not be acted on at last night's meeting. A new ordinance for just the firemen was introduced and a public hearing and final action scheduled for the next council meeting Jan. 5.

24-hour trap for dumpers

Hoboken sanitation inspectors and police will be keeping an around-the-clock eye on the city's closed rubbish staging area on Grand Street to make sure no one illegally dumps there while the city is cleaning it up.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today that he personally hopes that someone tries to dump at the staging area between 16th and 17th streets.

"If we catch anyone, and that's highly probable if anyone tries to dump there, we're going to throw the book at them — plus the table and a couple of chairs," asserted Vitale. "Our plan is to arrest them immediately under state law, not a city ordinance. Once the matter comes to

court, the city will seek the maximum fine if the person is found guilty."

Hoboken has been cited by the state Department of Environmental Protection for allowing the rubbishstaging area to encroach on the city's sewage treatment plant property. As a result, the city has permanently closed the staging area and is taking rubbish it collects during the day directly to the dump in Kearny.

At the same time, it is trying to remove the accumulated rubbish at the staging area.

According to Vitale, the main reason the city finds itself in its current position is because of illegal dumping at the site.

Insurance firms shun Hoboken policy bids

Hoboken's first attempt at putting all of its insurance needs out for competitive bidding has proven less than successful. The city has received only one bid and it doesn't cover all of the things the city was looking for.

In spite of the shortcomings, Business Administrator Herman Bier has written to the city council advising it to accept the one bid because the city's existing policies are about to expire and there isn't enough time until then to readvertise for new bids.

The process started last year when the city hired a Maryland firm to assess its insurance situation to see exactly what coverage was needed and to prepare specifications for it. The evaluation was completed in the early part of the year and the results turned over to the city council.

The council, in turn, handed over the results to Walter Hartye, the city's insurance coordinator, who gave them over to the Law Department for preparation into resolution form.

On two occasions, the council put the specifications out for bids. On the first, Garibaldi-Spector Insurance Service was the only company to show up, but it didn't bid. Instead, a representative of the firm told the council that it had not given enough time to digest the specifications and

at least 30 days more would be needed before it could come up with a bid. The council agreed to readvertise and last month Garibaldi-Spector submitted a proposal. Again, it was the only company to appear.

Among the items the city received no bids on were police professional liability, lawyers professional liability, municipal legal liability, and comprehensive fleet coverage.

"The city wanted automatic fleet coverage," said Bier. "Any new vehicles the city added to its inventory during the course of the year would automatically be included in the policy. But that coverage wasn't given. Instead, every new vehicle must be reported immediately if it is to be covered. And every old vehicle that is disposed of during the year must also be reported or the city must pay the coverage."

In spite of the drawbacks, Bier said that both he and Mayor Steve Capriello believe the council should accept the bid.

"It's the best we're going to do," he asserted. "What of the coverage the city desired but didn't get? Bier said that the city could still "shop around" for it. However, some effort has already been made along those lines — without success."

Some fire hydrants freezing in Hoboken

Some sections in the southern portion of Hoboken were expected to be without water again today because fire hydrants supplying above-ground temporary water lines have been freezing up from the sudden cold weather.

As a result of the possible fire hazard, Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today that he has asked the company working on the lines to consider postponing any further work on the project until the spring. But the company's initial reaction has been to keep going.

The waterline repair and replacement program is being done by Ameron, a California-based corporation. It is handling phase two of the

replacement program, which was started last year by a Newark firm.

Vitale said that he understood the company's reluctance to stop the job.

"Stopping the job now could mean the difference between making a profit or losing money, and I can understand why they want to keep going," the director continued. "It means dispersing workmen and equipment to jobs elsewhere and then bringing them back again when the weather warms up. That could be costly, especially if the company has to bury the temporary lines for the winter and then dig them up again when the job is started again."

"However, the city's main concern must be the safety of its citizens."

Vitale said that if a satisfactory schedule couldn't be worked out he would take the matter up with the City Council and Mayor Steve Capriello.

"If I have to order the company to stop the work and come back in the spring I think it should be with the consent of the mayor and council," he said.

According to Vitale, the city's fire hydrants are filled with antifreeze during the winter months to keep them from freezing. When one is opened for fire fighting purposes it is refilled after the operation has been completed.

Malfetti will check CDA bills to see they ring true

Is it necessary for the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) to ring up \$1,300 a month in telephone bills?

Sixth Ward Councilman Nunzio Malfetti has accepted the explanation given by the CDA for last month's phone bill, but will be paying special attention to future bills run up by the agency.

Malfetti, who has been a constant critic of the CDA, said he felt there was much "waste" in the CDA's operation that could be eliminated by tighter control on the city's part.

"The council has a tendency to be more lenient with the CDA on spending because it is using mostly funds that come through the federal government," he said. "But this is wrong. We should get our money's worth from the CDA just like any other city agency."

Malfetti said that he and Councilman Francis Leahy would thoroughly examine all future CDA bills to make sure that the money

wasn't being spent carelessly.

The councilman said that he was also concerned with accounting for the time of some CDA employees.

"I have received some complaints concerning the availability of certain employees within the CDA," continued Malfetti. "It appears that some employees spend as much time out of their offices as they do in them. Possibly the time away from their desks is justified, but then again maybe it isn't."

"It is also very common when someone is not in the office for his staff or superiors not to know where he is. I don't know how many times I have been looking for one CDA representative or another only to have their co-workers or secretaries tell me that they were at a meeting but they didn't know where or when they'd be back."

Malfetti said he planned to take this matter up with the council's CDA committee.

Hoboken sewage stand faces review

The Hoboken Environment Committee's executive committee will meet shortly to consider what stand, if any, to take on the city's refusal — for now — to participate in a plan being developed by the Hudson County Sewerage Authority to treat wastes on a countywide basis.

Helen Manogue, committee chairman, presided at a forum on the situation last night on the Stevens Institute of Technology campus attended by some 50 members of the public and representatives of concerned parties.

One of those parties, Russell

Nerlich of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), outlined "how grants are made by the federal government to areas participating in facility planning studies for waste treatment."

Based on Nerlich's presentation, said Mrs. Manogue, "it appears that if Hoboken insists on staying out of the authority's plan that the federal people wouldn't sponsor an individual project submitted by Hoboken."

"That's because the DEP selects who does the planning for a given region and they've selected the

authority in this region and the authority's plan would get priority for funding."

"The authority would have the right to veto giving funds to a municipality on that basis," she added.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Capriello, a participant in the forum, with City Council President Martin Brennan, told the audience, according to Mrs. Manogue, it would be "more economical" for the city to go it alone on a plan for improving local sewage treatment, but the mayor mentioned no cost figures, she said. An authority spokesman, she said, estimated it would cost \$400 million for the countywide project.

Capriello, said Mrs. Manogue, complained that federal environmentalists in New York misplaced an application filed by the city for construction funds to rebuild the 11th Street pumping station.

Also on hand for the forum from the authority were Richard Jenny, executive director; Frank Fahy, counsel; and members Jerome Lazarus, Joseph DeMartino and Fred James.

Firm freezes fixing Hoboken water lines

Ameron, the company that has been working on the second phase of Hoboken's water line repair and replacement program, is calling it quits for the winter.

A spokesman for the California-based company said that most of the work will be curtailed until there is warmer weather, although it will continue with a couple of other projects in the city.

"We have stopped all work on the water lines," said Edward Koonz, the spokesman. "All buildings are being re-connected to the city's underground lines and taken off the temporary above-ground lines we put in during the summer."

Koonz said that the company has completed approximately half of the work it contracted to do, in the city.

Hoboken library acquisitions

A total of 417 new books were purchased by the Hoboken Public Library last month, Lucille Cunningham, director said today. Many of the new volumes have been delivered and are now available to library members.

Some of the new books are:

To Jerusalem and Back: A Personal Account, by Saul Bellow; Judgment: A Case of Medical Malpractice, by Gail Kessler; Domestic Particulars: A Family Chronicle, by Frederick Busch; Fire and Ice: The Story of Charles Reardon — the Man Who Built the Revlon Empire, by Andrew Tobias; America in our Time: From World War II to Nixon, What Happened and Why, by George H. Nash; The Last Nine Minutes: The Story of a Murder, by John Edgar Wideman; The Story of Agatha Christie: A Novel, by John Updike;

The Takeover: A Novel, by Muriel Spark; Intermittence: A True Story, by Anne Baxter; Genius and Lust: A Journey Through the Mind, by Norman Mailer; The West: A Novel, by Alexander Solzhenitsyn; The Time of Miracles: A Legend, by Boris Pasternak; The West: A Novel, by Alexander Solzhenitsyn; The Time of Miracles: A Legend, by Boris Pasternak; The West: A Novel, by Alexander Solzhenitsyn; The Time of Miracles: A Legend, by Boris Pasternak;

The West: A Novel, by Alexander Solzhenitsyn; The Time of Miracles: A Legend, by Boris Pasternak; The West: A Novel, by Alexander Solzhenitsyn; The Time of Miracles: A Legend, by Boris Pasternak; The West: A Novel, by Alexander Solzhenitsyn; The Time of Miracles: A Legend, by Boris Pasternak;

Hoboken still looking gift buses in the mouth

Hoboken is having second thoughts about accepting two brand new buses from the federal government even though the vehicles are free.

According to Mayor Steve Capriello, a decision should be made this week on whether the city can put the two vehicles to enough use to justify the cost of operating them.

"We can have them for nothing, just by asking," said the mayor. "But once we take possession of them we have to contend with operating costs and they aren't free any longer. The city has to put the tires on the vehicles — at \$200 a tire — and each bus is equipped with six plus a spare. Then there is the matter of insurance and personnel to operate them."

Capriello said that he wants to accept the two buses but there is some

serious doubt about whether the city can put them to enough use to justify the operational cost.

"The buses are worth \$50,000 each and are 33 feet long," he continued. "That's not the biggest bus made, nor is it the smallest. But its size and passenger load precludes use in the cross-town operation unless we want to get involved with the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) again on fares and routes."

The mayor explained that as long as the city's bus carries 10 passengers or less it can control the operation without PUC approval. But increasing the passenger load will again bring the operation under PUC regulations.

"We may be able to use the buses on the senior citizen route, which is free," continued the mayor. "That possibility is being looked into."

Hoboken to air welfare probe

Hoboken Mayor Steve Capriello has called a special meeting of the city's Local Assistance Board for Thursday night to discuss what action the board and city should take as a result of a state report which showed close to \$100,000 in questionable expenditures by the city's Welfare Department this year.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the mayor's office.

Mayor Capriello said he plans to go over the state's report with the board members to determine if action should be taken against Welfare Director Jerry Forman or any members of his staff. However, the mayor said that he believed that the city's course of action should be

stayed until law enforcement authorities have decided what, if anything, they are going to do.

"The report on the Welfare Department was conducted by the auditors for the state welfare authorities," said the mayor. "A copy of the report or audit has been turned over to the Hudson County prosecutor."

"I believe that any action the city or local assistance board might want to take on this matter should be reserved until the prosecutor has decided if he is going to pursue the case on the belief that the irregularities are criminal in nature."

"The city's course would be along the lines of departmental action

which might result in suspensions or dismissals. But criminal charges are more serious and would have priority over departmental action."

Forman has not contested the findings in the report, but claims that insufficient staff and the fact that the welfare office was forced to move three times during the year caused the irregularities. According to city sources who have seen the report, most of the irregularities were attributed to "poor business and accounting practices" but no mention was made if that might be grounds for criminal charges.

The after-meeting dinners have been a touchy point with some board members and citizens who closely follow the board's activities. However, the practice is a long-standing one and had never been discontinued. The general feeling is that the board members are unsalaried and that dinner for them once or twice a month at the board's expense is a small payment for the time they put in on school business.

However, Mrs. Gaspar feels that there might be some "excesses" involved and for the time being the practice should be stopped entirely.

Hoboken terminal project seen as boon

Of all the projects Hoboken has submitted to the federal government for funding under the Public Works Act of 1976 none is considered more important than the rehabilitation and development of the Erie Lackawanna Railroad terminal area by the city's Community Development Agency (CDA).

"It is the key to the development of a much larger area," says Fred M. Bado, CDA director.

"In itself it is relatively a small area but we are sure that it is going to generate other activities that will have far-reaching impact on adjoining areas of the city. It should be of direct benefit to the Washington Street area and First Street."

The completed project is expected to cost approximately \$10 million but the city is applying for only \$8 million for the initial part of

the project.

Bado said that most of the \$8 million will be spent on improving the area and the buildings in the terminal complex. This will include a plaza area outside the ferry terminal, a waterfront park with a band shell, and the improvement of sidewalks and traffic area, with landscaping. It will tie in with a City Hall restoration project.

Perhaps the only thing wrong with the project is the name that was chosen for it.

"The Erie Lackawanna implies several things that have given many persons the wrong concept of what it is about and what we hope it will accomplish," said Bado. "Some believe that we are approaching the project as something that will be beneficial to commuters. We aren't. It will be beneficial to them but that is not the objective."

"We are trying to generate residential and commercial activity for Hoboken people, not for commuters passing through. Actually the commercial end of the project has been treated rather lightly. What we are trying to do is create a setting into which these activities will fit."

Bado added that the project is viewed by some as a threat to local businesses, especially along First and Washington Streets.

"Again, it is a wrong impression," he continued. "We are not catering to business or trying to give them an advantage over any local

people. There will be about 100,000 square feet of commercial floor space available for stores or shops but there are catches that go with it."

"First, we won't be developing stores for anyone who wants that space. That will be left up to the individual and their own plans and needs. Secondly, they'll have to take care of their own financing although we may be able to help some by obtaining low-interest loans for them. But those loans will also be available to First Street and Washington Street merchants if they want to make improvements."

Seek \$6,000 in dinner bills

Who is responsible for a reported \$6,000 in unpaid dinner bills incurred by the Hoboken Board of Education at a local restaurant?

That's what Mrs. Mary Gaspar, board president, is trying to find out. And that's what is causing some bitter disagreements among other members of the school board.

According to a letter sent by Mrs. Gaspar to the board's attorney and all the board members, a local restaurant has started or is threatening to start legal suit against the board for the payment of some \$6,000 in bills for dinners and drinks incurred by members or board employees.

Mrs. Gaspar confirmed that the letter has been sent but declined to discuss all of the details. She said the possibility of the suit was brought to

her attention and she has asked Robert W. Taylor, the attorney, for an explanation.

She said she expected a reply from Taylor at the board's meeting Tuesday night.

"A number of questions have come up that make this situation very interesting," she said. "I can understand someone suing if they have not been paid what is due them. But that implies that payment was refused in the first place. To the best of my knowledge, none of these bills have ever been presented to the board, and I'd like to know why?"

"I have also asked our attorney to present the board with the dates the bills were incurred and the names of the board members or employees who signed the checks."

In the meantime, Mrs. Gaspar has

May sue over demolition

Hoboken is looking into the possibility of a suit against a property owner for \$20,000 which it cost the city to demolish three of his buildings after learning the same owner recently received approximately \$125,000 on the sale of other property for a city-related project.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today the city's Law Department is investigating the possibility of a suit against Armand Jermakian for demolition work the city paid for on 259-261-263 11th Street several years ago.

"The city took down the buildings because they were in a dangerous condition following a general alarm fire and the owner would not authorize or pay for the work himself," said the councilman. "The job cost Hoboken \$20,000. I also understand that there

was a healthy insurance settlement on the property but the facts on that are not actually known to me."

The fire occurred three years ago and was one of the worst in the city's modern history. Eleven persons, most of them children, lost their lives in the general alarm blaze which started in 263 but quickly spread to 261 and 259 causing extensive damage.

According to Ranieri, Jermakian was also the owner of several apartment buildings at Ninth and Clinton streets which were recently sold to Applied Housing for a rehabilitation project.

"It does not seem logical to me that a property owner should be able to stick the city with a \$20,000 demolition bill and then make a profit on the sale of other property for a city-related project," the councilman asserted.

"I have discussed the possibility of a suit against the owner with the law department and Director (Lawrence) Florio feels that the city may have a point worth arguing in court. He is looking into the law and, if feasible, we will start a suit."

Hoboken has tax liens on the three properties and should start foreclosure proceedings on them during the early part of next year.

8% raise OK'd in Hoboken

With only three opposing votes, Hoboken municipal employees have accepted the city's offer of an 8 per cent pay increase for next year plus a \$100 clothing allowance for workers required to wear uniforms on the job.

The Hoboken Municipal Employees Association, which represents 280 city workers, is notifying officials today that it has approved the city's offer. The employees voted on the pact yesterday afternoon in the city council chambers. The meeting was called by Helen Lodato, president.

The nearly unanimous vote surprised some of the members since there had been talk that the workers would not accept any contract which did not include a \$500 pay increase for 1976. Some said the city had not kept its promise for an \$850 pay increase this year as part of a two-year package agreed in 1975.

The \$100 uniform allowance would go to certain members of the public works crews and would probably also be sought by school crossing guards and city nurses, one association spokesman said.

Hoboken sewerage plant 'unacceptable'

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has slapped an "unacceptable" rating on the Hoboken sewerage treatment plant and given the city until Jan. 10 to tell the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in writing what it will do to correct the violations that prompted the unsatisfactory rating.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city council and most other city officials yesterday received the notification in a certified letter from William B. Honachefsky, manager of the Raritan-Interstate Basin Pollution Control Monitoring, Surveillance and Enforcement Element.

The rating is the result of an inspection made at the plant on Oct. 7. The results were not anticipated by city officials, nor do they contest them. However, Cappiello said that the city has already done much to make corrections.

"I have discussed the problem with Public Works director Raphael P. Vitale and Roy Haack, our treatment plant manager, and we feel that much has been done since the initial inspection was made to correct some of the violations," he said.

"In fact, there is only one major problem remaining and that has nothing directly to do with the operation of the plant. And that is the rubbish staging area along Grand Street. The state wants it out of there, but the facility is needed. We just have to figure out where else we can put it."

"All of the other matters covered in the report have either been corrected, are in the process of being corrected or are waiting for the city to get prices for the repairs."

Cappiello said he did not anticipate any difficulty on the city's part in complying with the order to reply within 30 days.

Meanwhile, the mayor said that Hoboken has contacted Weehawken and Union City officials concerning the formation of a Tri-city sewerage authority and received a favorable response. However, a formal meeting has not been set to discuss the proposal.

The mayor said that Hoboken is putting together a presentation with facts and figures. As soon as it is ready a formal meeting will be held.

According to the mayor, a great deal of political and governmental pressure is being put on the city to stay in the Hudson County Sewerage Authority. But the city believes that the cost of continued participation in the authority would be too much for the city and it would be cheaper to upgrade its own plant.

Revenues up for parking body

Richard Eversen was re-elected chairman of the Hoboken Parking Authority at the panel's annual reorganization meeting last night.

Also re-elected were John Muciaccia, vice-chairman; Edwin Chius, secretary, and Richard England, treasurer.

The panel reported that the number of spaces leased in the authority's garages reached 884 during October, continuing an upward trend. Eversen said it was expected that the figure would top 900 when statistics are compiled for November.

The authority heard the report of its independent consultant, Edison Parking Corp. of Newark, approving the panel's \$316,000 budget for 1977. The fiscal package must now be sent to the trustees, the Trust Company of New Jersey.

The authority approved the leasing and improvement of the Washington Savings Bank parking lot adjacent to the bank at 103 Washington St. and agreed to shift its regular meeting times to the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Fire officers may win dispute over clause

Hoboken's fire officers will meet tonight to decide what they will do in response to the city's withdrawal, without the officers' approval, of a clause from the contract they ratified several months ago. However, high city sources say that the matter may be resolved before then — in the fire officers' favor.

According to the source, it appears that the fire officers are right and the city will either have to honor the contract they voted to accept or try to convince the union to resume negotiations on the matter.

"It isn't a matter of right or wrong, good or bad, but one of procedures," he said. "There is a proper way of handling labor matters. Amending a contract without the consent of both parties after one side has agreed to it isn't the way."

Capt. William Bergin, president of the Fire Officers Association, appeared at Wednesday night's council meeting and produced a handwritten copy of the controversial clause concerning the promotion of men. He said the handwriting was that of Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, the city's labor negotiator, and that the councilman had also initiated the clause for insertion in the contract.

According to Ranieri, the material was his and he did initial it, but this was before the conclusion of contract talks and subsequent changes were made.

The high source said that the city will probably ask the fire officers to sit down and resume negotiations on the matter.

Meanwhile, the city's non-uniformed employees are to meet Monday afternoon and vote on the proposal for a 1977 contract. According to members of the Municipal Employees Association, it could go either way.

The city has offered the employees an 8 per cent pay increase and a \$100 a year clothing allowance for those employees who are required to wear uniforms — sanitation inspectors, janitorial staff, and garage mechanics. No pay increases will be given out for this year.

Those employees who aren't happy with the offer say that it is mostly a matter of principle. Police and firemen did not get pay raises this year but they are getting some extra money as the result of an increase in the number of their paid holidays.

"We don't want much, just a little something," said one. "In 1975 we were promised an \$850 raise for 1976. We bought that. Now, we aren't getting anything. The firemen got a little, the policemen got a little, so why shouldn't we get a little?"

Hoboken fire officers won't sign their new contract

Hoboken's fire officers are refusing to sign their new contract with the city and may file an unfair labor practice charge against city officials, it was learned today.

According to Capt. William Bergin, president of the Fire Officers Association, the city arbitrarily changed a clause in the contract — after the association members had voted to accept it.

"For all intents and purposes, what the city now wants us to sign is not the same contract that the men voted to accept," Bergin asserted. "An entire clause pertaining to the promotion of men when vacancies exist in the department was completely eliminated from the contract proposal the city sent us to sign. That clause was in the contract proposal when the men voted to accept it."

Bergin said that the clause was removed by Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, the city's chief labor negotiator, without any previous notification or discussion.

"This is unheard of," said Bergin.

"I cannot object strongly enough to this deception. I don't know if the councilman is trying to put one over on us but it is the most underhanded thing the city has yet tried to do during this contract session."

Councilman Ranieri admitted that he had the clause removed but denied that he or the city was trying to dupe the fire officers.

"The clause Capt. Bergin refers

to is not included in the contract we signed with the firemen or the police," Ranieri explained. "We assumed that the fire officers have gone over the firemen's contract and knew the clause had been removed — by mutual agreement with the firemen."

"This is a manpower matter and the city is not going to give the fire officers something that it hasn't given to the firemen or the police."

"No attempt was made to trick the fire officers or lead them into something they didn't know about. That impression may have been conveyed but it definitely wasn't intentional."

Ranieri said he believed that the matter could be worked out without the filing of any unfair labor charges against the city with the state Public Employment Relation Commission (PERC).

However, Bergin wasn't as sure of that as the councilman. Several hundred dollars is due the fire officers in holiday pay and most of them were counting on the money for holiday expenses. But the city is holding up those checks until the officers have formally signed their contract.

"There is a lot of resentment because of the city's decision to hold up the holiday checks until the contract is signed," he said.

Cappiello pension to be topic

How big a pension Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken can receive when he eventually retires as police sergeant will be pondered by the board of the state Police and Fireman's Retirement System at a meeting Monday.

The board will receive a report on the matter from the state Attorney General's Office.

According to William J. Joseph, director of the state Division of Pensions, Cappiello is making payments to the bluecoats' retirement system on the basis of his \$24,584 salary as mayor, not on the \$12,584 salary he received as a police sergeant before he took leave from that post to become a councilman.

As mayor, Cappiello designated himself as director of public safety, in

which capacity he directs the police and fire departments. But Joseph said there is a question as to whether the mayor's pension membership relates to the public safety department, since he is not actually in the department. Joseph asked the attorney general's office for guidance.

Cappiello was appointed to the police department in 1947 and made a sergeant in 1956. However, he has been on leave of absence from the department since 1963, when he was elected Third Ward councilman.

According to the mayor, the question to be decided is at what rate his retirement pay should be based on — the amount of money a police sergeant would be getting, or the con-

tributions to the retirement system he has made as councilman and mayor.

"If the pension board decides that the retirement payments should be based on the sergeant's pay, I may take the matter to court," he said. "But I understand that this could be a long and costly process and I'm not sure that I want to get involved in it."

Cappiello said that, if the retirement is based on the payments he has been making as councilman and mayor, he would not then start paying into the state's public employee retirement system (which he could do).

"I would be satisfied with that, and my salary as mayor," he asserted.

Hoboken, fire officers now at loggerheads

It's back to the drawing board — maybe — for Hoboken and her fire officers following the formal rejection by the superiors of the three-year contract they had ratified a few months ago.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he has been notified by Capt. William Bergin, president of the Fire Officers Association, that the contract, which was supposed to be signed this week, will not be signed because it does not contain the same conditions as the proposal the men voted to accept.

"Hopefully, the city and the fire officers can go back to the bargaining table and work this out," said the mayor. "But at this point in time we have no agreement to sit down and talk it out. However, I expect to talk again with Capt. Bergin today and possibly arrange a meeting to fully discuss the problem."

The mayor said that in the meantime the terms of the 1975 contract with the fire officer would be continued. Included in that contract is a passage which requires the city and fire officers to honor or continue the

contract terms until a new contract has been signed.

According to Capt. Bergin, the contract the officers ratified contained a clause requiring the city to fill all vacancies in the ranks of captain and deputy chief based on the table of organization ordinance. But when the formal contract was presented this week for signing that clause had been removed — without the knowledge or approval of the fire officers.

Bergin, who was visibly upset by the course of events, said he did not know what his organization would do next, although the filing of an unfair labor charge against the city state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) was one possibility being considered.

He added that future talks with the city may not do any good.

"If negotiations are to produce results there has to be a feeling of trust," he continued. "Frankly, after this last incident, I don't know how we can trust the city, the mayor or its chief negotiator, Councilman Ranieri."

Hoboken NAACP picks officers

Mrs. Joanne Jackson Wilkinson has been elected president of the Hoboken Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It was announced today.

Also elected were Mrs. Josephine Gilliam, first vice president; David Little, second vice president; Mrs. Anna Mae Lyons, executive secretary; Charles Jones Sr., treasurer; Terry Johnson, recording secretary; Rufus Smith, fiscal adviser, and Raymond Hall, legal adviser.

Mrs. Wilkinson said that the unit is negotiating for a new headquarters at Second and Washington streets and expects to open sometime in January. She added that the drive to enroll 500 members is still on. Membership in the local chapter is now at 180.

Workers lay out wage plan for Hoboken

Hoboken's municipal workers other than police and firemen want almost \$3,000 in wage increases by 1978, according to the demands they have submitted to Mayor Steve Cappiello.

The Municipal Employees Association (MEA) is asking for a flat \$850 increase for 1976, \$1,000 for next year and \$1,000 for 1978. It also wants a \$100 uniform allowance for all employees who are required to wear uniforms when on the job, overtime at the rate of time and a half when anyone works more than 35 hours in one week, and double time for persons required to work Saturday or Sunday.

The double time would be based on seniority and rotated so that no one employee would get a large amount.

Mayor Cappiello confirmed the association's demands but would not comment on them because of the ongoing negotiations.

Stevens will fight strike by teachers

Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken will try to continue to function even if its instructors carry out a threat to go on strike Jan. 24, it was declared today by Thomas Lunghard, special assistant to the president.

"Since we are in business to educate our students," Lunghard said, "we will continue to meet our commitments as best we can."

Asked whether the college might bring in outside instructors, he said he did not wish to reply to that at this time.

The Stevens chapter of the American Association of University Professors has set the strike for the first day of the spring term.

Lunghard replied to the statement by Professor Fred Cleveland, chief negotiator for the chapter, that the school has not offered any salary increases.

He said that in the spring of 1975 the college offered merit increases which would amount to 5 per cent of the total faculty salaries, to take effect last Sept. 1.

However, he asserted, the subsequent decision of the instructors to affiliate with the union, effective last Jan. 1, "thwarted our ability to give that increase."

The reasons for this is that the union is asking for additional benefits which could affect the college's costs, he explained.

Lunghard said that Stevens has laid an offer on the bargaining table, namely, to establish present salary levels as a base for salaries, and to establish a merit increase fund.

He said the union has rejected this offer as "not firm enough, from their point of view."

The reason the college had offered merit increases instead of increases for all, Lunghard said, is that that is the traditional way at Stevens, except for special instances, such as inflation catch-ups, when general raises were given.

The union has said Stevens "in some areas wants to take away benefits already obtained" by the union. Lunghard said today he did not know what benefits the union referred

to. The instructors did not get a raise this year or last year. The administrative staff and the clerical and blue collar workers accepted 5 per cent increases last July 1 after their union, a teamsters' local, had threatened a strike.

The salary impasse dates back to the spring of 1975, when the Hoboken institution adopted a financial recovery plan, freezing all wages and salaries until July 1, 1976.

Lunghard said the next negotiating session is set for tomorrow after the lunch hour. He said Robert Hand, treasurer, is chief negotiator for the college, along with Lunghard and three academic department heads.

Rubbish collection area being shut by Hoboken

Hoboken is closing down its rubbish collection staging area on Grand Street, between 16th and 17th streets, in compliance with a directive from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), it was learned today.

According to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, the city will no longer temporarily dump rubbish it has picked up but instead will make trips directly to the dump in Kearny.

The state has cited the city because the staging area has started to encroach upon the city's treatment plant area, but Vitale says that private contractors have been illegally dumping at the site.

"For reasons I don't know, the people in my department have been unable to catch these illegal dumpers in the act," the director stated. "But that is going to stop, too. Everyone has been put on notice. They've been told that I want it stopped and stopped now — and to take whatever action is necessary to do it."

Vitale said that the city started to clean up the area last week after getting a copy of a report on conditions at the treatment plant from the state DEP. The dump staging area was one of the violations cited by the state.

"When the area was checked yesterday morning, not only hadn't we made any progress, conditions were actually worse then when we left off Friday," he continued. "We have a man who is supposed to be guarding the area to prevent unauthorized contractors from coming in but his excuse is that they dump when he takes his lunch break or coffee breaks."

The director said that closing down the staging area won't cure all problems.

"Our rubbish collections are going to be greatly curtailed," he asserted.

"We have only two trucks that are in good enough condition to make the trip out to Kearny," he explained. "Our other three trucks aren't in good shape. If we use them the city is surely going to get cited by Motor Vehicle inspectors stationed at the dump. So we can use only our newer vehicles."

"This means that more time will be spent on the road between here and the dump and less on the streets picking up rubbish."

Vitale said that he and his deputy director, Carmen Cutillo, have suggested to the mayor that the city consider purchasing its own "packer trucks."

Hoboken warned of suit if it quits sewerage body

By Peter Hallam

A deputy state attorney general has recommended to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that it take Hoboken to court to force it to stay in the Hudson County Sewerage Authority (HCSA).

And according to Mayor Steve Cappiello, that's exactly what it will have to do.

The mayor said today that he is sending telegrams to Weehawken and Union City officials for a joint

meeting at the earliest opportunity to discuss the formation of a "tri-city sewerage authority" which would seek federal funds for the upgrading of the Hoboken treatment plant. The action was taken in response to a letter from the DEP, warning Hoboken of the deputy attorney general's recommendation.

Hoboken officially withdrew from the county authority last month. The action was taken because it was felt Hoboken would have had to pay a disproportionate share of the cost.

The DEP letter was from Jeff Zelickson, deputy director, Division of Water Resources, reacting to the city's withdrawal from the sewerage authority. Richard Jenny, executive director of the county authority, had expressed great concern over Hoboken's "apparent attempt to retard the progress being made by HCSA," according to Zelickson.

Zelickson said that the HCSA has made "significant progress" towards dealing with the county's complex sewage problems but the continued success will depend on cooperation from all communities involved.

He pointed out that Hoboken's withdrawal from the county authority is "inconsistent with the policies" of his department, "as well as state and federal statutes."

A letter attached from Lawrence E. Stanley, a deputy attorney general, recommended the DEP seek a Superior Court order to get Hoboken back into the county agency.

Stanley said that the county authority was properly created by the board of freeholders on July 9, 1970 by a resolution. He said that if Hoboken or any other municipality in the county did not want to be part of the authority, it had 60 days from the day the freeholder's resolution was filed with the Secretary of State to file its own resolution stating that it did not want to be part of the authority. This wasn't done.

"It is our information that the city of Hoboken did not exercise this option and is therefore permanently part of the (county) authority's district," he wrote.

Stanley added that the county authority has acquired full power, responsibility and discretion with respect to any sewage facilities to be constructed anywhere within the county.

Since Hoboken is obliged to upgrade its facility, it would have to go to the county for approval of its plans. He added that by going on its own, Hoboken could cause the county to lose all of the 75 per cent federal funding participating communities hope to receive for the county-wide project.

Cappiello took exception to several points.

"I do not see that any significant progress had been made," said the mayor. "The county authority is six years old and it still can't give Hoboken — or anyone else — even ballpark figures on what it is going to cost us. I am not talking about the costs of building it, but the cost of operating it once it has been finished."

Cappiello said that the main reason the city withdrew from the county authority was that after reviewing the situation with representatives of local industry and their consultants it was the consensus that a city could upgrade its own plant for a lot less than it would have to pay as part of the county authority.

The mayor conceded that Hoboken failed to quit the authority within the 60 days authorized by law, but added that it wasn't a "position" at that time.

"A decision like that requires careful study of the facts," he said. "But there weren't any hard facts to base it on at that time — and six years later there still isn't too much to go on."

Methadone distribution started in Hoboken

By Peter Hallam

Without approval or knowledge of Hoboken officials, Patrick House, the county's drug abuse rehabilitation agency, has started dispensing methadone from its clinic in Hoboken, it was learned today.

The action was also taken without the knowledge of residents or property owners in the area, persons living near the clinic at First and Jefferson streets reported.

Patrick House employees working

at the clinic would not answer any question concerning the activity when a reporter visited the clinic. They referred all inquiries to their superior, Walter Kulzy, associate director of the program. However, signs posted in the office clearly showed that the drug was being dispensed.

A hand-lettered sign just inside the entrance proclaimed that medication hours were 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Other signs alerted

patients to the fact that weekend medication was available at the center on York Street in Jersey City.

According to Kulzy, the center started dispensing methadone Monday. He said that there are about 30 persons getting the drug and all are Hoboken residents.

"We are experiencing the same financial problems as most government and government-related agencies—cuts in our funding," he said. "It is more economical to dis-

pense the methadone at a location closest to the patients. It cuts our costs." However, he didn't explain how this cut costs.

In response to anticipated objections to the operation from residents of the neighborhood, Kulzy said: "What are we supposed to do with them? These are their children and they need help."

The center was opened several years ago as an outreach and referral center for drug addicts who wanted to be helped. But it was not without some problems. Residents of the area did not want the center because they feared Patrick House would use it as a methadone distribution point.

They relented, however, when the Rev. Francis Schiller, founder of the Patrick House program, gave full assurance that there would not be a methadone clinic at the site. The community objections were primarily based on the fear that outside addicts would be coming into Hoboken for methadone.

According to Kulzy, only Hoboken residents are to be treated at the center and all methadone dispensing is done by a fully qualified supervisor, usually a registered nurse.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Mayor Steve Cappiello met with Father Schiller yesterday morning on the matter.

"I advised Father Schiller that we would be watching the center for any signs of problems," said the mayor. "And if there are any, we're going to be right on top of them."

Cappiello said he didn't bother complaining or objecting to the methadone distribution because the city's official approval isn't needed. The mayor said he has "mixed" reactions to the move.

"I realize that we must have a drug treatment program," he asserted. "But I also realize that residents of the area may not want it located where it is—and they have a right to object to it. If that is the case I'm going to have to side with the residents and taxpayers."

Father Schiller was not available for comment.

City hall, garage renoyation due

12/2/76

The Hoboken City Council has approved two ordinances authorizing the city to commit itself to restoration and improvements of City Hall and the Public Works Garage, but it was not unanimous.

Councilmen Walter Cramer and Nunzio Malfetti voted against the measures while four other councilmen voted in favor of them.

The ordinances authorize the appropriation of \$3.6 million for City Hall and \$731,500 for the garage, contingent upon

receipt in advance of federal funds under the Public Works Act of 1976.

Cramer said that he could not see putting over \$3 million into the old building when for that money the city could build a new modern structure. And his sentiments were echoed by several persons from the audience.

Charles DeFazio Jr., Dr. Robert King and Thomas Vezzetti all voiced similar opinions on the City Hall restoration project.

Council President Martin J. Brennan said he agreed with their thinking to a certain extent but was prompted to vote for the ordinance by the fact that the projects wouldn't cost the city anything and that if Hoboken didn't apply for and get the funds some other municipality would.

The council also approved four other ordinances introduced for their first readings. They covered the \$585 holiday payments being made to all police and

A resolution authorizing the city's Law Department to foreclose on three industrial properties for non-payment of taxes was approved by the council. The properties are the Fifth and Sixth Street Piers, the old Todd Shipyard in the northeast section of the city and the Condenser Service Building and property at Observer Highway and Bloomfield Street.

Two bids were received by the council on the purchase of new police cars. The city plans to buy up to 10 new cars. Low bidder was A.C. Chevrolet with a price of \$8,039 per car. Center Ford submitted a price of \$8,105 per car. A.C. also submitted a bid of \$11,886 for a tow truck and \$7,897 for a van. Center Ford did not bid on these items.

The council also approved bids for the restoration of the 11th Street pumping station contingent upon final approval of the project and the granting of funds by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Trustees in Hoboken shun gripes

By TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken Board of Education refused to hear complaints last night from about 70 parents who demanded that the board discuss the problem of adult supervision in city schools.

Board President Mary Gaspar, who said the issue couldn't be discussed adequately until the board's attorney went over legal matters with the complete board, also said the parents' complaints weren't placed on the agenda because she hadn't been notified of the matter in time.

"The board attorney was going to make recommendations to us tonight but his brother-in-law passed away and he couldn't make the meeting," Mrs. Gaspar said. "We will move as quickly as possible on this issue as soon as we get legal advice."

Although the parents claimed they had given Gaspar the necessary 48 hours to get the issue on the agenda, Mrs. Gaspar said she had received a letter from the parents on Dec. 9 and had only opened it Dec. 10. She said that wasn't adequate time to have the issue raised.

The parents group, which calls itself the Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Parents and Citizens, is charging school officials with inadequate adult supervision at city schools. The group claims the "insufficient supervision" is a threat to the safety and well-being of all Hoboken children.

"There are incidents of neglect and physical abuse of children by teachers and administrators in our schools," the group said in a statement released last night. "A serious problem exists. Our children cannot learn in this atmosphere."

The incident which ignited the parents' protest involved the hospitalization of a fifth grader last month after a fight outside the Kealey School. The parents claim there was improper adult supervision at the time, while school officials say the incident occurred off school property and the school had been closed for lunch.

"The school board has a responsibility to provide adequate supervision during the entire school day," the statement continued. "We cannot accept the fact that the schools don't have legal responsibility during lunch. Many children are on school property during this hour and are subject to possible injury."

Mrs. Gaspar also said she was convinced accusations by a local restaurant owner of unpaid bills of thousands of dollars were "completely unfounded." The charges were made recently by Union Club owner Tony Van Clief.

"I've spoken to the board's attorney and he's convinced me that the bills are just seven hundred dollars," Mrs. Gaspar said. "As far as I'm concerned the bills are all paid and Mr. Taylor will settle everything."

Mrs. Elena Gensler, a spokeswoman for the parents' group, said the board, "Doesn't want parents participating in these meetings. Otherwise they'd make sure we'd be heard. All they want to do is go out and spend \$2,000 on their own I-don't-know-what, but they can't give concerned parents a few minutes of their time."

Cappiello asked not to sign pact

The Hoboken Environment Committee has asked Mayor Steve Cappiello and the city council not to sign a \$100,000 contract with Mayo, Lynch and Associates for a pilot sewage treatment program. But the request comes almost a week too late.

Cappiello said today the contract has been signed and will go ahead as scheduled as the city seeks to find answers to its sewage treatment problems separate from the Hudson County Sewerage Authority.

Mayo, Lynch plans to have constructed two miniature treatment systems to determine which is better for upgrading Hoboken's sewerage treatment plant from a primary system to secondary treatment. One system is called a "Bio-disc system" and the other a "trickling water system." Both are said to have the potential to produce discharge that is 80 to 98 per cent pure water.

The letter of Mrs. Joseph Manogue of the Environment Committee was dated Dec. 20 and besides asking that the city not sign the contract, requests full particulars of the contract along with plans and specifications be made public. She also asked for a public hearing on the proposal, that the sources of funding be clearly explained.

The mayor said he received the letter after the contract had been signed. However, he probably would have signed it anyway since he and the council unanimously felt that what was being done "is right."

Cappiello added that the contract was a matter of public record and available to anyone who wanted to see it in the city clerk's office.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri supported the mayor's position, adding that he was even more convinced now that the city had taken the right course.

"A story appearing in Wednesday's Jersey Journal tells the story better than I could—after six years and \$800,000 the county sewerage authority is in exactly the same place it was when it started—still trying to get a sewerage treatment plant approved by the state," he said.

"In one month of playing catch-up football we have tied the score and gone ahead. Thus far, without government funding, we have withdrawn from the county authority and hired an engineering firm to do a feasibility study and supervise a pilot project. And should it prove feasible, which we fully expect it will, we will proceed with the bidding and construction."

"Our reasoning? We are already a region unto ourselves—including Weehawken and Union City. The state has already realized that the county approach to a regional system is unworkable and has directed the authority to create three regions within the county. This proves that our logic is viable."

"With home rule we can do a more efficient and cost-conscious job. The proof? The catastrophic results of the county authority which is controlled by Jersey City, the Jersey City water treatment facility fiasco that is all but ruining Hoboken. Or what about Jersey City's most recent interest rate on its municipal bonds—10½ per cent, the highest in the nation. This is no way to run a ball game."

Fire officers get Cappiello pledge, sign

Hoboken's fire officers have accepted indirect verbal assurance from Mayor Steve Cappiello that the existing number of superiors will be maintained and have signed a three-year labor pact with the city that does not have such assurance in writing.

Officials of the Fire Officers Association officially signed the contract yesterday in the office of City Clerk Anthony J. Amoruso, the acting mayor while Mayor Cappiello was in the hospital.

It was some quick footwork by Amoruso and Council President Martin J. Brennan that helped eliminate the one obstacle blocking

final approval—the removal of a clause from the contract the fire officers had ratified which required the city to maintain the number of officers prescribed by ordinance.

Amoruso and Brennan personally visited Mayor Cappiello in his hospital room at St. Mary Monday afternoon to advise him that the fire officers were willing to sign the contract provided they could get some kind of assurance from the mayor that the city would maintain a complement of one chief, six deputy chiefs and 32 captains.

According to Amoruso, the mayor gave such verbal assurance to Bren-

nan and himself.

Capt. William Bergin, president of the fire officers, said that there wasn't much point in fighting the city on the matter of whether the clause was arbitrarily taken out of the contract they had ratified several months ago.

"We feel we are right, at least in principle," he said.

"We don't have anything in writing now, but we do have the word of the mayor and the council president and we'll have to be satisfied with that."

Hoboken awards sewerage contract

The Hoboken City Council has unanimously awarded a \$100,000 contract to the engineering firm of Mayo Lynch Associates for two pilot sewage treatment systems and a feasibility study which would allow the city to upgrade its treatment plant without participating in the Hudson County Sewerage Authority.

The action was taken at last night's council meeting.

According to Joseph Lynch, his firm will oversee the construction of two different types of treatment

systems, both capable of upgrading Hoboken's system from its primary classification to a secondary classification.

Hoboken, like other Hudson municipalities with their own treatment facilities, is under federal mandate to upgrade the system to secondary treatment.

Lynch said the two systems that will be constructed will be a "bio disc system" and a "trickling filter system." He said both systems are accepted and have proved to be

satisfactory throughout the country.

"The plan is to build two small systems," said Lynch. "One of each type. This is expected to take about a month. Once constructed and operational, they will be tested for a six-month period."

"The purpose of constructing two miniature treatment systems is to see which is the most capable of handling Hoboken's particular type of sewage discharge."

Lynch pointed out that Hoboken does not have a storm drainage system and that rain water and industrial waste all go into the treatment plant. The facility, he said, must be capable of accommodating a wide variety of chemical and petroleum additives that find their way into the system. The ultimate goal to reach the secondary rating is to achieve an 80 to 98 per cent pure water discharge.

According to Lynch, the two different types of treatments have been reviewed with various Hoboken industries and their engineers and the consensus is that they are the most promising at this time. He added that

at the end of the six-month period, all of the statistical data and results of the two pilot systems would be compiled into a report with recommendations. It will be submitted to the city, which will then decide which of the two systems it wants to pursue and make an application for federal funding.

The bio-disc system is a series of filter discs which rotate or spin. Centrifugal force drives out the impurities. This is coupled with a bacterial action which eats up the impurities in the discharge. Any solids remaining after treatment are separated from the discharge and must be carted away once or twice a year. Lynch said the discharge itself—the water the city sends into the Hudson River—would fall into the 80 to 98 per cent pure range.

The trickling filter system is more of a natural filtration setup. The sewage is passed over a porous base of rock or simulated plastic stone. As it passes through, oxygen trapped within the base reacts with the impurities in the water and this chemical reaction results in removal of the impurities. The end result is also a discharge within the pure range.

The action by the Hoboken council is seen as another affirmative gesture to once and for all sever connections with the Hudson County Sewerage Authority. However, Mayor Steve Cappiello said the door is not entirely closed to the city's participation with the county.

Cappiello said if the county comes up with a cheaper and better way of doing it, Hoboken will gladly consider it. Meanwhile, the city has to keep control of its own financial destiny, he said.

Garage near capacity use in Hoboken

The Hoboken parking authority is only five spaces away from fully renting one of its two open parking garages, according to figures presented to the commissioners at their last meeting.

Figures show that as of the end of last month, the authority had 451 monthly customers in garage

"G" which has a total of 456 spaces. The garage is located between Third and Fourth Streets on Hudson Street.

Garage "B", the larger of the two parking facilities has 750 spaces. There are 455 monthly customers renting spaces, an increase of seven over the previous month. The 451 figure for garage "G" is an increase of 13 over October. Over all, the authority picked up 20 new monthly parkers.

The figures for the daily customers for November showed a slight decrease from October but this was at-

tributed to several holidays which cut down on daily parking.

The authority had a total of 3,200 daily customers during November as compared to 3,304 during October. However, it was noted that in one garage—"G"—even though there were fewer daily customers, the authority actually made about \$100 more for the month.

Joseph Hotendorf, executive director, told the commissioners that this was due to the fact that the fewer motorists parked for longer periods of time, resulting in higher payments.

Hoboken may be out \$74,000 in welfare funds

By Peter Hallam

Hoboken may lose \$74,000 in reimbursements from state welfare authorities as a result of \$98,000 in questionable expenditures uncovered in a recent state audit, it was learned today.

According to city Welfare Director Jerry Forman, the final decision on the reimbursement will depend on the state's reaction to a letter Hoboken must send explaining why it should get the state's share of the money.

Forman said that he and members of the Hoboken Public Assistance Board met with state welfare authorities and were told that if they expected to get the state's share of the money involved in the questionable expenditures a letter explaining why would have to be sent.

"I'm preparing it now," added the director.

Under the public assistance program, the state reimburses municipalities approximately 75 per cent of its welfare costs.

Forman said that the expenditures were only part of the problem. "That's the surface," he continued. "Under it is the state's insistence and recommendations that the city change from a check-voucher system to a cash system—and our reluctance to do that."

"The state has been after us to go to the cash system for more than four years that I know of. But our city fathers are reluctant because it requires having cash on hand to make the payments."

Forman would not disclose what reasoning the city would use in the letter to justify the reimbursement. However, he said that he felt that the city has a fairly good chance of having the reasoning accepted.

Cappiello pension talk due

The question of granting Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello's application for retirement as a police sergeant with a pension is now tentatively scheduled to come up at the meeting of the board of the state Police and Firemen's Retirement System in Trenton on Jan. 17.

Cappiello has been on leave of absence from the police force since he was elected a councilman in 1963.

He has been paying into the pension fund on the basis of his \$24,584 salary as mayor, not on the \$12,584 salary he had been receiving as police sergeant.

The board has asked the state attorney general for a ruling as to whether the size of his pension should be based on the former or the latter figure.

Cappiello hospitalized with allergic reaction

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello is reported in fair condition at St. Mary Hospital, Hoboken, where he is being treated for an allergic reaction.

The mayor was admitted to the hospital Friday evening and was placed in the intensive care unit but was later moved to a regular room when his condition improved.

A hospital spokesman declined to discuss the nature of Cappiello's ailment and a member of the family said only that it was "nothing serious." He was expected to remain in the hospital for several days.

Ranieri pushes for law on demolishing buildings

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri today resumed his campaign for a law requiring multiple dwelling owners to pay for demolishing fire-damaged buildings when they collect fire insurance.

The law would prevent these landlords from pocketing the insurance and then refusing to tear down the unsafe structures, a situation recurring with increasing frequency in Hoboken.

A bill to that effect was introduced in the New Jersey Assembly a year ago, but it never got out of committee.

Ranieri said today that he will urge Mayor Steve Cappiello to call upon the Hudson County assemblymen this week to revive the dormant bill.

Sponsored by Assemblyman Perkins of Jersey City, the bill was co-sponsored by Assembly Speaker LaForte of Bayonne and Assembly-

men Gallo of Hoboken, Jackman of West New York, Miskiewicz and Esposito of Jersey City, Cal of Kearny, and four assemblymen from outside Hudson County.

Ranieri said today that one Hoboken tenement house landlord who has a dozen buildings refused to demolish two adjacent tenement houses on Newark Street after a fire and the city was obliged to have them demolished at a cost of \$16,000.

The law sought by Ranieri would require insurance companies to hold up payment of fire insurance on such dwellings until the city certified that there was no lien against them for demolition.

Where there was a lien, the insurance company would have to first satisfy the lien, and then pay the owner whatever was left over.

The bill that never made it out of committee is numbered A-1301.

Hoboken citizens stuck with party bill

By William Taft

Hoboken's taxpayers are stuck with the \$890 liquor bill and the \$540 entertainment bill run up at the school board's party at which other school boards in the county and their spouses and elite employees were guests.

Otto Hottendorf, a Hoboken board member, said today that the city won't be reimbursed for the liquor refreshments and entertainment by the nine other municipalities involved

because it is the custom for the host town to pay those expenses.

At the Hoboken board meeting Tuesday night when the board voted to pay the two bills, it was announced that the city would be compensated by the other communities for their pro rata share. But Hottendorf said this is not the case.

The party was held at Stevens Institute in Hoboken on Dec. 3. Hottendorf said that each year, one school

board in the county is host to all the others for such an occasion.

Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar, who succeeded Hottendorf as president this year, said today that she did not attend the party but dropped in at the Stevens building where it was being held, and left after a couple of minutes without going upstairs to the scene of the festivities.

She said the affair was initiated by Hottendorf, and the arrangements were carried out by Anthony Romano, the board's business manager.

Romano procured the liquor from Van's liquor store of Hoboken, which submitted the bill of \$890. The \$450 for "entertainment" went to the Richard Chambers Orchestra.

Hottendorf said the guests included Board Attorney Robert Taylor, Board Secretary Thomas A. Gallo, Romano and Schools Superintendent Thomas E. McFeely. He said Mayor Steve Cappiello and the nine city councilmen were invited and "most of them attended."

Cappiello 'coming along'

A spokeswoman at St. Mary Hospital, Hoboken, said yesterday Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello is "coming along" and that he was listed in fair condition.

Cappiello, who was admitted to the hospital Friday evening for what Acting Mayor Anthony Amoruso called "a series of tests," will reportedly be released from the hospital in a few days, the hospital spokeswoman said.

Sift Hoboken sewage plan

By JIM BENSON

Hoboken's Nov. 9 city council resolution to withdraw support for a regional sewerage program and to build its own treatment facilities may be overruled by state law, according to an opinion by the Attorney General's office.

Fearing that spiraling sewage treatment costs might drive industry out of the city, Mayor Steve Cappiello announced that Hoboken would launch its own feasibility study to determine the best treatment facility and then build it. Hoboken would then have direct control over sewerage rates for industries located there.

But now, despite the fact that Hoboken is going ahead with development of its own treatment plan, it is uncertain if the city can legally do this.

In a letter to the mayor and council dated Dec. 3, the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) said it was "quite concerned and dismayed" with Hoboken's decision to pull out of the county sewerage program.

The DEP told the city officials that the Nov. 9 resolution is "inconsistent with the policies of this department as well as with state and federal statutes."

"In the opinion of the DEP," the letter stated, "only through active participation and cooperation with the Hudson County Sewerage Authority will the City of Hoboken be able to assure its interests are best served. Federal funds will be available... only through its (Hoboken's) cooperation with the regional sewerage authority."

Accompanying the letter was an opinion rendered by Deputy Attorney General Lawrence E. Stanley stating, "the resolution will not have the effect apparently intended by the governing body."

Stanley cited a state statute which says no sewage disposal plant or facility for collecting, treating or disposing of sewage shall be constructed within a sewage treatment authority district without the approval of the authority.

In Hoboken's case, approval would have to come from the Hudson County Sewerage Authority, created in 1970.

State law allows a local municipality to decide not to take part in a regional authority. But the decision must be made within 90 days after a county resolution establishing a regional authority is filed with the Secretary of State.

Hoboken did not do this, according to what the Attorney General knew, Stanley said.

Mayor Cappiello could not be reached for comment yesterday but Hoboken Corporation Counsel Larry Florio said "litigation is being pondered" to determine if Hoboken is legally correct in withdrawing from the regional program.

City, hospital to talk on water bill

Hoboken and St. Mary Hospital officials may have to resume negotiations to settle the question of how much the hospital owes the city for water because the city's files on the matter seem to have disappeared.

First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano, chairman of the city council water committee, says he turned all of the files over to the city's Law Department. But Law Director

Lawrence Florio and his legal assistants say they don't know if he did or not but they don't have the files.

The money owed amounts to approximately \$90,000. According to Romano, hospital officials claim that they came to an agreement with the city to pay back a total of \$75,000 over a period of time.

"I was not aware of such an agreement," he said. "It was sup-

posedly made with the city's former city attorney, the late Dudley Schlosser. Since neither I nor the members of the water committee were familiar with the agreement all of the material was turned over to the law department."

Romano did not recall which city attorney accepted the documents and paper work.

But Law Director Florio says he doesn't have any.

"We don't have anything on the water situation with St. Mary," he asserted. "As far as I know, the water committee still has everything."

Romano said that if the material doesn't turn up the committee may have to meet with hospital officials and start all over again.

The water bill owed by the hospital actually goes back several years and is the result of a faulty meter. The hospital took exception to the charges claiming that the city was billing it for more water than it was actually using. The city's position was that the meter belonged to the hospital and if it was faulty it was the hospital's responsibility to replace it.

A new meter was installed by the hospital but the question of whether the old was accurate and the bills correct was still contested. Since the installation of the new meter the hospital has kept its water bills up to date.

Cappiello asks state provide summer pay

By Peter Hallam

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he will appeal to state Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke for the state's help in providing the \$1.5 million needed by the Hoboken school board to make its summer salary payments to teachers.

"If the state orders Hoboken to come up with that money, it will be a disaster," asserted the mayor. "It will result in a gigantic increase in the tax rate or a massive cut in city personnel and services, and the city can't stand either."

"Hoboken will become a ghost town. Few persons will be able to afford paying their taxes on their homes and property. We'll lose industry and jobs. It can only start a whole sequence of events that will mean disaster for the city."

The school board has asked the state to decide where the \$1.5 million will come from. There are two possible funding sources — the state and the city — and the state has already

said "no," according to Robert W. Taylor, the board's attorney. The request was made during a two-day hearing before a state hearing officer on whether \$890,000 cut from the board's 1976-77 budget by the city should be reinstated.

Technically, the money is — or was — in the school board's budget. But it was used to pay the teachers their summer salaries last July and August. There is no money in the budget to make the payments this coming July and August.

According to the state, the school board has been using the wrong system to provide for the payments. Teachers are hired for 10-month periods and their pay is figured on 10 months. But they may opt for a 12-month pay plan to insure they have money during the summer school break. Hoboken teachers have such a plan.

To provide for it, the school board is supposed to withhold a portion of their monthly pay and set it aside until the summer break.

When July and August roll around, the board is supposed to draw on the money it set aside during the budget year. Instead, the board has been appropriating in each budget the payments that should have been covered by the previous budget.

The state says this must stop. How did the city and school board get into this situation? According to school board members it started during the depression when city funds were scarce. The payments were delayed at one point to give the city more time to raise the money, and the practice has continued since.

According to Taylor, the \$1.5 million will allow the board to "catch up" and should be a one-time proposition. He also deplored the circumstances which forced the board to seek the money.

"The school board was told to do this by the state," he said. "There wasn't much choice involved at all."

"And I'm not any happier with the situation than the mayor or city officials. I live in Hoboken and I own property here. I don't want to see higher property taxes or reduced services any more than they do."

Hoboken's workers ask \$500 raise

Hoboken municipal employees want a \$500 pay increase for 1976 or they won't accept the contract that the city has proposed to them.

That's what officials of the Municipal Employees Association say the reaction has been to the city's offer of an 8 per cent increase for next year plus a \$100 clothing allowance for employees required to wear uniforms on the job.

Municipal employees will meet today at 4:30 p.m. in the city council chambers to vote on the city's offer.

Last week, association officials were more optimistic about the contract. They said they were getting a mixed reaction from their membership and the vote "could go either way." However, as more and more employees presented their views of the proposal, it became clear that approval of the city's offer was very unlikely.

"There is a general feeling that a promise has been broken — and they don't intend to allow the city to get away with it," remarked one association official. "We accepted a \$750 across-the-board pay increase in 1975 with the understanding that we would get an additional \$850 this year. Now the city says it can't give the \$850."

"Most of the workers I have talked with are willing to bend on the \$850 — but they won't accept a full year without any increase at all."

It was also learned that the employees association will be seeking a written contract with the city — something that it has never had. All past agreements were gentlemen's agreements, concluded with a handshake.

According to most workers, especially those in non-clerical positions, without a written contract the city can renege on its promises at any time and there isn't anything the workers can do about it.

Hoboken educators want cuts back, \$1.5 million more

By Peter Hallam

The Hoboken Board of Education and city officials today go back before a state hearing officer who will decide whether \$890,000 cut from the board's 1976-77 school budget by the City Council should be restored. And, as an added element, the school board is expected to ask for an additional \$1.5 million from the city.

According to school board officials, the \$1.5 million will be needed to pay teachers and administrators the money that will be due them in summer salary payments. The salaries that are to be paid this coming summer were not included in the 1976-77 budget.

A school board spokesman said that the 1976-77 budget reflects the payments made last summer. He said that the state has instructed the school board not to make the payments this way.

Normally, teachers are paid 10 months of the year. They have an op-

tion, if mutually agreed to by them and the school board, whereby a percentage of their pay can be withheld and paid to them during the two months when there is no school. Hoboken's teachers agreed to this schedule and it has been in existence for many years.

But, unlike other school boards which set aside a percentage of what the teachers are paid each month during the school year, and then draw upon that money during the July and August school break, the Hoboken school board has not done this. Instead it has paid the teachers what is due them without putting any money aside. The end result, the spokesman said, is that approximately \$1.5 million will be needed from the city to make the summer payments in July and August.

Meanwhile, arguments will continue before August Thomas, head of the Division of Controversies and Disputes for the state Department of

Education, today in the Hudson County Superintendent of Schools offices on the reinstatement of the \$890,000 which the council cut from the schools budget last spring.

Almost six hours' testimony was taken yesterday as City Attorney Lawrence Florio and Thomas Calligy, assistant city attorney, cross-examined Robert W. Taylor, the school board attorney, Mrs. Mary

Gaspar, board president, and Thomas Gaynor, assistant superintendent of schools.

Also representing the board but not yet called to testify were Thomas F. McFeely, superintendent of schools; Louis DePascale, administrative assistant and labor consultant; Otto Hottendorf, board member and former president; George Maier, special service manager and Vincent Indelicato, auditor for both the school board and the city.

The main thrust of the budget reduction by the city was in the field of instruction salaries. Approximately \$835,000 of the \$890,000 was in salaries, with the contention that the board could afford to reduce the number of teachers by approximately 40.

However, Taylor, Gaynor and Mrs. Gaspar disputed this, especially Gaynor, who was accepted by the hearing officer as an expert in school administration.

Gaynor said the city's proposed cuts were correct in theory—at least as far as the figures themselves went. However, in principle and in practice they showed a lack of thorough knowledge of how the schools operate, he said.

He cited several instances of reductions in the school staff ordered by the council where, he said, the actual reductions were not possible and would have resulted in overcrowded classrooms and "endangered the school board's ability to provide a thorough and efficient education" for children.

Citing the Kealey School, where the council has recommended that the instructional staff of 26 be reduced to 21, Gaynor said there were 11 teachers of the 26 who could not be touched. This included six Title I teachers, one kindergarten teacher, one physical education, one part-time art teacher, one part-time music teacher and a school nurse who had been included erroneously as a member of the teaching staff.

If reductions were to be made they would have to come from the 15 remaining teachers, Gaynor said. The Title I instructors are paid with federal funds and the special teachers — kindergarten, physical education, music, and art — are required by the state. If five of the 15 remaining teachers were dismissed, it would leave 10 teachers with classes of 41 pupils each, he said.

Next, Florio and Calligy attempted to discredit the board's expenditures for other expenses, questioning convention trips, dinners, and seminars for board members, administrative staff and business manager. However, Taylor said not only did the board incur the expenses legitimately but would probably incur similar expenses in the future.

The city attorneys also attacked the board on \$890,000 that was not part of the 1976-77 budget submitted to the voters last March, part of which money has found its way into reserve accounts for work being done on the mini school. Taylor admitted that \$340,000 had been reserved by the board for site work and unanticipated expenses for the school.

The daylong testimony concluded shortly before 4 p.m. when Taylor asked why City Council President Martin J. Brennan did not appear for the hearing when he had been subpoenaed to do so.

According to Florio, the subpoena had been issued for the hearing that had been scheduled for last week but that hearing was adjourned until yesterday.

3 health care programs aided

The Hudson Health System Agency (HSA) has given the nod to applications by three existing health care programs in Jersey City, Hoboken and North Hudson for federal funds totaling nearly \$500,000.

The Jersey City Lead-based Paint Poisoning Screening Program is in line for \$317,529 from the U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare (HEW) to "screen for lead poisoning 4,000 children per year, out of a high risk pool of 10,883" in the city.

Hoboken Family Planning, Inc., will get close to \$100,000 for providing "counseling, educational and medical services to a target population of about 10,000 women of child-bearing age."

And the Family Planning Clinic of the North Hudson Community Action Program (CAP) will collect more than \$75,000 for providing the "only public family planning services to the 200,000 people of the North Hudson communities in several clinic locations."

In other business, the Hudson HSA board of directors agreed to retain the Jersey City accounting firm of Donohue & McCann at \$1,000 annually and to hire Union City attorney Harry Irwin, a North Bergen resident, as its counsel at \$2,000 a year.

Weehawken Mayor Charles Miller attended his first meeting as an HSA board member last night. Miller was named to replace Guttenberg Mayor Herman G. Klein who has resigned.

Hoboken again trying to sell hotel

Hoboken is again putting the Grand Hotel up for sale instead of having it immediately demolished, as suggested by a city councilman.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he has instructed the law department to hold another auction for the vacant building, which has been the scene of two fires in recent weeks.

"This is to be done as quickly as legally possible," he added.

There will be a slight difference between the upcoming sale and the one held several months ago, when not a single bid was made. The city won't have a minimum bid this time.

At the last sale, the city set a minimum of \$60,000.

James Caulfield, city building inspector, said he believed that there were persons or companies interested in buying the building, but the minimum price made it impractical. It was Caulfield who suggested to the mayor that the city try again, but this time without the minimum price.

"I tend to agree," said the mayor. "We'd like to have the \$60,000 to offset some of the back taxes owed on the building. But that might materialize. More important is to see the building back on the tax rolls but that chance might also pass us by if we wait for someone to come along with the \$60,000 first."

The mayor said the city will accept any reasonable price — much less than \$60,000 — provided the bidder agrees to repair and refurbish the building and can show the city that he is in a reasonably good financial position to insure the work will be done as quickly as possible.

"We're not looking for speculators operating on a shoestring," continued Cappiello. "We want a reputable firm or person with some financial backing who can get the job done."

"If no one meeting those qualifications shows up and bids on the property, then I will recommend that the city go along with the suggestion made by Council-at-large (Robert A.) Ranieri and have the building demolished."

Ranieri wants the building torn down because, he says, other property owners in the area have been threatened with cancellation of their fire insurance. He said some insurance companies feel that the hotel, because it is vacant and unguarded, is a threat to neighboring properties.

Hoboken accepts 2 free buses

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he has decided to accept two free buses from the state Department of Transportation (DOT) even though it will cost the city several thousand dollars before the vehicles can be used.

"We have to buy the tires for them and get insurance coverage," said the mayor, "but the opportunity of getting two \$59,000 buses for nothing is too good to pass up."

"One vehicle will be used on the citizen route to provide them with free transportation. The other will be used as a back-up for the city's cross-town bus."

The mayor said it will be a few months before the city actually gets the two buses. They must be ordered by the state, which is paying for them with federal funds.

"I have notified state officials that we will accept the two buses, so our order is going in with the others that will be placed," Cappiello added.

Hoboken may be first to test the T & E law

If the state says Hoboken must put another \$1.5 million into its schools budget, the state will have to come up with the money because the Thorough and Efficient Education Act and the state Supreme Court say you can't finance education through local property taxes.

That argument, by Hoboken school board and city officials, may become the first test of the new education act and court decisions which forced the state to impose an income tax.

It emerged yesterday from the conclusion of a two-day hearing on another subject, whether funds cut from the Hoboken schools budget by the City Council should be ordered restored.

At the hearing before August L.

Thomas, head of the Disputes and Controversies Division of the State Department of Education, School Board Attorney Robert W. Taylor formally asked that the Commissioner of Education order the inclusion of the extra money which was not budgeted for by the board.

Taylor explained that the board has been directed by both the state attorney general's office and state education officials to correct its system of providing for the summer vacation teacher payments.

To do this, Taylor said, the board would need an additional \$1.5 million because salaries to be paid this coming summer are not included in the 1976-77 budget.

When asked by Thomas where the Board of Education expected to get the money from, Taylor said, "From either the state or the city." He added that since he knew the state did not have the money, it would have to come from local taxpayers.

However, City Attorney Lawrence Florio disagreed and threw the problem squarely into the lap of the state. He said the financing of education through local property taxes has been ruled unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court.

Florio explained that since Hoboken's only means of getting \$1.5 million would be through raising property taxes, this would be a contradiction to the Supreme Court ruling. He said the funding must come from the state.

Thomas said the matter would be presented to the commissioner for his personal decision.

"Concerning the \$897,000 that the city council cut from the board's budget and that the board wants reinstated, it will be at least three weeks before either side has any idea of which way the decision is going."

Thomas said it will be two weeks before the transcripts of the two-day hearing are available and a few more days for him to study them.

Yesterday's proceedings again centered on the cross-examination of Taylor and Supt. of Schools Thomas McFeely by Florio and Thomas Calligy, assistant city attorney.

The questioning dealt primarily with the effort made by the school board in attempting to live with and adjust to the cuts made by the council. Neither side appeared to have scored any great victories.

Hoboken sues to collect rents for ship at pier

Hoboken has filed a suit in Hudson County Superior Court to require the owners of the Fifth and Sixth Street piers to show why they should not allow the city to collect rents from a large grain ship docked at the foot of 5th Street since last spring.

Law Director Lawrence Florio said the owner, M.M.W.B. Inc., is to show the court why the city should not be appointed receiver for the property, to collect all rents being paid to the company.

Florio said that the city, in theory, could have stepped in and started collecting rents by virtue of tax liens it has on the property. However, he said, because of legal action taken by both the city and the owners it was deemed advisable to formally seek the court's permission.

According to Florio, there is some money to be had. He said that the owners of the ship have been putting the money they are supposed to paying the pier owners into escrow. Carl Schaefer, a city legal assistant, is in charge of this matter.

Parking unit to use surplus to pay bonds

The Hoboken Parking Authority has some good news for Mayor Steve Cappiello and the city council. It is expected to have a surplus of almost \$40,000 for 1977 which can be used to pay a portion of the approximately \$650,000 that will be due on the parking garage bonds during the year.

According to the authority's budget for 1977, it expects to have an income of \$235,000—almost twice as much as it was anticipating as income last year from its off-street parking and parking meters.

Last year the authority anticipated an income of \$180,000 and expenses of \$290,000 leaving it with a deficit for the year of some \$110,000. But that didn't happen. Meter income greatly increased and the authority got a fairly decent response to its parking garages.

As a result, the authority is closing out the year with a slight surplus, which will go into its debt service account and be applied to the bond payments that are due in March and September of next year.

Hoboken has been picking up the payments for the authority because it has lacked the income to make them itself. The two payments total approximately \$650,000 a year.

An authority spokesman said that operating costs have also gone up, so the authority will have to use some of the added income expected for next year to pay them.

This year administrative costs were estimated at \$64,000. For next year they are estimated at almost \$74,000. The cost of off-street parking operations was estimated at \$198,825 for 1976 but will go up to \$207,589 for 1977. And the cost of on-street parking operations — meter enforcement and repairs — will go from \$27,139 to \$34,600.

Hoboken hotel on block again

By JEANNE M. HALL

"Hotel for sale. Needs work, but has promise. This is how a classified ad could read for the old Grand Hotel at Third and Hudson sts. in Hoboken."

The hotel goes under the hammer on Jan. 10, 2 p.m. in the city council chambers.

A minimum bid hasn't been set for the Jan. 10 sale. The city tried to sell the hotel before, but received no offers. Some city officials say the reason was that the minimum bid—\$30,000—was too high. Officials felt no bidder wanted to invest that much plus an equal amount or more to get the building in shape.

Hoboken has attached a number of conditions to the sale. The most important is that the successful bidder repair the building, starting work no later than 45 days after confirmation of sale.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he'll insist on one thing that isn't included in the conditions, that the purchaser be of good reputation and financially able to put the building back into shape.

He said if the city is to let the hotel go at a "bargain price" it must have assurance that the building will be fixed up and back on the tax rolls.

Grand Hotel on sale again

Anyone interested in buying a slightly down-trodden hotel that has seen better days but has potential for redevelopment?

On Jan. 10 Hoboken is again going to put up for sale the old Grand Hotel at Third and Hudson Streets

The city hasn't set any price at which the bidding will start, in the hope of finding an interested buyer and getting the property back on the tax rolls.

Hoboken tried to sell the building earlier this year but there weren't any bidders. According to some city

officials, the reason was that the city was asking too much money as a minimum bid — \$30,000 — and no one wanted to invest that much and then have to spend an equal amount or more to put the building in shape.

The sale will be held at 2 p.m. in the city council chambers at City Hall.

Hoboken has set a number of conditions for the sale, the most important of which is that the successful bidder repair the building and that the work start within 45 days of city council confirmation of the sale.

According to Mayor Steve Cappiello, Hoboken will be insisting on one other thing that isn't included in the conditions — that the bidder be a

person or firm of good reputation and financially able to put the building back into acceptable condition.

The mayor said that if the city is to let the building go for a "bargain price" it must have some assurances that the successful bidder is going to be able to follow through and get the hotel back on the tax rolls.

The way things were in Hoboken in 1976

By William Taft

Henry Hudson discovered Hoboken in 1609 but many others discovered the place for the first time on July 4 of 1976 when Hoboken was a vantage point for viewing Operation Sail, the floating parade up the Hudson of sailing vessels from many nations.

The year started off with a cut in

the number of household garbage collections, from six to three a week. Residents quickly accommodated themselves to the halved schedule.

Politically, Mayor Steven Cappiello rode out 1976 unchallenged in spite of flare-ups. The mayor served notice last August that he was suspending Business Administrator Herman Bier with the intention of firing him. Associates intervened to

smooth over the quarrel between the two, and Bier continued in his job after an inconclusive hearing.

A multi-million-dollar water main repair and replacement program disrupted householders' water supply and interfered with traffic from early spring until near the end of the year when it was halted because of the freezing temperature.

An issue unsolved as 1976 ended was the board of education budget for the 12 months starting last July 1. Rejected by the voters, the budget was trimmed \$300,000 by the city council, but the board refused to accept the cuts and appealed to the state commissioner of education, who has not yet made a decision.

The voters also elected to the three board of education vacancies the candidates supported by Cappiello, who were John R. Raslowsky, Leo F. McLaughlin and Aurelio Lugo. While the city administration held the line on property taxes, water and sewerage bills doubled during the year, after Jersey City raised the cost of the water it supplies to Hoboken.

On the side of progress, Hoboken saw the conversion of the former Keuffel and Esser factory to an apartment house with 173 units and the opening of the 12-story \$5,444,000 154-apartment Marian Towers, erected for senior citizens by the Mount Carmel Guild.

Shore Road, abandoned and grass-covered for decades, was restored as a main artery, but plans to lay out a bicycle path on one side of it had met heavy opposition by the close of the year.

A struggle with the county government broke out as 1976 drew to an end. Hoboken pulled out of the Hudson County Sewerage Authority, preferring to go it alone in complying with federal orders to most Hudson municipalities to upgrade sewerage by building secondary treatment plants. The authority asserts that it will not approve any plans that Hoboken may draw, and that this will make it impossible for the city to proceed on its own.

To break the impasse, the state Department of Environmental Protection has been urged by the state Attorney General's Office to take Hoboken to court.

Let 'em pay 8/8/11/77

Hoboken's Board of Education has been ordered by a state Appeals Court to open its records to the Hoboken Federation of Teachers.

The court ruled that under common law and the more liberal Right-to-Know Law, the board has no right to keep its records secret.

It would be an understatement to say that the attempt to hide its records puts the members of the Hoboken school board in a bad light. The board already knew full well, as did everyone else, that the board's records are public information. It was completely unnecessary to await such a pronouncement from an Appellate Court.

Nevertheless, the board not only refused access to its records, but fought the federation's suit, through the trial court and then through the appeals court. The considerable legal expenses incurred in battling the federation will, of course, be paid by the taxpayers.

When the lawyers' bills reach the board, residents of Hoboken could well call upon the individual members of the school board to personally pay them.

Welfare fraud probers turn to Hoboken 11/3/77-1/8

Hoboken's municipal payroll is the latest to be studied in a Hudson County freeholders' committee probe of possible welfare fraud by public employees.

The results of the Hoboken study are expected to be disclosed next week, when the special freeholders' committee meets again, according to an informed source.

The Hoboken payroll study follows earlier disclosures that 26 municipal employees in Jersey City, four in Bayonne, two in North Bergen and one in Secaucus were also receiving relief payments. Others were found on county and state payroll still being studied. In fact, three were found working at Polak Hospital, a county institution.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor James T. O'Halloran said he is continuing an investigation based on a list of 36 persons on various public payrolls receiving welfare. The list was turned over to him by William Jones, county health and social services director, who is working with the freeholders' committee.

The prosecutor explained he is investigating to determine whether any crimes have been committed.

He said it is possible that some public employees on the list might be legitimately entitled to welfare because of their income and family circumstances. For example, he said, a public worker earning \$6,000 and having several children could be entitled to welfare.

A source close to the freeholders' committee said they were waiting to hear from other towns besides those which already have turned over municipal payroll records to the committee, which consists of Freeholders Anne H. O'Malley, Morris T. Longo and Vincent J. Fusilli.

The committee, working closely with Jones, before passing on information to the prosecutor, is considering expanding the welfare division's fraud unit from the present two to 18 investigators, the same source disclosed.

Eye NJ school chief's role in Hoboken 12/28/76

By Terly Brennan

A state hearing officer said yesterday he's not sure the New Jersey education commissioner can authorize Hoboken to increase its school budget by \$1.5 million.

August Thomas, head of the Division of Controversies and Disputes for the state Department of Education, said, following two days of hearings, that he'll "try to decide" by Jan. 4 whether the education commissioner can intervene. School officials have asked to increase their original budget by \$1.5 million.

Thomas said, "I'm simply not sure the Commission of Education can authorize the board to raise its budget over the initial figure. It's an unprecedented situation."

Although Hoboken has traditionally paid teachers summer salaries out of the following year's school budget, the state attorney general ordered the board to stop that practice this year. It told the board to pay the salaries out of the same year's school budget.

"The attorney general said in July of 1976 that we had to

put a stop to taking these salaries out of the following school budget," board attorney Robert W. Taylor told the hearing officer in Jersey City yesterday. "The only way we can stop this is by meeting this year's summer salaries by increasing taxes."

Teachers generally have an option either to receive their salaries over a 10-month working period or to set aside a percentage for July and August.

"This practice has been going on for 30 years and we just didn't know we wouldn't be able to continue this year," Taylor said. "That's why we didn't budget for the \$1.5 million we need."

Thomas said he had 60 days to make a recommendation to the commissioner, but said the department wants it completed by Jan. 4 to let local boards know how much state aid they'll be receiving. He said he wants to give the boards enough time to evaluate state aid before elections are held March 29.

"We want to get all these budget appeals out of the way as quickly as possible so all districts statewide can set their

budgets for the year," Thomas said. "It's just going to be extremely difficult to make this recommendation by next week."

Thomas will also make a recommendation whether \$680,000 which the council cut from the school budget can be reinstated.

Compromise offer due 99 on Hoboken welfare 12/30/76

Faced with the threat of the loss of \$74,000 in welfare aid from the state, Hoboken will offer the state a compromise on its method of making welfare payments.

The compromise method would only partly conform to suggestions for revisions by the state, which is holding a club over the city by threatening to withhold \$74,000 in reimbursements because the city's welfare department has made "questionable" expenditures totaling almost \$98,000.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today

that he proposes to go to a combined system involving both the use of checks — the system recommended by the state — and a voucher system — the one the city currently uses.

"The city has been reluctant to go to a check system because it takes away most of the assurance that the money given to welfare clients will be used for the purposes they are intended — food, clothing, rents, medical expenses," said the mayor. "With a check the recipient can cash it and use the money for anything he wants."

"However, with the voucher system, the vouchers are used and issued for specific purposes and can be used only for that purpose. They cannot be cashed for money. If they are issued for food, they must be spent on food."

"It is a form of protection for the city and, more important, for the client and his or her dependants. We have people on welfare who cannot be trusted with cash. There are drinkers and former drug users whose status may be questionable."

The mayor said that the voucher system wasn't perfect because some merchants were willing to cash them in for a percentage of their face value. But this was an infrequent occurrence.

"The ideal situation, I think, would be a combination of the two systems," continued Cappiello. "Those persons who are considered a problem would continue to receive vouchers to insure that they are spent on the things that are needed to keep them healthy and fed. Those who are not a problem would be given the checks."

Cappiello said that he has had some preliminary discussion on the proposal with state welfare officials but doesn't have a decision from them on whether it will be allowed.

According to Jerry Forman, the city's welfare director, the check system would speed up reimbursements to the city from the state for welfare expenditures. He said that they would be made each month.

Hoboken may refinance its parking bonds 12/31/76

By Peter Hallam

The Hoboken Parking Authority is thinking about refinancing its \$8.5 million bond issue as a means of reducing the annual payments it or Hoboken has to make on the bonds by almost \$20,000 — a savings of more than \$750,000 over the 40-year life of the bonds.

Richard Eversen, the authority's chairman, said today that it is considering a proposal made by J. B. Hanauer, a bond investment house, for the "advance refunding" of the bonds.

"It is a very preliminary proposal and I'm not fully knowledgeable of all of the minor details," said Eversen. "But the end result would be to reduce the amount of money the authority or the city has to pay each year on the bonds by between \$18,000 and \$20,000."

"The authority would put out for bond an additional \$9 million at 6½ per cent interest. The money would be reinvested in treasury notes. In 1985 \$3.5 million in term notes from the original bond issue would be paid off with the new borrowed money. By deferring the principal payments on the new bonds coupled with the interest from the treasury notes and paying off the higher interest bearing bonds (7.7 per cent) the authority can reduce the annual bond payments."

Eversen said that before the authority could agree to the proposal several things had to be done, including getting the city to apply to Moody's Investor Service for a better bond rating. Hoboken's rating is currently BA but Hanauer feels that the stability shown by the city over the last four years could result in an upgrading to BAA.

"One that is done, the city must be willing to extend its guarantee of the bonds to the new issue," he continued. "Then we have to get the 6½ per cent interest rate. But the key is approval of a bond counsel that the proposal is feasible and proper."

Eversen said that much more discussion on the proposal, especially between the authority and the city, would be required before the authority would be able to make a decision.

Amato becomes candidate for Hoboken mayor 1/4/77

Anthony J. Amato today became the first announced candidate to run for mayor in Hoboken against Mayor Steve Cappiello in May.

"This is definitely the time for an independent candidate to stand up for the residents of Hoboken," asserted Amato. "The administration of Mayor Cappiello is badly divided and more concerned with politics than running the city. And we have all suffered for it and will continue to unless there is a change."

Amato said he figures he will be a "main contender" in May.

"My effort in 1973 was a fiasco," he explained. "I was getting my feet wet. Politics and elections were a new thing to me. My showing wasn't as good as I had expected, but it was my own fault. I didn't work as hard as I should have."

"But I have learned a lot in the last four years and I feel my strength as an independent candidate has continued to grow."

Amato could not say whether or not he will field a full ticket with three councilmen-at-large candidates.

"It's highly probable, but we are still discussing that," he explained. "So at this time I am unable to say if there will be a full ticket, or who might be my runningmates."

Amato was the founder of the Hoboken Outlook, which has since become the Fourth Ward Democrats. However, his organization is not affiliated with the regular Democratic organization in the city or county.

"I don't believe in organization politics, at least not on a local level," he continued. "There's too much wheeling and dealing — at the public's expense. I have a very uncomplicated approach. Say what you mean, and do what you say."

"I can't tell people what they want to hear just because it might get me their vote. If I say I'm going to do something I'm going to do it if it's humanly possible. If it fails it won't be because we didn't try. And it won't be because I found it more advisable politically not to do it."

State relays Latins' hopes to Hoboken 12/27/76

The state Public Advocate's Department has given Hoboken a list of demands for greater participation in local government for the Hispanic community. It was learned today.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said that the state relayed to him a list of demands presented to it by Puerto Ricans for Affirmative Action.

"The letter was sent by J. Stanley Husid, the acting chief of the department, for my study," said the mayor.

"After I have done this I am to contact him for further discussion."

According to the mayor, the group wants a Puerto Rican aide to the mayor — a post the former administration maintained — the reinstatement of the Human Rights Commission, with members of the Puerto Rican community represented on the board, representation on the housing commission with a bilingual member in the relocation office, representation on the Board of Health and a Hispanic investigator.

The mayor said that the group was also seeking a review of the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) of the Community Development Agency (CDA) for a possible conflict of interests, and the appointment of three Hispanic members, and the appointment of someone from the city's largest group of Hispanics (Puerto Ricans) to replace the current court interpreter when he retires.

Cappiello said he was willing to study the demands and discuss them with officials from the state office, but he wasn't exactly sure of what some of them meant. "The Puerto Rican aide to the mayor was a position that we paid for with funds from the state," he said. "When the state cut the funds the job was eliminated."

"We already have a Hispanic on the Housing Commission, if they are referring to the housing authority. Edwin Duroy has been a commissioner for several years and was recently reappointed by me."

"Most of the inspector positions are classified by Civil Service and require taking a competitive examination," he continued. "In order to give Hispanics the jobs they would have to take the examinations and pass them. However, at the moment there aren't any vacancies and I'm not going to create any new positions for some time to come."

Verpeut reelected 11/1/77

Thomas Verpeut has been elected to another term as president of the Andrew Jackson Gardens Senior Citizens Club in Hoboken, it was announced today. The club is the first and oldest senior citizens club in the city. Also elected were Frank Staelens, vice president; Jennie Costanzo, recording secretary; Etta Breen, corresponding secretary; Mae Verpeut, treasurer, and Elizabeth Schwartz, sunshine lady.

To honor Smith 11/1/77

The late Leo Smith, Hoboken Housing Authority commissioner and union leader, will be honored at Thursday's luncheon meeting of the Hoboken Kiwanis Club in the Clam Broth House, it was announced today by Marvin Lubow, president. George Crimmins is program chairman.

day pay checks. City officials knew that just about every man was counting on this check for his Christmas expenses and believed that he would get them during December even though we hadn't concluded all contract negotiations. It was common practice to issue the checks once the salary question had been settled — and it was settled.

"They pulled a fast one by deciding that there wouldn't be any checks until after the contracts were signed. They held it over our heads. A lot of the men couldn't afford to say

no. So why should we do them any favors? They didn't do any for us."

Cappiello said he also didn't believe the parity clause was in the contracts any more but he was checking that too. He said that if the police and firemen do push for the two extra days pay it would cause problems for the city next year.

"I haven't budgeted for that expense," he explained. "If they win their point the money will have to come out of their salary account for 1977 and that means they could be short at the end of the year."

Hoboken's water money flows in, out 12/2/76

The new water rates Hoboken has been charging its users has resulted in a return of \$820,000 more than the city anticipated. But that news isn't as good as it sounds.

Hoboken also owes Jersey City approximately \$600,000 because of the new water rates it imposed earlier this year, and that \$820,000 will be used to pay it plus the November and December water bills.

The city council yesterday approved a resolution asking the state for permission to include the money of the General Foods Corp. and leader of the unions that represent workers at the Maxwell House Coffee plant in Hoboken on the water matter.

The meeting was arranged by Mayor Steve Cappiello after company officials met with him and expressed concern with the 75 per cent increases in water and sewerage charges resulting from Jersey City's rate increase to Hoboken.

Cappiello said he has not been advised of when the meeting will take place but it will center on a reduction of water costs.

In the 1976 budget instead of next year's so that immediate payment can be made to Jersey City.

According to Mrs. Helen Lodato, head of the water department, if the state approves including the extra money in this year's budget the city immediately will pay Jersey City what it owes. If not, the money will have to be shown as a surplus and paid in January under the 1977 budget.

Meanwhile, it was learned that a meeting will be held shortly between Mayor Paul T. Jordan and Jersey City's water officials, and represen-

firemen. And since officers receive a higher rate of pay, the total would be even more for the two days.

One day would cost the city a

total of more than \$17,000; two would bring it up to more than \$35,000.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director, said he was "unaware" that the clause was still in the police contract but added that he was reviewing it to make sure. However, he asserted that if the unions representing the uniformed employees did move to collect the two days' pay, it would be considered a "breach of good faith" on their part by the city.

"We had discussed this informally with them and they said that they would not push for it," Cappiello said. "To do so would be going back on their word."

Officials of the PBA and two fire unions were not available for comment. But sentiment from the rank and file members of their organizations is that they should seek the additional pay.

"I don't think we owe the city any favors," remarked one policeman who asked not to be named. "The city battered us from pillar to post during the negotiations, using every possible means to take away from us benefits previously won at the bargaining table."

"But the last straw was the hol-

Firemen sign pact 12/22/76

The Hoboken Fire Officers Assn. yesterday signed a three-year contract with the city without a controversial promotion clause the firefighters had claimed was necessary for their "security."

The contract, which calls for restitution of paid holidays for 1976, an 8.7 per cent pay increase for 1977 and a 7.9 per cent raise in 1978, drew "mixed feelings" from the 42-member union because the present promotion clause was scratched. The proviso would have maintained the current level of one chief, six deputy chiefs and 32 captains.

"Some of the men felt we were giving up too much in the way of security, but others felt this could be the beginning of mutual trust between the union and the city," an association spokesman said last night.

"It's going to be up to the city to fill vacancies when slots open in the future, so all we can hope for is that the city realizes there's a definite need for everyone of those posts," the spokesman said.

Although the contract doesn't call for any direct pay raise for 1976, it increased the number of working holidays from nine to 13. The extra working holidays would mean an additional \$450 for the year.

Romano party tape to be on TV 1/1/77

A video tape of the Anthony H. Romano Civic Association's Dec. 19 senior citizen Christmas party will be shown tonight, tomorrow night, and Saturday night at 7 o'clock on cablevision Channel 16, it was announced today.

The film runs for 30 minutes and features most of the entertainment program presented at the party.

Hoboken bluecoats may be owed for holidays 1/3/77

By Peter Hallam

The two past Fridays that Hoboken city employees enjoyed as unexpected days off may cost Hoboken more than \$35,000 in unexpected holiday pay for police and firemen, it was learned today.

According to sources within the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA), the contract recently signed with the city still includes a clause requiring the city to pay the policemen for any additional holidays given to city non-uniformed personnel. That clause was taken out of the contracts signed with the city's firemen and fire officers, the sources continued, but since they still have party with the police, they too may be eligible for the two days' pay also.

The city has 139 policemen and superiors, and 128 firemen and fire officers. At an average pay rate of \$65 a day the city would have to pay out \$9,035 for the police and \$8,320 for the

Concedes days off 8/8/11/77

Mayor Steve Cappiello today conceded that the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) does have a clause in its contract that would entitle city policemen to two additional days off — not additional pay — but the PBA has not yet approached the city for the days.

And maybe it won't. According to PBA President James Behrens, any decision to push for the extra time off because city non-uniformed workers were given off the two Fridays before Christmas and New Year's would have to be made by the membership, not the executive board.

"The membership will have to vote on it," he said. "It's their decision."

Cappiello at first could not find the clause in the PBA's new three-year contract with the city. However, it was finally located under the heading of time off. The clause says that if an executive order is issued by the mayor giving non-uniformed employees a special day off policemen will be entitled to a compensatory day.

Hoboken City Hall was closed on both Dec. 24 and 31 based on a letter to all departments sent out by the mayor. However, Cappiello said he didn't consider this to be an executive order.

The PBA's contract also includes parity for the firemen and fire officers and could entitle them to the two extra days off if the police push for them.

Cappiello said no one has submitted any requests for the time off as yet but when they do, if they do, he'll set down with them and discuss it.

"I don't think the clause was supposed to remain in the contract and I'm fairly sure the PBA agreed to having it taken out," he continued. "Technically, the PBA may have a point and I can't prevent it from pushing for it. But I think we can talk it out."

It had been previously reported that if the PBA and firemen pushed for the holidays they would get an additional day's pay for each holiday of approximately \$65 or more, depending on the ranks of the individuals, and this could cost the city more than \$35,000. The loss actually would be on paper in man hours worked and not cost the city any additional funds.

meeting, Dec. 14, at which the payment was voted. However, The Jersey Journal learned that it was added to the agenda without notice and passed along with the listed items.

Thomas A. Gallo, board secretary, said that the restaurant, the Union Club, has submitted the bill in 1975 and that it had been approved for payment by the board, but that due to some slip-up, no check was ever sent out.

As a result, he said, the board voted a second time to pay it.

Gallo said the dates of the "pre-meeting conferences" and the price of the food and drink consumed at each were:

May 12, 1975 — \$34.20.
May 15 — \$119.95.
May 20 — \$89.95.
May 28 — \$173.90.
May 30 — \$82.95.
June 10 — \$206.65.

The money to pay for these expenditures comes out of the school board's budget.

Hoboken's Board of Education meets once a month, on the second Tuesday of the month.

During the 26-day period covered by the Union Club bill, there were two scheduled board meetings, on May 13 and June 10.

2 Hoboken schools have asbestos 1/1/77

Asbestos has been found in the walls and ceilings of the boiler rooms in Hoboken High School and Wallace School.

Joseph Lynch, the Hoboken school board's architect, said he will decide whether to recommend to the city's board of education that the surfaces be sealed so that they will not mix with air, or that the wall and ceiling surfaces be removed and replaced.

Lynch said removal of these surfaces and their replacement by a non-asbestos material would cost in the neighborhood of \$14,000 at each school.

He said the walls and ceilings had been sprayed with asbestos. Asbestos spraying was prohibited in 1973, but other ceilings containing asbestos in their composition continued to be installed.

Lynch said the asbestos material served the dual purpose of insulating the hot boiler room from the rest of the school and of deadening the sound of the boilers.

He said his engineering firm, Mayo and Lynch, was not the architect that designed either of the two buildings. There is no asbestos in the city's newest and unoccupied school, known as the mini-school, for which his firm was the architect, Lynch said.

Gallo explained, however, that although all astronomical expenditures are listed on the agenda of public meetings as "pre-meeting conferences," actually many of them are "personnel meetings," at which one or another committee of the board ponders personnel matters.

George Sommers, manager of the Union Club, declined to discuss the bill or the circumstances under which the gustatory services were rendered.

Consider agency to attract industry to Hoboken

By TERRY BRENNAN
Hoboken officials are considering a resolution to create a \$100,000 non-profit corporation to attract and keep industry in the city.

The corporation, a quasi-governmental agency created to encourage business and industry to settle in the city, will be initially funded by the federal Community Development Agency. Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri said yesterday the city also expects to tap other state and federal funds once the program gets under way.

"The creation of this centralized project could help turn the city around," Ranieri said. "This could be the start of a 'talk-up Hoboken' project the city sorely needs. It could be the beginning of our salvation."

Although the resolution was tabled at Wednesday's council meeting, Ranieri said he's optimistic the proposal will be on the next session's agenda-Jan. 19.

"The program is geared to help those firms which might have been interested in relocating to the city, but didn't quite know how to go about it," Ranieri said. "We think it will help knock down some of those barriers."

Under the proposal, the project would be called the Hoboken Commercial and Economic Corp. and would seek to lure firms from New York. It also expects to curb the loss of industries which are interested in larger tracts than the city can offer.

"Hoboken has very concentrated buildings on small plots of land, while many firms have been looking for new structures on huge,

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sprawling acres," Ranieri said. "That's why we have to talk up our tax benefits, our transportation facilities and our proximity to New York without its massive problems."

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he thinks "any healthy effort such as this (program)," should be backed by city officials. He said he supported "this and any project" which will generate jobs and bolster the tax base. Hoboken currently leads all urban areas in the country with a 16 per cent unemployment rate.

The big economic factor in any relocation from New York is the tax saving over here," Cappiello said. "New York State's corporate and stock transfer taxes are severe. We want to stress that 'no. 1' advantage to all potential movers."

Two firms have crossed the Hudson during

the past year to take advantage of what Cappiello calls "our favorable tax atmosphere." Piper, Jaffray and Hopwood Inc., a brokerage firm, moved in May, while Devo Reynolds, a subsidiary of Celanese Inc., resettled in the city last June.

"We expect to save at least \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year without the New York transfer tax," a spokesman for the brokerage firm said. The company will pay an estimated \$250,000 a year in city real estate taxes.

Ranieri said the program will "definitely curb" any ideas local businesses might have for relocating outside the city. He said the loss in tax revenue and other benefits has been "a tremendous loss" since industry began drifting away after the second world war.

Right on red hassle

8/8/11/77
The right turn on a red light, now allowed by state law, is causing some difference of opinion between Hoboken Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer and the city's traffic and signal division.

According to Cramer, a survey should be taken so the city can determine what street should be posted with signs prohibiting the new turns. In Cramer's opinion, the turn should be allowed on most streets controlled by traffic lights.

But the city's traffic and signal division has already made a survey. And it's the opinion of Thomas Vecchione, head of the division, that the new turn should not cause any major problems once motorists get use to it.

"Hoboken is a small city and has very heavy traffic," said Cramer. "This new turn will lead to some serious accidents and a whole lot of minor ones."

Vecchione disagreed. He said that the city tested the new turns at some of the intersection that handled the heaviest amount of traffic and not one accident was reported because of the turns.

Vecchione added that the results of the survey taken this past summer and fall were turned over to Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director. At this time, no intersections in the city will be posted with signs prohibiting the new turns.

Council launches start of 'Shop Hoboken' plan

By TERRY BRENNAN
Hoboken City Council yesterday passed a resolution to "start the ball rolling" on its \$100,000 "Shop Hoboken" program to renovate commercial storefronts.

The program, which will give outright matching grants to merchants up to \$1,000, is solely for exterior renovation and will be financed by the federally-funded Community Development Agency. The CDA will also help local shopkeepers get low-interest loans through banks and the Small Business Administration.

"We've talked to small store owners in the area of Washington and First sts. and the immediate response has been excellent," CDA Director Fred M. Bado said. "We can match

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anything up to \$1,000, but they can spend as little or as much as they like."

Although Bado said no geographical limit has been set for the project, most of the city's shops are clustered around City Hall on downtown Washington st. The grants will cover "sidewalk benches, street furniture and general exterior improvements."

"We're giving small shopkeepers a chance to help themselves through this matching-grant program," Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri said. "We're hoping merchants make the whole area more attractive by taking advantage of this windfall."

Assign architect
Bado said the CDA will assign an architectural consultant for interior assistance and also help the merchants cut through government red tape while applying for aid. He added that the program should "get off the ground" within a month.

"We're going to channel shopkeepers into areas where there might be a public grant or loan they can tap," Bado said. "We can offer that assistance and technical know-how that the man untrained in this field can sorely use."

While the "Shop Hoboken" program is limited to a \$100,000 budget, Bado said the CDA's plans call for a \$10 million rehabilitation project for the Erie Lackawanna Railroad terminal that "could be a definite boom for the whole downtown area."

Cappiello will ask Foreman's suspension

By Peter Hallam
Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he will ask the Hoboken Local Assistance Board to suspend Welfare Director Jerry Forman while a police investigation into questionable welfare expenditures is under way.

Cappiello said he would appear at Tuesday night's board meeting and ask for the suspension. However, he would not disclose on what grounds he would base his request. Forman is on the city payroll but is answerable to the local assistance board, not the mayor.

From other sources it was learned that the mayor's action may be related to a number of claims that were questioned by the city council at Monday night's caucus and were removed from the council's agenda for Wednesday's meeting.

According to the source, the council questioned several vouchers for payment that dealt with dental work performed by a Union City dentist on local welfare clients. The source said that police were asked to check some of the vouchers to see if the work had been done as the dentist claimed.

The city council has been paying special attention to all welfare claims since the department came under fire from the state last year for

questionable expenditures of more than \$98,000.

It was learned that in one case a bill was submitted for almost \$500 for X-rays, tooth extractions and upper and lower plates for one welfare recipient, but the investigation disclosed that only the X-rays of the man's mouth had been taken. Neither the mayor or police officials would comment on the report.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Mayor Cappiello has asked Forman to stay away from the welfare office until after the mayor appears before the local assistance board.

New ticket system due?

By Peter Hallam
Hoboken may hire the City of East Orange to process its parking tickets by computer and help eliminate a large backlog of overdue summonses, it was learned today.

A delegation from the East Orange Violations Bureau visited the Hoboken Violations Bureau yesterday morning to brief Mrs. Marion Roland, Hoboken violations clerk, on the computer program. East Orange handles the summonses for a number of other municipalities, including North Bergen, in addition to its own.

According to Mrs. Roland, the talks were only preliminary and the proposal must be presented to Mayor Steve Cappiello and the city council for approval before the proposal must be presented to Mayor Steve Cap-

piello and the city council for approval before the computerization could start.

The cost to Hoboken would be approximately 25 cents a ticket. However, she said that this would be offset by an increase in the number of people who pay their tickets on time or after the first notice. A decrease in the bureau's work load and a decrease in operating costs.

"Our backlog — the time between the issuance of a parking ticket and the issuance of a secondary notice — is now several months," she said. "Motorists, especially those who frequently get tickets, know this and they wait to get the second notice before paying what they owe."

"By putting the computer in charge we'll get the second notices out within five or six weeks and that'll

speed up the payment process."

She added that statistics show that when a violations bureau uses a properly programmed computer system, there is usually an increase in revenue from fines — more than enough to offset the cost of the computer operation.

Mrs. Roland said that she and Municipal Court Judge Rudolph R. Naddoo have discussed the possibility of a short amnesty period for those motorists who have outstanding tickets before beginning the computer program.

"We haven't decided how long it will be, but everyone who has outstanding tickets will be given the opportunity to pay them at a reduced cost," she said. "They will still have to pay the full fine but the overdue charges will be dropped."

River Road traffic flow under study

Hoboken officials are looking into what can be done to improve traffic flow on the city's recently reopened River Road following complaints from local residents and industry about near accidents at both ends of the seven block roadway.

Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer disclosed at yesterday's council meeting that officials of the Maxwell House coffee plant have written to him complaining of several accidents and near misses near the northern end of the road.

"The problem is at a point just south of where River Road goes into Hudson Street," said Cramer. "This is where the company has the entrance to and exit from its parking area. There have been a number of accidents involving cars coming out of or going into the lot with cars traveling along River Road."

Cramer said that the problem was especially bad around 4 p.m. when new shifts were going to work at the plant and the shift going off duty were using the lot.

"The problem also extends out to Hudson Street," he continued. "There is nothing to alert or warn motorists to use caution in that area."

To dedicate Marion Towers Feb. 8

Marion Towers, a 12-story senior citizen housing complex at First and Adams streets, Hoboken, will be formally dedicated at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 8. The complex, sponsored by the Mount Carmel Guild, an affiliate agency of Catholic Community Services, Newark, was designed to meet the needs of senior citizens in the

Hoboken area. Marion Towers contains 121 one-bedroom apartments, 11 two-bedroom apartments and 22 efficiencies. Rental applications are now being accepted on the premises. Priority will be given to those over 62, residents of Hoboken, and families, who, because of disability, have special needs.

Bartletta holds back checks for school bash

By William Taft
Hoboken's custodian of school monies announced today that he is holding up all checks made out by the city's board of education in payment of recent bills for food, liquor and entertainment.

Frank J. Bartletta, the custodian, asserted that he will not sign and give out the checks unless he becomes convinced that it is legal and proper to spend school funds for such purposes.

"I can't see it," declared Bartletta, who is also the city's revenue and finance director.

Bartletta said he is under pressure by the board to yield and let the checks go through but he will not do so unless he is satisfied that he would not be committing an illegal act himself.

"I don't think federal money intended for education can be used for dinners, music, entertainment and liquor," he maintained, "and the same

should go for funds designated for education by the state, county or municipality."

The custodian said he was visited by Thomas A. Gallo, board secretary, and Robert W. Taylor, board attorney, who tried to get him to change his mind, but he refused.

Bartletta said he was also approached separately by a board member, Michael (Spike) Costello, interceding on behalf of a restaurant,

Casella's, but he declined to release the check made out to Casella's by the board for \$323.95 for food and drinks consumed at two "personnel meetings" Nov. 11 and 23. Costello is a Hoboken police detective.

"I told all of them that I want to know specifically who authorized these specific expenditures," Bartletta asserted. "It's not enough to say that it's always been the custom for board members and their employees to

dine and wine at the taxpayers' expense whenever they feel like it. It's time to blow the whistle on that kind of thing."

The checks Bartletta is holding up come to a total of \$2,905.07. In addition, Bartletta said he would also hold up a check for \$740 which has not yet been sent on to him by the board.

Of the \$2,905.07, checks totaling \$1,149.90 are for various "pre-meeting conferences" and "personnel

meetings" held by the board or committees of the board at local restaurants. Employees of the board also are present at these functions, and it is reported that on occasion the employees present outnumber the board members.

The remaining \$1,655.17 is for the bottles of liquor, flowers and music at the dinner-party given by all 12 Hudson County school boards Dec. 3 at Stevens Institute.

Hoboken response due on sewage plant woes

Hoboken's reply to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on a number of shortcomings at the city's sewage treatment plant should be in the mail by next week, according to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

Although the state inspection was made in October, the city was not notified of the results until early last month. At that time, it was advised that it had 30 days in which to file a response with the DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"The final draft has been completed by Mayo, Lynch and Associates — the engineering firm we hired to

assist with the preparation — and should be put into the form of a response no later than next week," said the director.

The state's inspection covered all aspects of the treatment plant operation, from testing to the use of personnel. Problems were pointed out in most areas. In its response, the city is to tell the DEP what it plans to do to make corrections and how it will go about them.

"We are not accepting the state's findings completely at face value," said the director.

Vitale would not go into detail on what items the city took exception to.

Property owner misses lien

A Hoboken property owner narrowly missed having a tax lien placed on his property by the city by getting his own contractor to demolish his building at 124 Jefferson St.

The Hoboken City Council accepted bids at yesterday's meeting for the demolition of the building, but, before opening the proposals submitted by two companies, announced that the owner, Frank Spano, had his own company start the job the day before.

Council President Martin J. Brennan said the situation was "unique" to him so the bids were referred to the Law Department with a request for what direction the city had to take.

Spano had been ordered to take the building down more than two months ago and didn't do it. The city decided to do it for him but at the last minute Spano appeared before the council and said he was hiring his own contractor. He had been given until last month to have the work done.

But last month, when Spano still hadn't demolished the structure, the council again advertised for bids for the demolition. These were due at yesterday's meeting. Two proposals were received, one for \$1,888 from a Newark company and one for \$3,700 from a Bayonne firm.

Spano told the council before yesterday's meeting that the demolition started Tuesday and that by yesterday morning most of the frame building, a tenement house, had been

taken down.

The council also accepted bids on the repair and replacement of parts in the Jefferson Street Recreation Center. One contractor, Walter Geiger, besides submitting the low bid of \$16,500, suggested that the city seriously consider replacing the whole heating unit — at an estimated price of \$21,500.

Bids were received for the pump work at the 11th Street pumping station. One proposal was submitted by the Artesian Well and Equipment Co. of Roselle Park for \$87,930.

A number of residents questioned the need for a \$1,560 telephone bill for the Community Development Agency (CDA).

Robert King, a professor at New York University, said he went through the CDA's November telephone bill and questioned a number of calls as to whether they were business or personal.

"I noted a number of long-distance calls that lasted one minute," he said. "There was one to San Francisco and another to Puerto Rico, to mention two. I counted at least 15 long-distance calls of one minute or less."

"These sound more like personal calls to me. Few business calls take only a minute to make."

Thomas Vezzetti pointed out that he had seen one call of nine minutes to Puerto Rico. Both he and King suggested that the CDA implement some kind of controls to help cut down on this type of phone call.

A resolution authorizing the CDA to create a "Shop Hoboken" program designed to provide financial and technical assistance to merchants and store owners who want to improve and modernize their businesses was approved by the council although questioned by King.

King said that it was his understanding that merchants along First Street, as well as Washington Street,

were going to be eligible for the program. He asked why the First Street merchants should be eligible since most of that area was scheduled for redevelopment and was going to be torn down in a few years?

He urged the council to table the resolution until it got more details on the program. However, his request was unheeded and the resolution was approved.

Two ordinances, one fixing the salary for the city's firemen for 1976 and the other doing the same thing for this year because of two pay increases, were unanimously passed by the council.

Hoboken parking panel richer than expected

The Hoboken Parking Authority finished 1976 with a \$39,000 surplus instead of the \$51,000 deficit anticipated at the beginning of last year, an authority official said today.

Joseph Hottendorf, executive director, said that the authority had anticipated taking in \$265,000 in revenues for 1976. \$165,000 more than it had taken in the previous year. The authority actually collected approximately \$307,000 — \$42,000 more than expected.

Hottendorf said the authority expected to spend \$316,000 in operational costs for 1976 but spent only \$268,000 — \$48,000 less than planned.

"So instead of a deficit of around \$51,000 the authority has a little more than \$39,000 in surplus funds," he said. "A portion of that will be used to pay our debt service taking some of the burden off the city."

It was also disclosed that the authority has now completely rented all 456 parking spaces in Garage G, the biggest of its three parking garages. Garage D is not yet open, but the authority is accepting applications for monthly parking spots in it.

Hottendorf said it might be

awhile before the applications were acknowledged because the authority needs at least 300 commitments for monthly parking to make it worthwhile to open the third and last garage.

He added that the authority will be undertaking a series of promotions aimed at commuters to make them aware of the available parking spaces.

'Shop Hoboken' advancing

A program designed to help Hoboken's Washington and First Street merchants spruce up the front of their stores and the surrounding areas is expected to get started next month, Fred M. Bado, director of the city's Community Development Agency (CDA), said today.

The program, which is being called "Shop Hoboken," has approximately \$100,000 in CDA funds which will be given to merchants in the form of grants of up to \$1,000. The money may be used to buy new signs, paint, make minor repairs, install awnings or landscaping.

Bado said that the funds cannot be used for extensive remodeling but there was a possibility that funds for such projects might become available as an offshoot of the program.

"The CDA will also be providing technical and design assistance to those who want it," he added. "This assistance will also be available for the larger remodeling projects if they come about later. We're hoping to involve some of the local banking institutions to participate."

Bado said that the "Shop Hoboken" program would also assist merchants to apply for loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration and may be able to work up a large-scale plan that would qualify for federal Economic Development Administration loans.

"EDA loans are usually not available for small amounts — the kind of money a shopkeeper would need to remodel," he said. "But there is a possibility that we could be put



Vivian Velden, right, president of Kaj Veldin Studios in Hoboken, is assisted by Simo Marich, left, and Jill Busanic

in putting the final touches on background materials for presidential inaugural ceremonies at Capitol in Washington.

The room is 400 feet long and 200 feet wide, with 60 foot high ceilings and that's going to take a lot of fabric — some 13,000 square yards.

The firm, which employs about eight people, several from Hoboken, will be sending a crew of three to Washington to set up the decorations. They will start Monday and work through next Thursday. Then they'll return Jan. 17 and work through Jan. 20.

Ms. Velden said that the most difficult part of the operation will be taking down the decorations.

Taking down the material might sound like an easy job, but that isn't the case.

"The President's inaugural committee wants the material," she said. "I don't know what they plan to do with it but they paid for it, so it will be turned over to the committee after we take it down — as carefully as possible."

Ms. Velden, a New York City resident, said her firm was awarded the contract by virtue of its low bid on the job. She added that the Carter people were "very cost conscious."



Councilman Robert A. Ranieri stands amidst the ruins of the Grand Hotel in Hoboken, to be auctioned on Monday.

Who'll fix up Grand Hotel?

Hoboken's Grand Hotel, famed hostelry of the 1890s, will go under the auctioneer's hammer Monday.

The sale to the highest bidder is contingent on the city council's being satisfied that the bidder will rehabilitate the structure, starting within 45 days after confirmation of the sale. The object is not to make money on the sale, but to make the property revenue-producing, so it will yield taxes.

Several prospective purchasers are reported to be readying bids, among them a local restaurant owner. At least some of them are interested in converting the building to an apartment house, rather than restoring it as a hotel.

The hotel is presently a shambles, ankle-deep in rubble, after repeated raids by thieves and vandals, culminated by a considerable fire a few weeks ago.

In Hoboken's heyday as a steamship terminal where passengers to and from Europe and New York stayed over for the night, it was widely renowned. The main ground floor had two bars, a restaurant and a dance-and-dine room. The three upper floors have hotel rooms.

The auction starts at 2 p.m. in the courtroom at City Hall.

At a previous attempt to sell the hotel, there were no bidders. At that time the city was demanding \$30,000 as a minimum price. The bids Monday are expected to go above \$10,000.

The city acquired the hotel through foreclosure after the owners failed to pay taxes.

School safety panel OK'd by Hoboken

The Hoboken Board of Education has authorized the creation of a school safety committee to handle what one trustee described as "numerous complaints" about mishaps to children in the school system.

James Farina, board vice president, said members of the committee will probably be named at next month's board meeting.

Formation of the committee apparently stems from a controversial incident last November in the vicinity of the Kealey School, resulting in reported injuries to a primary-age girl student.

The girl's mother has appealed to the board to accept legal responsibility for the incident, reported as a scuffle between her daughter and another girl, but the board refuses.

Board Attorney Robert W. Taylor said at last night's board meeting that because the incident happened "at a time when children were being released from school," responsibility "lies with the parents of the children — not with the board."

However, Taylor said that if any witnesses of the incident came forward with any new evidence, the board might change its stance.

In a related development, the board approved the transfer of Gladys Richardson, a luncheon aide at the Kealey School, to the Sadie Keimkauf School. One parent charged the move reflected part of a board "coverup" of testimony she said the aide gave on the incident, but Thomas F. McFeely, superintendent of schools, denied that. He said only that the transfer was "in the school system's best interests."

In other business, Trustee Otto Hottendorf said he would meet with members of his food program committee Monday at 7:30 p.m. to discuss "certain problems that have cropped up with our food lunch program."

Later, Hottendorf told The Jersey Journal the committee will check with the board architect on the feasibility of ripping down some raised platforms on the balcony level of the Brandt School to create sufficient space for lunch tables. He said students now eat cold lunches in the upper auditorium.

Hottendorf said the committee will also ask the architect about whether to place a kitchen for the Connors School in the basement or auditorium, where the children presently eat cold lunches.

The veteran trustee declined to predict when the board would begin to implement a long-promised hot lunch program. He said some schools might get the hot meals before others.

Meanwhile, the board is operating under "interim" contracts for cold lunches with Country Farms and Vendo Co.

Regarding the new mini-school at 524 Park Ave., the board voted to withhold \$6,356 due Pisani & DeBari, the general contractor, after a site inspection on Monday disclosed water seepage, according to Taylor.

And although the board tabled a resolution to approve a name for the mini-school, Hottendorf said his personal choice was to name it after former trustee John Zatta, who served on the board some 30 years.

Other possibilities for names suggested by Hottendorf were: Former Mayor and trustee Fred DiSapio; Ida Houseman, former math teacher and a fighter for teachers' pension rights; Salvatore Colabro, who was active in local coaching activities; and Col. Frederick Hauser, former state legislator who taught locally and served as assistant superintendent from 1954 to 1972.

Hoboken blocks to lack water

Several hundred Hoboken families along Washington Street will be without water tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale warned today.

"The shut-down is necessary while work is done on some of our waterlines along Washington Street," said the director. "The affected area will be between 8th and 10th streets."

"I advise all residents living in that area and businesses that require water in order to conduct their activities, to stock up in advance. We estimate that six hours will be sufficient to do the work that is needed. But it might be longer so it might be wise to put aside more water than actually needed for six hours, just as a precaution."

In recent months, a number of areas have been shut down without any formal advance notification by the company doing the work — Ameron.

Vitale said that the company is now making "a sincere effort" to give advance notification and to plan its work so that there is sufficient time to alert the public. He said that Ameron notified the city yesterday of the planned shut-down.

Welfare chief suspended

By TERRY BRENNAN

The Hoboken Local Assistance Board has suspended Welfare Director Jerry Forman pending an ongoing investigation into questionable welfare expenditures.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, who appeared before the board Tuesday night to "present some of the facts we've unearthed," said last night the suspension stemmed from the city council's refusal to pay a welfare claim last week. The claim reportedly involved welfare vouchers submitted by a Union City dentist.

"The board has decided to suspend Jerry Forman without pay for what they called 'mismanagement,'" Cappiello said. "I went before the board to give them the facts and they acted upon them."

While Cappiello said a formal notice of the suspension is being worked on by the Law Department, he said Forman had been notified of the board's action Tuesday night. Forman said yesterday he had received "no notice whatsoever."

"As far as I'm concerned I'm still working at the welfare office," Forman said. "No notice has been presented to me in any manner and I wasn't called before the local assistance board."

Although Cappiello said he had instructed Forman to stay away from the welfare office last Thursday until he went before the board, Forman insisted he was still on the job. Employees at the welfare department said yesterday, Forman hadn't been there since last Thursday.

"This is still a democracy and I would hope that the board would question me if they were going to suspend me," Forman said. "They haven't done this."

CDA official leaving post for federal job

The director of the municipal operations program for the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) leaves the program today for a position with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in its Newark Regional Office.

Joel Freiser, who came to Hoboken in 1973 as the deputy director of the then Model Cities Program — now the CDA — will start with HUD Monday. He was with that government agency before taking the position in Hoboken.

"Technically, I am still a HUD employee," he said. "I was on loan to Hoboken by agreement. That agreement was not renewed so I'm returning to HUD."

Freiser came to Hoboken in July, 1973, as deputy director to Michael Coleman, then Model Cities director. In 1975, Freiser took up residence in the city. He said he plans to continue living in Hoboken.

Grand Hotel buyer sees Hoboken rebirth

By TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken's Grand Hotel was auctioned off yesterday at \$27,500 to a real estate developer and restaurateur with other property interests in the city.

The four-story structure, which was assessed by the city in 1975 at \$75,400, will be converted to a steakhouse and apartment complex if the city council approves the sale. The buyer, Pat Severino, said he represented the 232 Hudson St. Corp., the address of the hotel.

"We intend to restore the building to an elegant Victorian-style steakhouse and apartment house," Severino said. "I think Hoboken's on its way back and there'll be a definite need for a restaurant downtown. We may even save part of the building for a hotel."

While Severino will have to submit plans within 45 days to show that the building will become revenue-producing, he said he foresaw little opposition because "we're giving the city what it wants."

"I'm sure the plan we give the city will improve the neighborhood and increase tax revenue," Severino said. "I think people will want to eat in a fine restaurant now that Hoboken's been turned around. I don't see how the council can deny this is one more step forward for the city."

Although the hotel once attracted passengers en route from Europe to New York when the city was a successful port, the structure has been subjected to thievery and vandalism and had a fire recently. Hoboken acquired the building through foreclosure in 1974 when the owners failed to pay back taxes of \$37,500.

"This proves there's a growing interest in (acquiring property in) Hoboken and that the value is going up little by little," Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri said. "I think it a definite step in the right direction."

Ranieri predicted the city council would "certainly" approve the sale "once the buyer's plans have been specified and submitted." He said Hoboken "could sure use a fine restaurant downtown."

Severino, a Cliffside Park developer, is the owner of an apartment house at 1000 Hudson St., part owner of El Dorado Real Estate and part-owner of the Binghamton's ferryboat restaurant at Edgewater. He is also the developer of homes in Weehawken, Ft. Lee, Englewood Cliffs and Palisades Park.

Although Severino said the acquisition "wasn't a particularly good one" right now, he predicted it would eventually symbolize the "rebirth of the city" when it's reopened. He said the renovated building would also include a ballroom and bar and that the city has agreed to lease parking spaces at its garage across from the hotel.

The city had attempted to auction the hotel nine months ago, but no one met the asking price of \$60,000. The bidding started at zero yesterday.

Hoboken to clear your walks in FINE gesture

Hoboken has a couple of surprises in store for property owners who haven't cleared snow and ice from their sidewalks — the city is going to do it for them.

That's one of the surprises. The other is that they're also going to get a ticket for failing to do it themselves.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today at the request of Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri the police and public works department will be working together to get most of the accumulated snow and ice off most of the city's sidewalks.

The mayor said the police department will do the spotting — finding the ice covered sidewalks — and the public works department will send a crew to remove it.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said his men will not clean off the entire sidewalk at any given location but will at least open up an adequate pathway so that pedestrians can walk through without having to worry about falling and injuring themselves.

He added that the addresses will be written down and turned over to his sanitation inspectors. They will check them against city records to determine the owner and then mail out summonses.

According to Ranieri, a number of local residents have been injured, one seriously, since last week's snow storm because some property owners aren't bothering to shovel their sidewalks.

Cops may get radio repair bills

Neglect, not faulty parts or poor service, is blamed by Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello for problems city's police are having with their walkie-talkie radios. And there is a good chance that careless policemen may have to start paying for the repairs.

"The men just aren't taking good enough care of the radios," the mayor said today in response to a suggestion from Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri that the police switch over to a radio system used by the public works department.

"The equipment we use is generally rated the very best money can buy. It is used by more police and public safety operations throughout the nation than all other systems combined, I'm told. The problem isn't with the quality of the police radios, but in the care they are given by the men."

The mayor said that switching to another system would not make matters better.

"A different make won't solve the problem of neglect," he continued. "And neglect is the problem, not normal wear and tear. There is only one way to attack that problem and that is to make the men pay for any damage or repairs that result from careless handling."

Cappiello said that some breakage and damage was to be expected, but not on the scale the city has been experiencing.

"Right now, we have 13 radios that are out of order for one reason or another — and most of them are the result of neglect," he asserted. "I'm not saying that it's all intentional neglect. On the contrary, most of it is probably unintentional. But this is still unacceptable."

"The only way we can cure this is to make the men more aware of the fact that they have a delicate piece of equipment that might fail them unexpectedly when they need it the most if they don't take care of it. And the best way of impressing them with this is to hold them responsible for the cost of repairs."

The mayor, who is also public safety director, said he would take up the matter with Police Chief George W. Crimmins. Cappiello said that the current system of assigning radios and checking them when they are turned in again will be reviewed for loopholes and revised to make it stronger and more foolproof.

East Orange to process Hoboken parking tickets

By March 1 Hoboken hopes to have East Orange start processing all of its parking tickets by computer, it was learned today.

A resolution authorizing the city to enter into a contract with East Orange has been placed on the agenda for tomorrow night's council meeting and is expected to be passed.

The cost to Hoboken will be 25 cents per ticket but this is expected to be offset by elimination of a large ticket backlog in the violations bureau and an increase in the payment of fines — on time.

According to Mrs. Marion Roland, head violations clerk, if the council approves the agreement and East Orange can begin processing the tickets on March 1, the city will set up an amnesty period for most of next month.

"Motorists with overdue parking tickets may bring them in and pay the normal fine plus a small late charge," she said. "But they will not be charged court costs. However, once the amnesty period is over they will have to pay that additional charge so I urge everyone who has outstanding tickets to settle them once the amnesty period has been declared."

Mrs. Roland said that due to an increase in the number of parking tickets being given out and a decrease in staff size, her office has a large backlog of secondary notices to motorists. They are sent out when a motorist fails to pay a ticket by the date stated on it, or fails to enter a plea of "not guilty" and asks for a hearing.

"The secondary or supplemental notices should go out within a month of the court appearance date," she said. "Ours are six or seven months behind."

New firemen to get lower pay

Hoboken plans to hire 10 fire trainees later this year and they'll be asked to help fight fires at an annual salary that one city official described as "substantially less" than the \$10,000 that a rookie firefighter gets.

The new fire department rank is contained in an amended ordinance dealing with the table of organization specifying the maximum number of each rank that can be retained by the city given a public hearing at last night's council session.

Only one fireman spoke against the new law, which takes effect in another 20 days. The table of rank, which the city sought to displace from the police and firemen's union contracts as a "managerial prerogative," is thus restored — minus three fire captain slots.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who conducted negotiations for the city with the police and fire unions, said no salary has yet been set for the new "trainee" rank. "But when you figure that a rookie comes on the job at \$10,000, it must be substantially less than that," he said.

Ranieri said the trainee's job would consist of "learning from and assisting regular firefighters." Asked if that learning and abetting process would take place on the scene of a fire, for example, Ranieri said it would.

"This program," continued Ranieri, "which was conceived prior to the change in the state Civil Service ruling prohibiting giving favored positions to Hoboken residents, is designed to attract young Hoboken people of qualifying age to a firefighting career."

In other business at the council meeting, Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone appears to be the man in the middle of competing factions striving to name the city's new mini-park under construction with the aid of state Green Acres funds at Second and Adams streets.

One group of residents, represented by Walter O'Connor at the meeting, wants the park dedicated to Mrs. Mary Francone, wife of the councilman in recognition of her community involvement.

Another contingent, comprised of citizens and merchants, for which local electrician Joseph Fontana served as spokesman urged that the park be named for Natalie (Dolly) and Martin Sinatra, the Hoboken-born entertainer's parents.

Fontana, who urged Francone "to help push this drive," said that Mrs. Sinatra was "very charitable in Hoboken on the condition that it be done without fanfare. We do love Mary Francone but we feel it would be inappropriate to name a public facility after someone still alive."

Asked about the procedure for dedicating a city facility, Council President Martin J. Brennan said, "That's something new to me" and added that he'd have to consult the law department. "The last time this was done was in 1955 with Stevens Park and it was done by a resolution passed by the council."

Keeping the past

One of the remaining contacts with the heyday of Hoboken's waterfront as a passenger ship terminal has been saved.

The Grand Hotel on Hudson St. was successfully bid for at a city-run auction last week by a Cliffside Park developer who paid \$27,500 for the landmark.

The Grand, along with Meyers Hotel just across the street, were main attractions of the then bustling Hoboken waterfront.

The Grand has been saved from the fate of Meyers, which was razed in 1969 to make way for the Grogan Marineview Plaza development.

The new owner, Pat Severino, said he will convert the supper floors of the now derelict building into apartments. A Victorian-style restaurant and bar will be located on the first floor.

The announced plans for the future use of the Grand, with the successful brownstone restoration program in the northern section of Hoboken, will retain some of the flavor of the Hoboken that made it what it was in those glory days, and will serve as a symbol that those days are returning.

Hoboken to make own traffic signs

Hoboken plans to buy its own equipment needed for making street traffic signs as part of a plan to have all modern and up-to-date signs which conform with the state codes by the end of the year. Mayor Steve Cappiello said today.

According to the mayor, the city council is to act on specifications and authorize the city to seek bidders on supplying the equipment at Wednesday's evening council meeting. The bids will be due at the Feb. 16 meeting.

Besides all of the equipment, which will be paid for with state Safe and Clean Streets funds, the city also will be seeking bids for the purchase of between 200 and 400 new channel posts on which the signs will be erected.

The mayor said the project has been assigned to the Public Safety Department's traffic and signal division. It is to be responsible for the care and replacement of the signs as needed, including the alternate side of the street parking signs used in the daily street sweeping program.

"A survey is now under way to pinpoint the location of every existing traffic sign in the city," the mayor continued. "An up-to-date file will be kept on them so the city will always know what signs are where."

The mayor said that once all of the new signs have been installed and the city meets state codes the traffic and signal division will be responsible for maintaining and replacing them.

Pact perks mayoral race

The candidate given the support of Hoboken councilman Louis Francone and Anthony H. Romano in May's mayoral election will have to be considered the favorite in the contest.

And it looks as if a candidate who gets one of these on his side will get both.

According to Francone he and Romano will be "sticking together" in their political activities including the upcoming contest for mayor. Both are heavy vote getters.

"We're together in this," said Francone. "Somebody has to have unity."

Romano confirmed what Francone said. However he would not say whom they are going to endorse for mayor, if anyone.

It had been rumored that Romano may be a candidate for the mayor's chair. When asked if he is, he replied, "Not at this time."

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FRIENDLY VISITOR — Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken, left, and Vincent Barbo, coordinator of senior citizen activities, present a certificate to Mrs. Norma Migliaccio in recognition of her work as a "Friendly Visitor" when she found a woman neighbor suffering from a stroke.



VANDAL PROOF — Richard Eversen, right, chairman of the Hoboken Parking Authority, watches Frank Francolino, the authority's maintenance man, install one of the new, vandal-proof parking meters that the authority is putting into service.

School budget in Hoboken called slanted

Was the 1976-77 Hoboken school board budget prepared to deliberately show a poor financial picture?

That's the contention of City Attorney Lawrence Florio and Thomas Calligy, assistant city attorney. But Robert W. Taylor, school board attorney, said it isn't so.

The two city lawyers made the observation in a written summation sent to the state Department of Education on the recent hearing to determine if the \$680,000 cut from the budget by the city should be reinstated.

Florio and Calligy said that on Nov. 1, 1976 Vincent J. Indelicato, the school auditor, was ordered by Taylor to provide a line item for \$222,000 — an item that couldn't be found by an independent audit because it hadn't been presented to the public and wasn't acted upon by the board during the year.

Taylor replied that the \$222,000 was fully explained at the hearing and "no charge of any impropriety was raised during the questioning." He added that it would be impossible for him to order an independent certified public accountant to present any financial data that, in his opinion, was not correct and factual.

The two lawyers asked why the \$222,000 was set out as a reserve in an audit for that period unless to show an "untrue picture."

"If part of the money was designated for a particular purpose in 1976-77, then that should be in the budget for that period," they also felt it was "curious" that Indelicato would require a legal opinion from Taylor before setting up the reserve as a "free balance."

The city lawyers said Indelicato testified at the hearing that he questioned the inclusion of the \$222,000 item and asked for the written legal opinion. They quoted Indelicato as saying the procedure was "unusual" but he could find nothing to indicate it was illegal or contrary to accepted practice.

Taylor said it is normal procedure for auditors to rely on records, or where required, legal opinions.

"There's nothing irregular, or improper in asking for a legal opinion, particularly when it's addressed to a witness who has a full understanding of the facts," he declared.

"What the city representatives refuse to acknowledge," said the school attorney, is that the City Council approved this expenditure and then when it came time to produce the required \$222,000 it refused to do so.

"At the time of the council's approval, if there was any reservation about not supplying the money it was not indicated to the Board of Education," said Taylor.

The summation was an afterthought by Florio and Calligy, but was accepted for consideration by August E. Thomas, the director of the Division of Controversies and Disputes for the state Department of Education.

Check CDA phone bills to see if they ring true

A systematic review of telephone bills incurred by the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) has been started by Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri to determine if there have been abuses of the telephone usage by the staff.

Ranieri said today that he has started going through the CDA telephone bills and is making a list of calls that might be questionable.

"It was brought out by one of our citizens at a recent council meeting that business calls are not brief and seldom take less than a minute to conclude," he said. "However, there appears to be a number of short duration

long-distance calls being made from the CDA and I would like to know if the 'are legitimate business calls or personal calls."

Ranieri said that he will present his list of calls to CDA Director Fred M. Bado and ask him to determine who made and received them.

The CDA's telephone bills were questioned at the Jan. 5 council meeting by Robert King. He told the council that he had looked at the bills and found a number of short duration long-distance calls had been made to Puerto Rico, Washington D.C., and other long-distance points and asked the council to make an inquiry.

What do you think of Hudson River route?

TRENTON — Starting Friday, residents of Jersey City and Hoboken will be interviewed in their homes as part of a study being made by the State Transportation Department on the feasibility of a new Hudson River highway route.

The interviews will be conducted by Utrinton Associates of New York

for the engineering consulting firm of Hardesty and Hanover of New York, which is making the feasibility study.

Included in the questions are travel habits and local road conditions. The comments of residents will assist the department in determining whether a new highway is desirable to improve traffic flow in local streets

and if so, where such a highway should be located.

Interviewers will show an introductory letter signed by a department official as well as personal identification. All answers will be kept confidential and no names will be placed on the questionnaire, the department said. The survey will last a month.

Hoboken Young Dems endorse Cappiello

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken has his first formal endorsement for re-election in May.

James Farina, president of the Hoboken Young Democrats, announced today he and his organization are endorsing the mayor for re-election and will be working actively for him when the campaign gets underway.

Farina, a member of the Hoboken Board of Education and an employee of the city's recreation department, said the vote on the endorsement was taken over the weekend.

When asked if the group would support the mayor's councilmen-at-large running mates when they are announced, Farina replied the club would wait until the mayor names them to make that decision.

Council sends summons to judge on ticket plan

Municipal Court Judge Rudolph R. Nadeau will be called before members of the Hoboken City Council tomorrow night to defend a proposal that the city contract with East Orange to computerize processing of traffic tickets.

Nadeau wrote the council that implementing such a system would result in a "more effective and profitable" operation, but Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer isn't convinced it's worth the extra cost to the city.

Cramer said at last night's council caucus that, "The judge doesn't explain why computerizing will get us more money. I want to know more about it before I vote on this."

But Business Administrator Herman Bier said Marion Rolands, violations clerk, told him that the computerized service would help eliminate an existing "backlog" and therefore succeed in bringing Hoboken more revenues.

The city presently generates between \$85,000 and \$100,000 annually in ticket fines collections, according to City Attorney Larry Florio. Revenues on penalties imposed for moving violations, however, are sent to the state.

Cramer had reservations on another matter discussed at the caucus — a policy of the local public works department to throw salt on sidewalks that haven't been cleared of snow and ice — because the city isn't insured for any damages that might be sought by a citizen.

Irked by "whole sections of blocks," like Hudson Street between Fifth and Eighth streets, that he says are "not touched" by a shovel, Cramer complained that public works inspectors are "not giving out enough tickets."

But Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale countered, "My inspectors gave out summonses all day today. We give (property owners) 48 hours to shovel."

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, responding to Cramer's fiscal concern, said, "I feel conscience-bound" to have icy sidewalks salted "on behalf of our older citizens."

Part of the problem is assuring adequate snow removal by residents, said Florio, is having to use, in some instances, local codes dating back to the turn of the century. Florio urged the council to appropriate an estimated \$16,000 to recodify the city's "voluminous" ordinances. City Clerk Anthony Amoroso said the city last undertook such a task in 1956 at a cost of around \$5,000. The council took the suggestion under advisement.

In other public works matters, the council will probably reject a bid for \$16,500 by Walter F. Geiger Co. for repairing the heating system at the Jefferson Recreation Center and readvertise with new specifications calling for a new furnace and pipes, which Geiger says in his bid he can provide for \$4,500 above his bid price. At the same time, the council is also expected to provide for an emergency appropriation of some \$2,000 to supplement the \$20,000 already appropriated to cover the anticipated extra cost for the work.

First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano urged Vitale to put the owner of the vacant Condenser Service property at Observer Highway and Bloomfield Street "on notice" to clear away refuse now in containers. "I'm afraid some kid is going to climb up one of those piles and get killed," he said.

The council is being asked to pay \$10,358.88 to Raymond Wright of North Bergen for rental of pumps. The council is expected to accept the resignation of Zeljko Mirkovic as a member of the city Rent Leveling and Stabilization Board.

Hoboken cop cars no match for streets

Hoboken's switch to small, compact-type police cars hasn't worked out, according to a report presented to the city council by the police department's head mechanic.

Patrolman Mario Mercado has recommended to the city council that it buy five new police cars but one size larger than the cars it purchased last year because they have more ground clearance.

Last year, the city purchased five Chevrolet Novas after several years of buying full-size Fords. The switch was made because the larger vehicles did not have sufficient front end clearance and were frequently out of commission for repairs after "bottoming out" during high speed operations.

Mercado reported that during the latter part of last year, all five of the new Novas experienced the same problems as the older Fords and were out of commission at one time or another for front end damage.

"The cause of the front end damage can be directly attributed to the generally poor condition of many city streets," he said. "Added to this situation is the relatively low ground clearance which caused these vehicles to strike raised obstructions at high speeds."

Mercado said that he has contacted the General Motors Corp. concerning the problem with the Novas and it has promised to provide whatever assistance and parts are required to raise the frames for greater ground clearance.

However, Mercado added that the Chevrolet Chevelles, the next larger size vehicle but still not a full-size car, has the ground clearance required to avoid most street hazards.

Mercado has also recommended the purchase of a van to be used as a road maintenance vehicle for public safety cars and fire trucks.

The vehicle would contain various equipment needed to service police cars and fire trucks away from the shop. It would also carry oxygen tanks for use by the fire department at the scene of fires when the normal supply runs out.

Mercado said that a proposal to use the van to transport prisoners to and from police headquarters and the county jail was not practical.

Jersey City, Hoboken get housing grant

Jersey City and Hoboken have been selected for a new federal program to rehabilitate 500 housing units using \$3 million subsidy grant.

The project will provide an incentive for owners of substandard housing to rehabilitate their buildings with the help of lower wages for construction workers. It is hoped the prospect of more jobs will entice construction unions to agree to work for less than scale.

This is the second round of the program, according to the director the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Newark, Walter Johnson. The first round worked successfully in New York and Atlanta, he said.

Essentially the program will come under the federal Section 8 Housing program that provides rent subsidies for low and moderate income families. A family contributes a share of its income for rent with HUD picking up the difference between that figure and the rent charged by the landlord.

The selected cities, that also includes Newark as the only other New Jersey city, showed signs of local labor management agreements that could be used in the program, according to a spokesman for the office of New Jersey Senator Harrison Williams, who announced the plans.

Landlords that wish to rehabilitate their buildings will be guaranteed subsidies, which essentially assures them they will be able to rent their modernized buildings at a fair market price.

This assurance should help the landlord to secure financing for the rehabilitation, according to Johnson. Newark will receive \$1,932,400 for 400 units, \$1,651,400 will go to Jersey City for 300 units and \$1,242,600 to Hoboken for 200 units.

Jurors hear Crimmins in gambling investigation

A probe of Hoboken gambling activities continues following the appearance of Police Chief George W. Crimmins before the Hudson County grand jury.

The chief appeared before the grand jury for nearly four hours yesterday, according to informed sources, but managed to avoid meeting a flock of reporters. He was in the grand jury at morning and afternoon sessions yesterday, the first day of the probe. It is believed several other witnesses also testified.

Meanwhile, a mysterious closed courtroom session was held before Superior Court Judge Thomas S. O'Brien early yesterday afternoon.

Neither Deputy First Asst. Prosecutor Edward C. Megill, who was seen leaving O'Brien's courtroom

immediately after the session, nor other authorities would talk about it. Megill was later seen entering the grand jury room, leading to speculation he might be conducting the quiz there and he may have been in court on a grand jury matter.

The probe is the result of published allegations about gambling being conducted in Hoboken with a detective being the "bag man" for collecting "payoffs," which allegedly went to high-ranking city officials.

City officials immediately asked the prosecutor and the state attorney general to conduct investigations. Some officials and police objected to charges being too generalized and not specifying any names, claiming this cast a shadow of guilt on all city officials and police.

Gambling probes aimed at Hoboken, Union City

As a Hudson County grand jury began a probe into Hoboken gambling activities yesterday by the federal agents who arrived while police brass and Mayor William V. Musto were at a function honoring Police Chief Herman Bolte.

The arrival of the agents at Union City City Hall yesterday made it obvious that a federal grand jury is still looking into gambling activities, city hall insiders felt.

Last week, U.S. Attorney Jonathan Goldstein announced that former Commissioner and Public Safety Director Paul Lombardo, star probe witness, who is under federal protective custody, pleaded guilty to

records were subpoenaed at headquarters yesterday by the federal agents who arrived while police brass and Mayor William V. Musto were at a function honoring Police Chief Herman Bolte.

The arrival of the agents at Union City City Hall yesterday made it obvious that a federal grand jury is still looking into gambling activities, city hall insiders felt.

Last week, U.S. Attorney Jonathan Goldstein announced that former Commissioner and Public Safety Director Paul Lombardo, star probe witness, who is under federal protective custody, pleaded guilty to

lying to the grand jury. Lombardo claimed he had never taken money from anyone to protect local gambling operations. Goldstein said the former commissioner did take \$3,000 from a Cuban gambler while in office.

Lombardo faces sentencing in March by a federal district court judge.

In Hoboken, both Crimmins and Behrens confirmed they had been subpoenaed for an appearance today but both refused to make any further comment. The chief said any additional information concerning the matter would have to come from

Hudson County Prosecutor James O'Halloran.

Sources report the probe is the result of three stories published in another newspaper several months ago alleging that there was wide-scale gambling going on in the city — with the consent and knowledge of local police.

The articles further alleged that a detective in the vice squad was the "bag-man" or collector of the payoffs, and saw to it that the money got into the right hands — including those of high-ranking city officials. However, the stories failed to mention any names of policemen or city officials involved in or connected with the operations.

City officials immediately responded to the allegations by formally asking the prosecutor and the state attorney general's office to conduct investigations. Other officials and police objected strongly to the charges, not as to the question of their truth, but because they were too generalized and non-specific and cast a shadow of guilt on all city officials and all members of the police department.

According to the chief, the investigation is in its final stages and a full report ready in a week or two. He said the report would be turned over to Mayor Steve Cappiello and the prosecutor's office.

O'Halloran was not available for comment.

Hoboken school board to face contempt trial

Members of the Hoboken Board of Education and their attorney today are awaiting the text of an appellate court ruling that a trial must be held on a contempt action against the board as a result of a strike in September, 1975.

The court also upheld a contempt conviction and \$40,000 fine levied against the Hoboken Teachers Association as a result of the 28-day walkout between Sept. 4 and Oct. 9. Robert W. Taylor, attorney for the Hoboken school board, said he would have to thoroughly study the court decision before making any comment.

"And then it must be taken up with the board members themselves," he said. "My only reaction is that I'm surprised by it."

The Appellate Division of Superior Court actually upheld Judge Thomas S. O'Brien, Hudson County assignment judge, on one order and reversed him on another.

The court upheld the contempt conviction and the fine levied by O'Brien against the teachers but reversed his ruling that the contempt citation against the school board be dismissed.

The contempt charge against the

board was issued by Judge Frederick C. Kentz Jr., on Sept. 15 after it was determined that the board had failed to meet with the association for several days after O'Brien ordered both sides to negotiate. O'Brien later dismissed the charge against the board for lack of jurisdiction.

In the decision on the teacher appeal, the ruling was written by Judge Robert A. Matthews. He rejected the teachers' argument that the Public Employment Relations Commission had "exclusive" jurisdiction over the board's failure to negotiate.

He said the appellate court found nothing in the Public Employer-Employee Relations Act of 1974 which deprived courts of jurisdiction over common law actions.

"Whenever public employees resort to the illegal activity of a strike," he wrote, "necessarily the general public must suffer harm in some way. Immediate relief is required in most cases and it may more readily be obtained in a short period of time in the courts, which are accustomed to dealing with such situations, rather than by resorting to an administrative agency."

Judges Baruch S. Seidman and Herbert Horn agreed.

Hoboken board hires limousine from member's kin for counsel

The Hoboken Board of Education has been supplying its attorney with a limousine for trips to Trenton and Newark Airport when school vehicles were unavailable. And it's been hiring the cars from a company which the wife of a school board member is a partner.

According to school board files, the board already has paid \$265 to Hoboken Livery of 529 Willow Ave. for limousine service and has another bill pending for \$160.

School board and city sources say the company is owned by Jack Raslowsky, a board member. However, Raslowsky denied this, saying that the company was owned by his wife and Joseph Lisa. Raslowsky

and the other board members approved the bill at the board's Nov. 9 meeting.

Raslowsky, who is director of the Paila Funeral Home at 533 Willow Ave., said he saw nothing wrong with the bill and did not consider it a conflict.

"My wife's a partner in the company, not I," he said.

A review of the paid bill shows that it was actually three bills from the limousine service on one voucher. The first was \$40 for a trip from Hoboken to Newark Airport on Nov. 7 to pick up Robert W. Taylor, board attorney. The second was \$100 for taking Taylor to Trenton on the same day from Newark Airport. And the last was \$125 for taking Taylor from Hoboken to Trenton on Nov. 9.

According to Taylor, he was in Boston on Nov. 7 when he was contacted by the board and told to return immediately because he had to represent its interests in an appeal on salary increases for teachers.

Taylor said he flew into Newark, was met by the limousine and taken to Trenton for the court case.

The pending bill is for two trips to and from Newark Airport on Dec. 1. However, the bill did not stipulate who the transportation was for.

Taylor said the use of the limousine service was an "exception" rather than the norm.

"I do not drive," he explained. "When I am in need of transportation to conduct board business I rely on the use of our own school board vehicles. If they are not available I will walk or use a public transportation when possible. In these instances our board vehicles were not available and it was not feasible to use public transportation."

A number of local taxicab companies were called for their fares to Newark Airport. According to the Hoboken Radio Cab Co. and the Hoboken Tube Taxi, they have a set fee of \$12 for a trip to Newark Airport — \$28 less than the limousine service. And they could usually pick the passenger up within 10 to 15 minutes of his call.

Ambulance Corps calls

The Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded to 4,707 calls in 1976, according to the corps' annual report filed with the city by William Matthews, the outgoing corps president.

Of that number, 3,464 were emergency calls, 1,083 were for transportation of the ill, 37 were to fires and 123 were false alarms.

The corps, which was founded in 1971, has answered more than 19,000 calls since its inception. Matthews estimated that the corps' 58 members put in a total of 30,000 man-hours on the job last year — excluding training hours.

Last year the corps' expenses totaled \$38,455 which included the mortgage on its headquarters at 707 Clinton St., payments on three ambulances, uniforms, first aid supplies and equipment. Part of this was offset by the city's \$15,000 annual contribution and the rest from donations and fund-raising events.

"Fifty per cent of our membership has completed emergency medical technician training, which is equivalent to a master's degree in first aid training," Matthews said.

Vezzetti is 4th Hoboken school board candidate

Thomas Vezzetti has become the fourth potential candidate for the Hoboken Board of Education election on March 29.

Vezzetti picked up his nominating petitions yesterday. Petitioners have also been picked up by Richard England, David Milne and Frank Mussara.

Vezzetti is the owner of the Madison Hotel at 1318 Washington St. and gives that as his home address. According to board records, Vezzetti, a constant school board and city council critic, also picked up petitions for last year's board of education election but never filed them.

\$6,000,000 reason for Hoboken

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today there is "a \$6,000,000 reason" why Hoboken pulled out of the Hudson County Sewerage Authority, which is planning a unified sewerage and sewage treatment system.

As a member of the authority, Cappiello said, Hoboken would have to pay prorated sewerage charges the same as the other municipalities, but it would still have to pay off \$6,000,000 in bonds still outstanding for its own treatment plant.

A reinspection of this plant by state inspectors scheduled for yesterday, was postponed just before it was to begin. Hoboken Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said one of the state inspectors became ill and was reported to be hospitalized.

The plant was inspected in October and found unacceptable. The city was given until the beginning of this month to correct the conditions found unsatisfactory. The reinspection was to follow.

Vitale said it was just as well that the inspection had been postponed because there have been some more breakdowns at the treatment plant that the city probably would have been cited for again. Repairs are being made, the director added, but it was highly unlikely that they would have been completed in time for the reinspection.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Hoboken has been advised by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that it wants approximately \$14,000 from the city as a surcharge for solid waste the city has been discharging into the Hudson River from the treatment plant. The money covers a \$7,000 fee for last year and another \$7,000 for this year.

A department spokesman said it would be paid and was expected. He said that all municipalities that were discharging solids into the Hudson were getting bills. They are part of the Corps plan to dredge areas of the river to make it safe for navigation. The bill is based on the annual amount the city discharges and figured at the rate of 75 cents per 1,000 pounds.

The city's treatment plant has been the main problem area for the city in recent months, and the center of much activity, both direct and indirect.

The city is under orders to upgrade the plant to a primary treatment system by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and was doing so as a participant in the Hudson County Sewerage Authority. But it has opted to withdraw from the authority and proceed on its own.

Cappiello said today he is pushing to form a new regional sewerage authority comprised of Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City and expected to meet with the mayors of those two municipalities shortly. Hoboken processed all of Weehawken's sewage and between 30 and 40 per cent of Union City's.

According to Cappiello, Hoboken doesn't want to participate in the county authority because it feels it should have to pay more than their fair share of the costs. And the county authority has yet to contradict that assertion with any meaningful figures.

Attacks on three fronts hit school boards' bash

By William Taft

Authorities probed the recent \$5,600 school boards' bash on three fronts today.

Hudson County Prosecutor James O'Halloran subpoenaed county education department records concerning the affair and said he would pursue "a complete investigation."

County Schools Superintendent Russell W. Carpenter, an appointee of the state Department of Education, summoned the presidents of all 13 boards of education in Hudson to meet with him tomorrow night to explain the bash.

In Hoboken, Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri wrote to state Attorney General William F. Hyland and the state Department of Education at Trenton demanding a "yes or no" answer as to whether the \$5,600 expenditure for the affair is legal; and Frank Bartletta, Hoboken's custodian of school monies, sent a similar request to Vincent B. Calabrese, assistant commissioner of the state Department of Education.

The \$5,600 bash was a cocktail party and dinner given by the associated School Boards of Hudson

County Dec. 3 at Stevens Institute in Hoboken.

O'Halloran told The Jersey Journal he is looking into "possible improprieties."

He said he would check with all 13 boards involved, and their secretaries, to get the facts.

The prosecutor said he was especially interested in finding out who attended the affair.

An investigator for O'Halloran interviewed Carpenter and served him with a subpoena to produce all records dealing with the bash. Carpenter said he had none. He also said he had had no part in arranging it.

Subsequently O'Halloran learned that Charles Weening, an aide to Carpenter, is reported to be the one who told the party hosts how many dinner reservations to make for each school board at the affair. Weening, who is the child study supervisor for the county education department, was at that time the acting secretary for the school boards' association.

O'Halloran then said he would interview Weening.

Carpenter said that he had not known of Weening's connection with the bash but would ask him on Monday to produce any records he has and would turn them over to the prosecutor.

He said Weening was away from

Hoboken firemen to protest creating trainee position

The president of the Hoboken Fire Fighters' Association, Michael Bavaro, today charged city officials with trying to circumvent Civil Service regulations and threatened to take legal action if they went ahead with plans to create the position of trainee-firefighter.

A public hearing on an ordinance introduced at last week's council meeting, which creates 10 trainee positions, is scheduled for the Feb. 2 council session.

"I assure the mayor and council that the Hoboken Fire Fighters will be there en masse," Bavaro said. "There is an existing list of men who are eligible for appointment to the fire department. Those men have to be appointed first before the city can start hiring any temporary help, if it can legally hire temporary firemen."

"The city is looking for a cheap and degrading way out. It wants to get around paying a reasonable price for adequate fire protection by hiring

trainees — who will do the same work as a regular fireman — but who will work for considerably less."

According to city officials, the fire trainees will be working for a lot less than what a fireman gets. A starting fireman in Hoboken gets approximately \$10,000 a year and goes up to more than \$13,000 after three years on the job, based on the new three-year contract the city has with the Fire Fighters.

"There is going to be a difference between these trainees and the men who have taken and passed the Civil Service examination," Bavaro continued. "We at least know that the Civil Service eligible is physically and mentally able to do the job. With the trainees who will probably be hand-picked by the mayor, there is no such assurance."

Mayor Cappiello has said the ordinance would allow a city to hire Hoboken residents for the trainee positions and eventually get them into

the department as full-fledged firefighters at regular firemen's pay. However, they would have to take the Civil Service examination and pass it before being appointed.

Bavaro said he and the Fire Fighters weren't against the city giving Hoboken residents first crack at jobs in the fire department but hiring trainees at less money would endanger their lives and the lives of regular firemen.

"Who is going to train them?" he asked. "How much does the mayor expect us to get from a man who is being required to do the same work and take the same risks as someone who is getting several thousand dollars more than he is? The city will pay them less and we'll get less. On one hand the city wants to hire Hoboken people, but on the other it wants to pay them less. That isn't right."

Mayor Cappiello was not available for comment.

Site may become city hall parking lot

The Hoboken Parking Authority will be glad to "manage" a municipally-owned parcel near City Hall as a parking facility for municipal employees, provided the city agrees to pick up the cost of rehabilitating the property — a cost that could run up to \$14,000.

That's what Commissioner Edwin J. Chius told Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri at last night's meeting of the authority when Ranieri made a pitch for the agency to develop a vacant lot at 74-78 Bloomfield St.

Ranieri, who said the city lacks adequate parking space in the area of the municipal building for police cars, civilian employees and visitors, added the city is looking to pave the lot before "turning it over to you."

The lawmaker said that he and some of his colleagues on the governing body felt they have been "infringing on the parking authority" by assuming responsibility for operating the lot as a municipal parking facility.

Ranieri suggested the authority could "charge a fee" for the use of the lot for parking.

But Chius said the city should not charge its employees for parking and

noted that the estimated 14 to 16 new spaces at the site wouldn't be enough to accommodate city employees and guests.

Chius agreed, however, that some sort of parking facility would be useful for the Newark Street area so long as the authority could "manage" and "control" it by mounting a card-operated gate at its access point.

Joseph W. Hottendorf, authority executive director, said a group of students from Stevens Institute of Technology surveyed the lot and concluded it could cost as high as \$14,000 to repair a "dip in the rear of the lot" and to make the site suitable for parking.

Ranieri was chided lightly by Hottendorf for his refusal to move his car along with some 40 others, from Garage G to Garage B at the Grogan Marine View Plaza. Hottendorf said Garage G is oversubscribed and that perhaps the only way to compel customers to relocate will be to raise the \$20 monthly rate at Garage G.

Commissioners Richard F. England Jr. and John B. Muciacchia objected, however, saying that such a move would be penalizing patrons for selecting one garage over another.

Council delays computerizing

Plans to computerize Hoboken's processing of all parking tickets have been temporarily sidetracked by the City Council so it can get more information.

A resolution authorizing Hoboken to enter into a contract with East Orange for the processing of parking tickets at a cost of 25 cents each was tabled at the request of Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer at last week's meeting.

"Our main question is, Will it be worth it?" said Cramer. "The council is concerned with the number of tickets processed for people who do pay the fines on time and why they too have to be processed by the computer. The council is also bothered by the wording of the contract since it calls for automatic renewal if the city doesn't take any action to terminate it."

"I think most of us would prefer to have the termination automatic unless the city decides to renew and formally does so by resolution," he added.

Cramer said he planned to take up these matters with Judge Rudolph R. Naddeo and Mrs. Marion Roland,

chief violations clerk, and report back to the council at next Monday night's caucus.

"If we are satisfied that the computerization is worthwhile and will continue to provide an efficient and money-saving operation, even after the backlog of tickets has been eliminated, and the legal questions on the contract ironed out, I think we will be able to act on it at the Feb. 2 meeting," he added.

The violations bureau has a backlog of approximately 30,000 unpaid parking tickets, some almost a year old. The computerization of the tickets is expected to reduce the backlog by getting motorists to pay up what they owe. It will be automatically sending out supplemental notices to the motorists with unpaid tickets reminding them that they owe the money and face contempt of court charges if they don't pay up.

Hoboken may fail recheck of sewage treatment plant

By Peter Hallam

Hoboken has a good chance of failing the re-inspection of its sewage treatment plant tomorrow by the state Department of Environmental Protection, according to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

The director said today that the plant has been "hard-hit" by the recent cold spell resulting in the curtailment of some portions of the operation.

"It isn't that we have experienced exceptional problems," he continued.

"The weather has been so bad that making the repairs has become very difficult. Everything has been icing up and men can work under conditions like this for so long before it starts affecting them and their performance."

However, the director said that everything possible would be done to make sure the plant was fully operational by tomorrow morning's inspection.

"I assigned men to work over the

weekend continuing with the repairs," he said. "And I'll have them work around the clock tonight if I have to."

The plant originally was inspected by the state last October. However, the report of its findings wasn't completed and returned to the city until last month. As a result of the report and the city's claim that much of what was recommended in it had been done, a re-inspection was scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Hoboken patrol tells of terror in city projects

Are residents of the Hoboken Housing Authority's projects on Harrison and Jackson streets getting adequate police protection?

According to a member of the Hoboken Auxiliary Police, which patrols most of the authority's area, incidents have become so numerous for the auxiliary force to handle that residents are "living in terror."

Acting on the complaint of Frank Thurston, an officer in the auxiliary force, Councilman-at-large Robert A.

Ranieri has asked Police Chief George W. Crimmins to review the situation to see if the regular police are doing enough.

"The chief said that we have two Tactical Patrol Force (TPF) men assigned to patrol in the area of Harrison and Jackson Gardens and that this was adequate protection coupled with the auxiliaries," Ranieri said. "However, he has consented to

Battle among Hoboken Dems averted; Romano to back Cappiello in election

By Peter Hallam

Political battle between Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello and First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano that would have torn apart the city's Democratic Organization was averted today when the councilman announced he is supporting the mayor for reelection in May.

Romano, who has long been rumored as a possible opponent for Cappiello but avoided any comment on his leanings, said today that after a long discussion with the mayor they have agreed to "set aside their political differences for the benefit of the city."

Cappiello said he was pleased that a fight with Romano for the city's top position did not come about.

"Regardless of who won, the city would have suffered for it in the long run," asserted the mayor.

"It would have meant a split within the organization and the administration and those ill feelings developed during a political campaign are hard to set aside at its conclusion. Hoboken cannot afford ill feelings among the men who run the city, especially at times like these."

Romano agreed with the mayor and said it took him many hours of serious thought to reach his decision. But in the long run, he said, "there could be no real winner."

The mayor said that he recognizes Romano's aggressiveness as a city councilman and plans to tap it to make him more involved in the

administration of the local government.

"There are many serious problems facing Hoboken, in spite of the turnaround that is so obvious to everyone," continued Cappiello. "We have some very real crises on the horizon. One of them is the city's determination to update its sewage treatment plant in spite of federal, state and county opposition. We must have unity in this pursuit if we are to succeed."

Romano said he will support the mayor's selections for councilmen-at-large and expects to be in on the selection process with the mayor.

The councilman admitted that he has had his differences in the past with Cappiello and may have more in the future, but none of them is worth disrupting the city to prove a point. He said he believed he and the mayor can work out any problem that may arise.

Bartletta tells school board: no bills, no \$

Another confrontation is developing between Hoboken city and school board officials.

Frank J. Bartletta, the city's director of revenue and finance and the custodian of school funds, says henceforth he won't sign any more checks for the school board unless the board supplies him with copies of the bills and the claims, with the board's seal affixed. But the board's attorney, Robert W. Taylor, says Bartletta is "exceeding his authority" and has no right to refuse to sign the bills.

According to Bartletta, he is sending a letter to the school board secretary, Thomas A. Gallo, advising him that in addition to the information on the school board has been sending with its requests for payment, it must also include a certified copy of the minutes of all meetings, both regular and special.

"The information the school board has been supplying is not enough," he said. "There is no definitive breakdown of what the payment encompasses, just a lump sum and a brief description. There aren't any details and I don't feel that I am protecting myself or the city by accepting them this way."

However, Taylor said Bartletta assumed no liability for the checks or claims by signing them.

"The main duty of the school custodian is to make sure that there are funds available to pay the claims," said Taylor. "He is not responsible for their content or the board's action in approving them. The checks also bear the signatures of the school board president and the secretary, who are legally responsible for them."

Taylor said Bartletta is also responsible for having prepared a number of reports but has been ignoring this responsibility for more than a year.

According to Taylor, the state Department of Education performed an audit and survey of the board records and procedures last year at the city's request. A report on the findings was sent to the board and city in September. It noted that the monthly and annual reports that were supposed to be made out by Bartletta's office were not being filed.

"This matter was brought to the city's attention during a meeting a week or so later," he continued. "Nothing happened. It was brought up again a few weeks later at another meeting, and at that time Director Bartletta requested a written explanation. On Dec. 16 I wrote a letter to the director advising him of the reports that were needed and of his duties as custodian of school funds. The letter was sent to the mayor. I have not received a response."

Taylor said he did not know if the school board would agree to Bartletta's request for the additional information. However, he added that it would create an additional burden on the board and serve no useful purpose.

"The board has never tried to hide any information Director Bartletta may have wanted or refused that information to him," Taylor continued. "It's a matter of public record. If he questioned any bills submitted for payment we made a point of sending him a copy of the bill."

Taylor said he would take the matter of the reports from Bartletta up with the school board. However, no action would be taken on the director's letter until it was received and discussed.

Hoboken

Mayor Steve Cappiello read a resolution commemorating the lives of Mrs. Natalie "Dolly" Sinatra and Mrs. Anne Carbone at the city council meeting Tuesday. Mrs. Sinatra, mother of entertainer, Frank Sinatra, and Mrs. Carbone, were killed in a plane crash in California recently. They were both long-time Hoboken residents.

review the situation to see if it somehow might be improved."

Thurston appeared at last week's council meeting and told the council that residents of the two large projects and several smaller ones in the complex were being terrorized by large groups of youths who were congregating in the hallways.

He added that muggings and assaults were on the increase and it was generally believed that the gangs were responsible.

"I have looked into Thurston's complaints and I find that many residents are greatly afraid for their own safety," said the councilman. "Their apartments have become fortresses. Many won't go out after dark. Some are even afraid to venture out in the daytime unless they are accompanied by a friend or neighbor."

Ranieri said that it was recommended by Thurston that the first course of action should be the emptying out of the hallways.

"Thurston said that the auxiliary police try to clear out the hallways but as soon as they leave the area to check the other buildings the youths are right back in again," he continued.

H.P. 1/3/77 BATTLESHIP N.J.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello "enthusiastically endorsed" the campaign to bring the battleship USS New Jersey to his city.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy during World War 2 when the "Big J" began her career which spanned three wars, Cappiello noted that his administration has been "vigorously involved in developing the potential of the city's waterfront. I find the proposal to bring the city's image to one of positive thinking with solid accomplishments. It would also provide jobs for local residents and provide a stimulus for business in and around the proposed site."

Cappiello noted that Hoboken, through the Community Development Agency, has made application to state and federal agencies for \$6 million for a proposed rehabilitation of the Erie-Lackawanna Terminal, which has been declared a national landmark.

The mayor noted that the "proposed development of the Erie-Lackawanna Terminal will be a boon to the city. Integrating the USS New Jersey into this complex would be of extreme importance and added advantage in providing a meaningful and progressive redevelopment of this vital area and would do much to revitalize the southern section of the city."

Dreams unfulfilled; the lot is empty

By TERRY BRENNAN

The empty eyesore at the corner of Hudson and First sts. was once an important spoke in Hoboken's revolving wheel to financial solvency.

The fenced-in lot, the site of a projected 15-story office and motel complex once slated to lure firms from New York, now barely houses a 10-foot concrete foundation in a hole on its river side.

The complex was proposed three years ago by Jersey City developer Bernard F. Kenny.

"Kenny claims he could have attracted quite a few firms to the city if he had space available when they wanted to move last year," Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri said yesterday. "He apparently had to have a commitment on definite leases before getting the backing."

While Ranieri said the structure would have been "a feather in Hoboken's cap"

if it had been produced with private funds, Kenny has apparently run into problems getting sufficient financing. Ranieri said Kenny still "appears to be inching closer to a final mortgage commitment."

Dickers With Firms

"Kenny has been dickering with Wall Street firms who want to come over here to avoid New York's harsh stock transfer taxes," Ranieri said.

"Apparently, those signing leases wanted definite commitments and he couldn't offer it before getting the mortgage," he added. "It seems the backers also demanded definite leases before granting the mortgage. So each was dependent on the other."

Ranieri said Kenny purchased the site of the proposed complex from the Hoboken Housing Authority as part of a deal for withdrawing from an agreement to develop the whole area between

Hudson, River, First and Second sts. City officials had also agreed to lease \$750,000 for office space in the building, even though they admitted they didn't need it.

They had apparently offered to lease one full floor of space in return for Kenny's agreement to disassociate himself officially from a lawsuit threatened against the city.

The suit had reportedly demanded more than \$1 million for costs Kenny's partner, Joseph Comporetto, claimed he had incurred in planning the development. Kenny denied any participation in the suit.

Ranieri said Kenny claims he has lease commitments for office space from a few firms, but the councilman admits it's a very bad time to get financial backing.



Robert Ranieri

Ways to save, improve Hoboken are proposed

By RICHARD DRABIK

Hoboken has something in its look and character which "couldn't be reproduced at any cost," and Columbia University students tonight will show how the best of the city can be saved and improved.

The presentation by students of the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning at Columbia, the result of several months of research and study, will be made from 7 to 10 p.m.

at Hoboken's Multi-Service Center at Second and Grand sts.

The historic preservation project focused on three distinct neighborhoods: one, the area between First and Second sts., where distinctive architectural qualities were found; second, Washington st., between First and Second sts., where storefront restoration and public improvements could enhance business, and third, the largely commercial zone between Washington st., and the old Erie-Lackawanna Terminal, which a Columbia spokesman described as "Hoboken's finest landmark, whose reuse will have a significant impact on its surroundings, which includes many of the city's architecturally important buildings."

The program's spokesman said the approach taken by the students was that "the best solution for many urban problems may be conservation and restoration of the environment that already exists."

He said Hoboken's strategic position, directly opposite Manhattan, but cushioned at the west by the Palisades and at the north and south by the two Hudson River tunnels, and the city's stock of fine 19th century buildings, make it ideal for historic preservation.

In Hoboken, he said, the buildings "have largely retained their original architectural qualities. This, plus a large measure of community pride, have put Hoboken in a position to reverse its historic decline, a process that naturally began several years ago with the activities of the city's Community Development Agency."

May refinance garage bond issue

A delegation from the Hoboken Parking Authority will attend Monday night's city council caucus to discuss the possibility of refinancing the authority's \$8.5 million parking garage construction bond issue, it was learned today.

The authority has been investigating the possibility for several months by talking with various bonding firms, a spokesman said. "There are advantages and disadvantages," he said. "The advantages are that a new bond issue would reduce the annual payments that have to be made and might include an additional grace period of several years

when no payments have to be made at all. This would take some of the pressure off the city, which is committed to paying the twice-a-year payments as long as the authority can't.

"The disadvantages are that in order to do this, we have to float a new bond issue for a greater amount for a longer period of time. And when the bond issue has been paid off, the total amount paid out will greatly exceed what we were originally committed to under the \$8.5 million issue."

According to the spokesman, reaction to the proposal from

authority and city council members has been mixed.

"Some don't like the idea of going deeper in debt," he continued.

"Others, however, feel that the breather may give the authority the time it needs to make the parking garage a paying proposition, enough so that its annual income will be enough to meet the financial commitments without having to rely on the city."

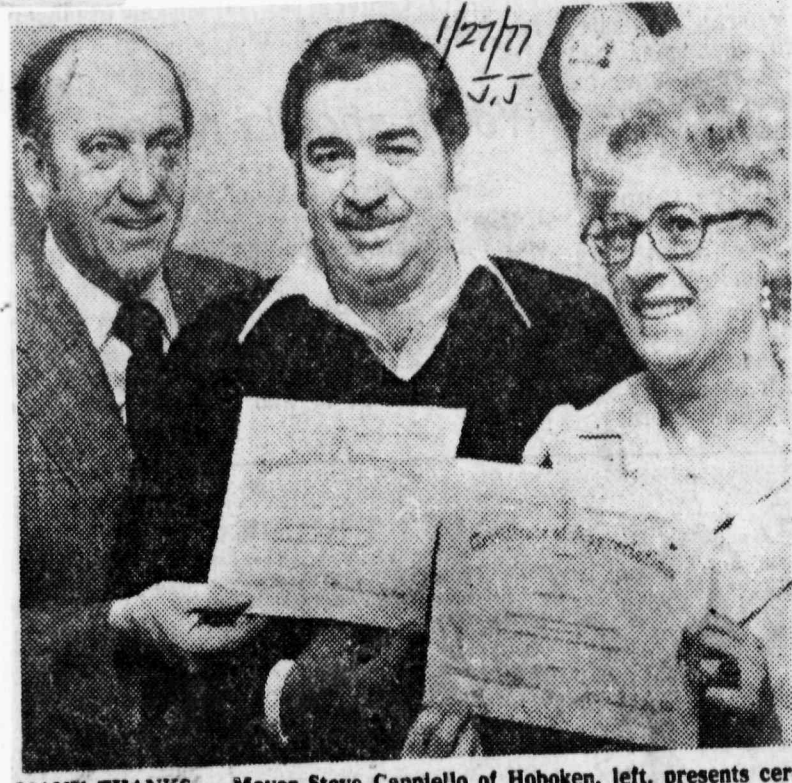
"The meeting is for the purpose of discussing the pros and cons further."

Also up for discussion will be a proposal to develop two vacant city-owned lots at 74-78 Bloomfield St.

into a parking lot for municipal employees and guests. The city wants the authority to operate the lot.

The spokesman said that a proposal from Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy for the removal of parking meters from in front of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) clinic on Hudson Street would be discussed, too.

According to Leahy, additional free parking is needed for clinic patients who must now park at half-hour metered spots. He said that half-an-hour was inadequate to accommodate the ill and the meters should be taken out entirely.



MANY THANKS — Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken, left, presents certificates of appreciation to two of the volunteers who assisted in the swine flu inoculation program in Hoboken. Receiving the citations, which came from the state health department, are Louis Orefice, center, and Frances Cracolici.

Francone, Vitale back Cappiello

By Peter Hallam

Some of Hoboken's Democratic strongmen have begun to follow the lead of First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano in endorsing the re-election bid of Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone and Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, president of Francone's political club, announced today that they are endorsing the mayor for re-election. Both were reported to be strongly in Romano's corner had he decided to challenge the mayor.

Francone, who has been consistently one of the city's top vote getters since first entering office more than 20 years ago, disclosed last week that he was "sticking with Romano" on any political decisions. It was this announcement that is believed to have forced the political truce between Romano and Cappiello.

In making their endorsements, Vitale and Francone echoed the sentiments of the mayor and Romano—that the big loser in any confrontation between the city's political heavyweights would be the city.

"We have to have unity," asserted Francone. "A political fight among us won't do anyone any good."

The removal of Romano as a candidate leaves Andrew J. Amato as the mayor's main opponent at this time—and it appears Amato is going to stick it out.

"I'm still running," he said. However, Amato admitted that the peace treaty between Romano and Cappiello hasn't enhanced his chance in May.

"An open fight between them would have been good for me," he said. "I'm pretty sure that with both of them running I could have forced a run-off, maybe even made it myself."

"Now that they've made up, I don't know what my chances are. But who knows what can happen between now and May. I don't mind being an underdog. It makes you work harder. What chance did they give Jimmy Carter two years ago."

Hoboken gets dockers' only hiring hall

Hoboken will become the only city in Hudson County with a longshoremen's hiring hall on or about April 1, it was learned today.

Two hiring centers operated by the New York-New Jersey Waterfront Commission—one at Harborside Terminal in Jersey City and the other on Hudson Street in Hoboken—are being shut down, a spokesman for the bistate agency said today.

According to the spokesman, Gerry Kiled, the new center will be located at 72-74 Newark St., the old Jersey Observer building across from Hoboken City Hall. The agency has rented the first floor of the building and alterations are now under way.

Kiled said the two centers were being combined into one as an efficiency move. The new center will be

called the Hudson County Employment Information Center and will serve all Hudson County longshoremen.

He explained that the centers were used as central hiring points when extra longshoremen were needed for work on the various piers throughout the port. However, through improved operations, including the use of computers, the agency can now usually determine how many extra men will be needed at any location the day before; this has greatly reduced the need for two centers.

Kiled said the new center will handle anywhere from 20 to 400 longshoremen daily.

School board has no dinner dollars

Hoboken's board of education already has over-spent the appropriation in its current budget for dinners, liquor and incidental amenities, although the school year still has five months to go.

The board has been writing checks for this type of expenditure against a budget line reading "Personnel meetings." The budget for the 1976-77 year starting last September provided \$3,000 on this line. But as of today the board already has incurred obligations of this kind totaling \$4,460.11.

Thomas A. Gallo, the board's secretary, said the bills can be paid by taking money away from appropriations for other purposes. The nearest of these is "Transportation for workshops (conventions, etc.)," for which the board appropriated \$8,000 in the current school year.

But Gallo said any excess expenditures on the "personnel meeting" line do not have to be taken out of the appropriation for travel expenses to workshops and conventions.

The money to pay the bills, he said, will be found somewhere, "regardless of just where it comes from."

"It will be taken from wherever it's available," he added.

A "personnel meeting" is one which the public and press are not notified of, and at which they are barred on the ground that the only matters to be discussed concern hiring or firing and problems connected with employees' conduct and services. This is permitted under the state's "Sunshine Law."

Hoboken's board held 14 of these private meetings at which (ostensibly) only such matters were brought up, within a four-month period.

At its regular meeting in September the board voted to pay a bill for \$118 submitted by the Cellar restaurant (no date given); and a bill from Casella's restaurant for \$383.80 for meetings Aug. 10 and 24.

At the regular October board meeting a bill from Leo's Grandevous restaurant for \$41.90 (no date given) was paid.

In November the board paid a \$42.50 bill from Casella's, (no date given); a \$200.85 bill from the Cellar for meetings Aug. 9 and Oct. 12; and a \$65.70 bill from Leo's Grandevous for a meeting Oct. 20.

In December the board voted to pay \$323.95 to Casella's for meetings Nov. 9 and Nov. 23; a \$23 bill from the Cellar for a meeting Nov. 25; and an \$85.35 bill from Leo's for meetings Oct. 26 and Nov. 15.

In January the board voted \$86.75 for a meeting at Leo's (no date

given). These were all for "personnel meetings." Another bill paid by the board in October was for \$26.25, for Casella's, for "lunch-school inspection."

Another bill voted in December was for \$717.60 for six "pre-meeting conferences" within a period of 29 days early in 1975.

In December the board also voted \$880.17 for Van's liquor store for bottles of liquor at the annual party of the Hudson County Education Boards Association, Dec. 3, which was hosted by Hoboken; and \$540 for entertainment and \$225 for flowers.

In January the board also voted \$709.29 as its Hoboken's pro-rated share of the cost of the dinners, sandwiches, soda, hors d'oeuvres and bar service at the annual party.

Wait decision on cut school funds

Hoboken will have to wait at least another week to find out the state Department of Education's decision on the board's appeal of the \$680,000 cut from its 1976-77 budget by the city council.

A spokesman for the department's Division of Disputes and Controversies said today that August Thomas, head of the division and the hearing officer for the Hoboken appeal, has not concluded his review of the hearing transcript, and only this week received some of the additional material he had asked the school board for.

"Director Thomas expects to conclude his review and make a recom-

mendation to the commissioner sometime next week," the spokesman said. "A decision should also be made next week."

The two-day appeal hearing was conducted last month in the offices of the Hudson County Superintendent of Schools in Jersey City. The school board wants the entire \$680,000 reinstated. It also wants Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke to order the city to put up an additional \$1.5 million to be used for the payment of teachers during July and August.

Meanwhile, the school board has reached some additional decisions on its planned hot lunch program but can't implement any of them until it

knows whether it's going to get back the money cut by the council.

According to Otto Hottendorf, a member of the board's buildings committee, the money, or part of it, will be needed to make some changes at the Joseph F. Brandt and Thomas G. Connors schools to accommodate the lunch program.

"We had some problems determining how we were going to set up the programs at the two schools," he said. "At Brandt it was finding a place where the students could eat. And at Connors it was finding suitable space for the kitchen area. Both have been resolved."

"At Brandt, the platforms on the balcony of the auditorium will be removed to make a flat area. Tables and chairs will be put in and the stu-

dents can eat their hot lunches there. The auditorium, or a small portion of it, in Connors will be used for the lunch preparation area. Our fire inspectors have approved that plan but we still have to get the state's approval."

Hottendorf said that the money to pay for the remodeling will have to come from the funds the state is considering for reinstatement.

He added that a seepage problem in the basement of the new middle school has been corrected, but \$3,366 owed to the contractor, Pisan and DeBari, is still being held by the school board.

"We are withholding payment until the engineer for the project certifies that the corrections are to his satisfaction," he said.

Jury hears Crimmins

By JIM BENSON

Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins appeared all day yesterday before a county grand jury investigating an alleged gambling bribery scheme involving police and municipal officials.

It was the second time the grand jury has met and the second time Crimmins has testified before it. The probe is expected to continue next Friday, according to sources.

So far, only Crimmins and Hoboken Patrolman James Behrens have been subpoenaed to testify in the case. Behrens has been on call but has not appeared.

A source close to the investigation yesterday indicated that more than 10 persons would eventually be subpoenaed. The source said those subpoenaed would not all be police.

The grand jury has also received Hoboken police records in connection with the investigation.

The probe follows a series of articles in The Dispatch in October charging that high city officials were receiving thousands of dollars each week as payoffs to allow extensive gaming operations in Hoboken.

Patrolman Behrens is Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Assn. (PBA) president.

Threatened Crackdown

The Dispatch reported that police threatened to arrest the gamblers and close down their operations as leverage in contract negotiations with city officials.

City and police officials have denied knowledge of the alleged gambling kickback scheme. The Gambling was,

said to be a multi-million dollar-a-year operation.

The county prosecutor's office and state police began independent investigations following the bribe reports.

State police were said to have suspected widespread gambling in Hoboken for some time prior to the published reports. The state police were unable to stop the gaming, however, due to a manpower shortage and the tight-knit nature of Hoboken, according to an informed source.

Crimmins and Behrens have declined comment on the subpoenas and have been directed by the grand jury not to discuss their testimony. Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor Edward McGill is in charge of the Hudson County investigation.

Bribe probe grabs Hoboken cop data

By ROMAN CZAJKOWSKY

A Hudson County grand jury has subpoenaed Hoboken police department records in connection with its investigation of a gambling kickback scheme involving high police and city officials, according to sources close to the county prosecutor's office.

The police department records will be used "to lay the ground work of the grand jury's investigation," the sources said. While it was not disclosed that records were subpoenaed, sources indicated they were "wide-ranging."

Hoboken police chief George Crimmins and PBA president James Behrens were subpoenaed last week to go before the grand jury, which started its probe last Friday.

Crimmins appeared before the grand jury for nearly four hours last Friday and is scheduled to appear again tomorrow. Behrens remains on call.

Sources close to the probe said more sub-

poenas will be issued and will not be restricted to police officials.

The county investigation follows a series of reports by The Dispatch last October that high Hoboken officials were taking payoffs from local gamblers to allow bookmaking operations in the city. Both police and municipal officials have denied knowledge of the kickback setup.

The Dispatch reported, however, that the scheme was so widely known that police union officials successfully pressured City Hall for a favorable labor contract by threatening to close down gambling operations unless union demands were met.

The county prosecutor's office and state police initiated independent investigations following the published reports.

Investigators from the prosecutor's office have reportedly interviewed scores of persons prior to the convening of the grand jury probe.

At least ask

The tenants of the Harrison Gardens and Andrew Jackson Gardens public housing projects in Hoboken who say they live in terror are apparently out of luck for the present.

The police say they do not have the manpower to provide more protection from young marauders who occupy the project halls. The Housing Authority says it does not have the money to hire more security guards.

The authority says it is asking the federal government for money to beef up security measures and to hire more guards. But this is not a simple procedure of ask and you shall receive.

It might be helpful if the Hoboken city administration would ask our representatives in Congress to lend their weight toward obtaining this federal support.

Meanwhile, if the housing projects are being terrorized and the police and Housing Authority can do nothing, why doesn't the city ask the governor to send in the state guard to keep law and order until the local forces can protect local life and property?

Hoboken won't add police to housing project patrols

No additional Hoboken policemen will be assigned to patrol the city's housing authority area even though members of the auxiliary police say they can no longer give project residents adequate protection.

Chief George W. Crimmins completed a review today of police activities in the area of the authority's projects since last September and, based on that, says additional patrols are not feasible.

"Any response to requests for more police protection must be

geared to the manpower available to answer them," he said. "Based on the available manpower, the number of incidents and what is already being done to provide police protection, I feel we are making an adequate response."

The chief was asked to review the

situation in the projects last week by Councilman-at-large, Robert A. Ranieri after an auxiliary police superior had told him and the city council that tenants of the Harrison and Jackson Gardens projects were "living in fear" because of gangs congregating in the hallways.

Another elderly resident of the projects, a woman, was mugged Tuesday afternoon in the elevator of the apartment building at 400 Marshall Drive. The woman was not injured, her daughter reported. But she did lose her pocketbook and her

money, and some groceries that the mugger took with him.

Crimmins said he believed that part of the problem might be that two Tactical Patrol Force Officers assigned to the project area were walking their posts together.

Crimmins conceded that added police in the area would probably reduce the number of incidents but he doesn't have unlimited manpower to draw from for such added protection.

See Hunt for Crewmen Whose Ship May Come In

By DANIEL HAYS

A group in Hoboken is looking for nine Navy combat veterans to do battle for a battleship.

The men being sought all served on the USS New Jersey during World War II and the Korean War. The Hoboken Battleship Memorial Committee thinks they could help boost efforts to get the vessel moored as a permanent attraction at a pier in Hoboken.

Richard Bozzone, chairman of the committee, said yesterday that nine are Fireman J.J. Bell, Seaman Apprentice J.J. Farrell, Seaman Apprentice T. Franco Jr., Fire Control Technician L. Olsen Jr., Shipfitter Chief F. Pipolo and Fireman J.E. Walsh, all of Jersey City; Seaman Apprentice J. Silvio of Hoboken; Fireman Apprentice J.W. Castellucci of Union City and Seaman H.G. Johnson of Kearny.

Volunteer Group

Bozzone, who said he found the men's names after research in the library, said the committee is making a public appeal because it is a volunteer group and doesn't have the facilities to track the missing crewmen down.

He said it was possible that the men don't know each other since the 885-foot long vessel had a crew of 2,700 and sometimes "a fellow could be on a ship for several years and not know anyone from his home town."

Bozzone, who works for the Hoboken Community Development Agency as a public information officer, said Hoboken would like to tie the ship in with plans for a shopping complex at the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Terminal on the Hudson River.

Hoboken's View

Six other municipalities, including Jersey City, are also seeking the ship, he said, but the Hoboken group figures it should be the front-runner because the pier that is available would require less dredging and the site is close to mass transit and the New Jersey Turnpike.

Bozzone said the committee thinks it "would be a tremendous tourist attraction."



Richard T. Bozzone, chairman of the Hoboken Battleship Memorial Committee, examines model of the New Jersey at Hoboken library.

and it making plans for a fund-raising benefit on April 29 at the Stanley Theater in Jersey City.

The battleship boosters admit that even if the State of New Jersey and the Defense Department go along with them it won't be a cheap operation. Just to tow the ship from its mothball dock in Bremerton, Wash., will cost about \$700,000, Bozzone said.

Municipal Center asks Hoboken to double support

The Center for Municipal Studies and Services, sometimes called the Urban Observatory, has asked the City of Hoboken to think about doubling its financial support for the center for 1978, in order to keep it going after its initial three-year period expires at the end of this year.

Hoboken is contributing about \$50,000 in 1977, using federal funds allotted to the city's Community Development Agency.

An approximately equal amount for 1977 is coming from the National League of Municipalities, which receives it from the federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). Stevens Institute in Hoboken is contributing a little over \$40,000.

Since the HUD contribution runs only until the end of this year, Peter Jerkat, director of the center, proposed at a meeting of the center's Policy Board at Stevens yesterday that Hoboken consider making up the difference in 1978.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, speaking for the city at the meeting, said he would try to find new sources for the needed additional funding.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, also attending, said he is in favor of having the city try to up the added money.

"The center has been doing a fine job for Hoboken, especially under the new director, Mr. Jerkat," Ranieri said. As an example he said the center was studying solar heating for the Erie Lackawanna Railroad complex.

Ranieri said he was moderator of a seminar discussion on the urban observatories at a convention of the league in Denver last fall and was in a position to know that the center in Hoboken was "one of the most accomplished in the nation."

Cappiello too said the center "has been doing a fine job." As to whether Hoboken would increase its CDA allocation for the center if other possible sources of assistance fail, the mayor said "we will have to wait and see."

Longshoremen's hall may be short on parking

Hoboken is bracing itself for a deluge of longshoremen — and their cars — expected from all around the country in two short months.

Mayor Steve Cappiello says as many as 500 men could be motoring into Hoboken starting April 1 to "shape up" at the new bi-state Waterfront Commission hiring hall.

Facilities in Jersey City and in Hoboken, at Hudson Street, are being shut down to make way for a consolidated reporting center at the old Observer building at Newark and Washington streets.

Most of the pier workers, however, will be coming from Jersey City since there is little activity along the Hoboken shoreline.

As a means of accommodating the anticipated influx of cars early every morning, the city is planning to transform an eyesore — a refuse-filled lot containing the remains of the old Condenser Service plant at Observer Highway and Bloomfield Street — into a temporary parking facility.

The property is being foreclosed by the city and Cappiello is hopeful that eventually the city can attract an investor to develop a ratable on the site, so only a minimal amount of money — perhaps \$6,000 or \$7,000 — will be spent to clear away the debris, said Cappiello.

It is unlikely that the city will lay out an additional \$14,000 estimated as the cost of smoothing out a section in the rear of the property or placing down asphalt, the mayor added.

Members of the city council were briefed at last night's caucus by Cappiello and representatives of the city Parking Authority on the future parking demands.

In other business, it appears that the city lawmakers are now receptive to signing an agreement with East Orange for computerizing the processing of parking tickets.

Mrs. Marion Roland, city violations bureau chief, told the councilmen about one of every four parking tickets issued locally goes unpaid. She said about one year elapses before a second violation notice is mailed to the delinquent motorist.

But with the East Orange computer system, said Mrs. Roland, the scofflaw would be more likely to get the notice and tacked-on penalty fee in six weeks.

However, the computer system, according to Mrs. Roland will only provide a list of motorists who haven't answered their summonses. The violations bureau staff must still "bear the expense of envelopes and postage in sending out the notices," she said.

Under the proposed agreement, Hoboken would have 90 days before the end of the one-year contract to notify East Orange if it wanted to discontinue the arrangement.

At the suggestion of Councilman Walter Cramer, the council's revenue and finance committee will huddle shortly with Cappiello, who doubles as public safety director, on the payment of workmen's compensation awards to police and firemen.

Cramer is upset about what he says has become a practice of Hoboken bluecoats to put in claims for compensation for injuries and continue to collect "full salary." Cramer says the claimant is only supposed to collect "temporary disability" while he's out of work.

Council President Martin J. Brennan said a special public caucus will be held Monday at 7 p.m. in the council chambers to allow a presentation on the Hoboken jitney system by a member of the Stevens Institute Municipal Studies Center. Also, members of the city Parking Authority will be invited back to brief the council on plans to refinance its \$8.5 million parking garage construction bond issue.

Injured workers may lose pay from Hoboken

Hoboken municipal employees who are injured on the job may soon find that their take-home pay is a lot less than it has been in the past, if Second Councilman Walter S. Cramer has his way.

Cramer said today that he will meet with Mayor Steve Cappiello and Law Director Lawrence Florio to discuss and possibly alter the city's long-standing practices on disability and workmen's compensation.

According to Cramer, the city usually continued giving full pay to an employee injured on the job. The employee then files for workmen's compensation permanent disability. If an award is made the city has to

pay that too and the employee gets both the salary and the award.

"It has to be one or the other," said the councilman. "If an employee is injured, he or she should be taken off the city payroll and placed on disability workmen's compensation. It would mean a cut in salary but it is the only fair thing for the city to do. Hoboken can't afford to pay an employee for not working and then have to pay him again for an award from the compensation board."

Rudolph Orlandini, head of the Orlandini Construction firm, said he will meet with members of the Library Board tomorrow to try and reach some agreement on the impasse.

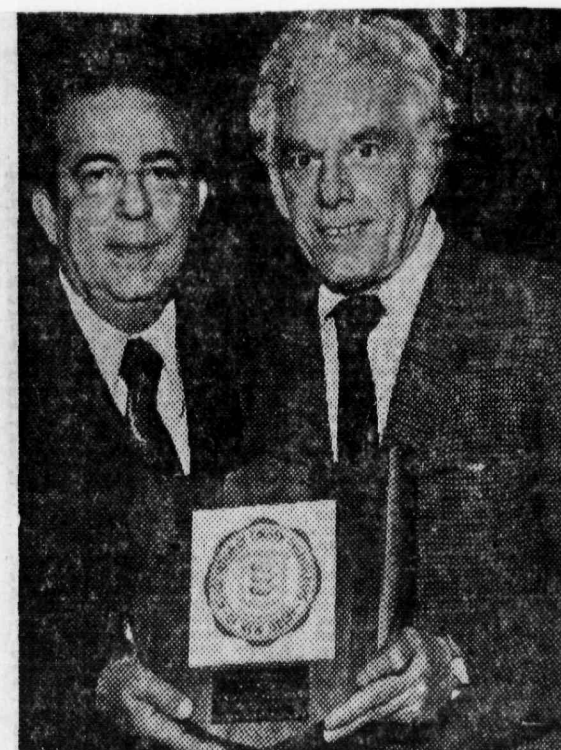
Developer wants his fee taken off shelf

A Hoboken developer is seeking payment of \$17,600, which represents the final installment for work completed at the 42nd Street Union City Library but which the local board has withheld, claiming that the project has faults to be corrected.

Rudolph Orlandini, head of the Orlandini Construction firm, said he will meet with members of the Library Board tomorrow to try and reach some agreement on the impasse.

Orlandini claims that the library has complained of broken tiles and dirty paint at a reconstruction job he performed in a section of the library building. The project was started a year-and-a-half ago for \$191,000. The developer said that the job was an "in-house" project and that whatever went wrong was from normal everyday use, not product failure.

He said that the biggest complaint is that the roof is leaking. He claims that the section of roof he replaced is not at fault and that he's willing to prove this once the weather thaws. He said that he's willing to let the city agency place the cost of a new roof — \$3,000 — into an escrow account until roof problem is finalized, but thinks it unfair to tie up over \$17,000 for an alleged error which costs far less.



Hudson County Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli, left, receives a plaque as first president of the New Jersey Association of Counties from Mid-Hudson Freeholder Steve Caputo during a luncheon at which Fusilli was installed in his new position.

Fusilli changes state group's name

What's in a name? Shakespeare may have placed little significance in the effect of a name upon the fragrance of a rose, but Hudson County Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli feels differently.

Fusilli, in his first official act as president of the New Jersey Freeholders Association, changed the name of the group to the New Jersey Association of Counties.

"Not only will our Association of Counties be involved with freeholders," he explained, "but it will bring in affiliated groups of elected officials, such as county executives, administrators, county clerks, registers and sheriffs."

Rubbish still not removed

Large mounds of rubbish that were dumped on Jefferson Street, Hoboken, near the intersection of 14th Street, and have blocked that street to all traffic, have not been removed as promised by a nearby carting firm and may not be removed for some time to come.

Edward MacIntyre, chief sanitation inspector for the city's Public Works Department, said the company did make an effort but weather conditions thwarted the attempt.

"The company brought in a large bulldozer, a brand new one at that, and tried to move the junk, but it didn't budge," MacIntyre said. "I was there and can vouch that the effort was made, although unsuccessful."

According to MacIntyre, the mounds of rubbish have become solid blocks of ice. He added that the street itself is not in good condition with lots of ruts and potholes. This has caused a very good bond to form between the rubbish and the street surface.

"The city could issue summonses but that isn't going to get the junk out of there," he continued. "The company claims that it didn't dump the junk there and we can't prove otherwise, even though it has agreed to clean it up."

The company, McDermott Carting, also has been ordered to remove a number of larger packer-containers that it has been leaving along 15th Street and that section of Jefferson Street between 14th and 15th. MacIntyre said that most of the containers have been removed, but not all. However, the company is making an effort to do so.

MacIntyre added the city has told the company that the junk can remain where it is as long as nothing new is dumped there, if it is it will be cleaned up immediately, and at the first thaw the removal of the junk will be renewed.

Possible conflict probed in rental of limousine

Hudson County Prosecutor James O'Halloran is investigating the action of the Hoboken Board of Education in renting a limousine from a board member's wife in which a board member's wife is a half-partner.

The board member, Jack Raslowsky, has been interrogated on the matter in the prosecutor's office.

Confirming a report that such an investigation is under way, O'Halloran said it is related to his investigation of the expenditure of public money for dinners, liquors, flowers and entertainment by the school boards of Hoboken and the other Hudson County municipalities.

The Hoboken board at its Nov. 9 meeting voted to pay \$265 to the Hoboken Livery Service of 529 Willow Ave., Hoboken, for three bills.

The first was \$40 for a limousine

to go empty from Hoboken to Newark Airport on Nov. 7 to pick up Robert W. Taylor, board attorney. The second was \$100 for taking Taylor from the airport to Trenton on the same day. The third was \$125 for taking Taylor from Hoboken to Trenton on Nov. 8.

Taylor said he was in Boston on Nov. 7 when the board reached him by telephone and told him to leave immediately to represent its interests in Trenton in an appeal on salary increases for teachers.

He said he flew to Newark, was met by the limousine, and was taken to Trenton.

Raslowsky said the limousine service is owned by his wife and Joseph Lisa.

Raslowsky voted with the other board members in approving the bills for payment.

Landlords can't save up rent raises

An ordinance eliminating the right of Hoboken landlords to compound their rent increases if they miss giving an increase in one year has been approved by the city council.

The ordinance, which amends the city's Rent Leveling and Stabilization ordinance, also sets the national Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the basis for all rent increases and eliminates a flat 7 per cent increase that was allowed each year.

According to Joseph Hottendorf, rent leveling board chairman, under the old ordinance, landlords were able to "double up" rent increases from one year to the next if they missed raising rents in the previous year.

"Under the new ordinance," he said, "if an owner doesn't raise the rents this year, he can't come back next year seeking double the amount because he missed this year." He can still get something more than what the CPI authorizes but only if he can justify it to the board in writing.

"A regular increase within the amount allowed by the CPI doesn't need board approval. The landlord must only notify the board of the old rent and the new rent and then we

send a letter to the tenants telling them that the raise is within the law."

In other business, the council received bids on recreation supplies, one for \$5,011 from Stan's Sports Shop, Hoboken; and one for \$23,308 from the Klinger Tire Service Co. of Jersey City for truck and auto tires.

Bids were received for the purchase of a 1977 van and a 1977 tow truck. The bidders on the van were AC Chevrolet of Jersey City, \$6,487; Carigliano Truck Service Co. of Bonton, \$6,038; and Bruno Trucking Co. of Brooklyn, \$6,227. Bids from the same companies on the tow truck were, AC, \$12,086; Carigliano, \$10,977; and Bruno, \$10,933.

The van is to be used by the traffic and signal division of the police department. The tow truck is for the police garage.

The council received petitions from groups of residents calling for the naming of the new park at the Multi-Service Center in honor of Dolly and Martin Sinatra, and from another group asking that it be named in honor of Mary Francone, the wife of the Fourth Ward councilman. No action was taken by the council on either

proposal.

Frank T. Italiano has been hired by the city to replace Vincent J. Indelicato as its municipal accountant. Indelicato has retired from active practice because of poor health. He and Italiano were partners in the accounting firm with another accountant. Italiano will complete the 1978 audit and do the 1977 audit for a fee of \$21,000.

The council approved the efforts of the Hoboken Battleship Memorial Wharf Committee to get Hoboken selected as the permanent resting place of the World War II battleship, the USS New Jersey.

However, Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer said that before the city gets involved in the effort any further, he'd like to know how much it is going to cost Hoboken if the effort is successful.

"I think the city should get a full report from the committee on exactly what it is going to cost to set the ship up here if that is the eventual outcome," he said. "We should also know where the committee expects to get whatever money it is going to cost. Not from the city I hope."

The council agreed to ask the

committee for such a report.

At the request of the Public Works Department, bids for the repair of the heating system in the Jefferson Street Recreation Center were disapproved by the council and the city authorized to advertise for new bids for the installation of a completely new system. The bids will be due at the March 2 meeting.

The council also approved a contract with East Orange for the computerization of the parking ticket system at a cost of 25 cents a ticket. The contract begins March 1.

Approval was also granted for the Community Development Agency (CDA) to use \$100,000 of its funds to establish an Economic Development Corporation for the purpose of attracting new business and industry to the city.

During the public part of the meeting, a fierce verbal battle developed between Councilman Louis Francone and Charles DeFazio Jr., a former city magistrate.

DeFazio began reciting to the council an essay on politics and was ruled out of order by Council President Martin J. Brennan. He began yelling at Brennan when Francone started shouting that DeFazio should give others in the audience a chance to speak.

When the bitter exchange continued, Brennan motioned to two policemen to escort DeFazio out of the council chambers. They approached but DeFazio stopped and walked out of the meeting on his own.

Following the council meeting, a special public meeting was held by Mayor Steve Cappiello and the council for the purpose of hearing the public's suggestions as to how the city's \$1,171,000 in 1977 revenue-sharing funds should be used. Only Thomas Venzetti addressed the mayor and council, and only to ask how the city proposed to spend the money.

The mayor said the funds will be used as general revenues as has been done in the past. The money will not result in a tax cut but will be used to prevent any further tax increases.

Waterfront sites foreclosed

The City of Hoboken has filed suit in Hudson County Superior Court to foreclose on two large waterfront properties and a factory.

These are the one-time Todd Shipyards, now owned by Cosmopolitan Terminals, which proposed to establish an oil receiving and distributing terminal there; the Fifth and Sixth Street piers, once the passenger terminal for the Holland-America Steamship Line and the Condenser Service property on Observer Highway between Bloomfield and Garden streets.

A spokesman for the city's law department said that if the owners of the property plan to contest the foreclosure, they must submit their letters of intention to the court within a few days. No owners are expected to do so.

Hoboken has been ready to file the foreclosure papers on the properties for some time, but was prevented from doing so because a final title search took several months to conclude.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said the

city would move as quickly as possible to get the property back on the tax rolls once it has taken title.

"Possibly, they will fit in the city's economic development plans," he continued. "The piers and Cosmopolitan Terminal's property are both along the waterfront and may prove to be valuable if we can find the right developer with the right plan."

The mayor added that the Condenser Service property is expected to be put to temporary use as a parking facility. The area encompasses nearly half a city block and has room for more than 100 cars. However, he said that the city would try to have it ultimately developed into something that would produce taxes for the city and go along with the general redevelopment plans for the area.

The city was the former owner of the piers and the Cosmopolitan property. Both were sold to the present owner, at public auctions several years ago. The city is foreclosing because of unpaid back taxes.

Trainee plans irk firemen

An ordinance approved by the Hoboken City Council last month which provides for 10 fire trainees in the fire department may be rescinded or altered following objections from the city's fire unions.

Several members of the council are now expressing doubts about the 10 positions and may author an amendment eliminating them at the next council meeting on Feb. 16.

Fireman Michael Bavaro, president of the Hoboken Fire Fighters Association, and Capt. William Bergin, president of the Fire Officers Association, appeared before the council at yesterday's meeting and said that they viewed the ordinance as a violation of their recently-signed contracts with the city and an attempt to "break the unions."

The two union presidents added that the city was circumventing Civil Service regulations since there is a list of men eligible for appointment to the fire department.

Council President Martin J. Brennan said he had the ordinance introduced in the belief that it would allow the city to hire and train local residents. But Bavaro questioned the motivation, saying that the city was actually giving local residents unfair treatment.

"You want to hire local people and train them, but you turn around and pay them considerably less than a regular fireman," he asserted.

Both Bergin and Bavaro said that their men would not work with or train the new men if the city doesn't rescind the ordinance. They added that they may also institute legal action against the city and take the matter to the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC).

The union presidents said that they had "apparently missed the boat" by not appearing before the council when it was considering the ordinance to object. Councilmen Anthony H. Romano and Francis X. Leahy, said that the only reason they voted for it was that they believed it wasn't objectionable to the fire unions.

"Since there weren't any formal objections made we assumed it was okay with the firemen," said Romano. Several of the other council members nodded in agreement.

After the meeting, Romano said he would look into the possibility of having an ordinance drawn up to amend the other ordinance and remove the 10 training positions from it.

Telephone call 'abuses' cleared

A check of questionable telephone bills incurred by the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) has determined that the calls were not so questionable after all, according to councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

The councilman said today that after reviewing the bills, talking with CDA Director Fred M. Bado, and checking the CDA's records he was satisfied that if there were any irregularities or abuses they were minimal and, to a certain degree, to be expected.

Ranieri started his probe of the CDA's telephone procedures after a few citizens questioned the city council about numerous long distance calls

that had been made but were for very short durations, usually less than a minute. It was pointed out by the citizens that most business calls take much more than a minute to conclude.

"It's a sound assumption — but not necessarily a true one," said Ranieri. "Business calls often do take more than a minute to conclude, provided you get the party you are calling. What if the party isn't in and must be called back that? That first call would take less than a minute, the second one longer than a minute."

"That appears to be the case in most of these short-duration, long-distance calls I checked out. The party was not available when the call

was made and had to be called back."

The council was also questioned about long-distance calls to Puerto Rico and San Francisco and whether they were business or personal calls.

"Some personal, long-distance calls have been made by CDA staff members," the councilman continued. "But they were made with the permission of their supervisors and with the understanding that they would reimburse the CDA for the cost of the call. Where this was allowed the re-imbursements were made and there are records to show this."

Ranieri said there might be some abuses of the telephone use at the CDA but if there were they were minor and he was unable to find them.

Water line work ordered frozen

By Peter Hallam

Mayor Steve Cappiello has ordered a firm working on Hoboken's water line to cease all operations until further notice while the city looks into reports of unnecessary damage to city streets as a result of working in the subfreezing weather.

The mayor said today that he is calling in officials of the company, Ameron Inc., a California firm, to discuss the problems and find out what

they plan to do about them. In the meantime, all work has been suspended.

"The company opted to work through the winter rather than suspending operations for the colder, freezing months and coming back when things warmed up," the mayor said. "The exceptional cold may not have interfered with their work but it sure has played havoc with our streets in the areas they are working."

"We've had streets frozen over with several inches of ice on them from water that was pumped out of excavations made by the company. Cars were frozen in and couldn't move. And the ice took its toll of the streets, too."

Cappiello said he understands the company's reason for continuing work through the winter — a higher profit.

"The quicker it finishes the job,

the more profit," he said. "If it waits until spring, it has to bring back its crews and equipment to Hoboken. In this kind of work, time is money. However, the city must look out for its own interests — and the streets are definitely our interests."

He added that even if the company formally accepts all responsibility for the damage and repairs it, the city probably would not allow it to resume work until the spring.



BASKETBALL TIPS — The new Independent Athletic League starts its program with a basketball clinic, distribution of uniforms and practice at the Hoboken Multi-Skill Center. Coach Chris Cassidy, right, shows Angelo Rodriguez how to hold the basketball. Dr. Robert King, wearing a suit and standing in the rear, and Hal Izzo, head coach, watch the instruction.

Hoboken gets deadline for welfare reform

Hoboken has until Feb. 15 formally to tell state Welfare authorities the changes it proposes for the local welfare system to improve efficiency and eliminate questionable expenditures, Mayor Steve Cappiello said today.

According to the mayor, the state wants Hoboken to adopt the use of checks for making welfare payments rather than continuing the voucher system. And the city's failure to do so may prevent the state from providing the amount of aid it has given Hoboken in the past.

"It appears that we don't have much choice in the matter any more," said the mayor. "Hoboken either adopts the check or direct payment system or loses most of the state welfare aid it has been getting. I have asked the state if it would be possible to have a combined system and it is agreeable to a point. But further discussions are needed to set that point."

The Hoboken Welfare Department has been under a lot of pressure from state and county agencies because of more than \$98,000 in questionable expenditures. The director, Jerry Forman, has been suspended and faces a department hearing this week.

Hoboken has been issuing its welfare monies through vouchers. The welfare client gets a voucher for drugs, rent and food and it must be turned in for that purpose. Rent vouchers must be given to the landlord, drug and prescription to the pharmacist and food to the supermarket. The voucher must be used for the purpose it was drawn. However, the checks the state wants issued are not for any specific purpose and can be cashed almost anywhere.

"The state's system may make for better bookkeeping and keep the office files up to date but it doesn't insure that the welfare client is going to spend the money he or she gets on what it is intended for," said the mayor. "At least with the voucher system we know that nine out of 10 times it is used for the purpose it was issued — rent, food, clothing, whatever."

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Hoboken hearing set on railroad crossing

The oft-discussed and oft-planned elimination of the railroad grade crossing on Paterson Plank Road in Hoboken almost at the Jersey City boundary has surfaced once again.

The fruits of a study of the project, made by the state Department of Transportation, will be divulged Thursday night at a public meeting in Hoboken's Multi-Skill Center.

The department's tentative plans include widening Paterson Plank Road and partly shifting its location. The grade crossing at this road has been troublesome over the years, when freight trains come to a stop across the road, bringing about massive traffic tie-ups for as much as an hour.

Lawrence T. McLaughlin of the department's Office of Community Involvement has invited the public to attend the meeting "to learn the

scope, objectives and status of the study."

McLaughlin added the meeting also "will provide a public forum that will enable you to have your ideas and comments considered in the early development of this highway project."

"By your active participation," he added, "you will help the department determine the ultimate disposition of the proposed improvements."

Paterson Plank Road is used by many as a short-cut between North Hudson and Downtown Jersey City.

The traffic tie-ups at the grade crossing increases when longer freight trains began appearing after the merger of the Pennsylvania and New York Central railroads. Officials said boys managed to cut the air hose couplings between cars, automatically halting the trains and immobilizing them until repairs could be made.

'Generous' Hoboken

A Hoboken councilman has discovered that his city pays disabled employees their full salary while they are too disabled to work — in addition — pays the disability awards ordered by the state Workmen's Compensation Board.

He has learned that long, long ago there was a gentlemen's agreement that the city would pay the full salary and that the employee would keep the amount of the compensation award equalling his salary and would turn any excess over to the city.

The city has been keeping its part of the bargain, but the disabled employees have been keeping both checks and that is not part of the bargain.

Hoboken cannot afford to give double pay to someone who is not working, the councilman says, and he proposes that the disabled employee simply go off the payroll and receive only what the law provides for him.

That seems logical. But it also seems logical that someone was not on the ball. Whoever was notified of the workmen's compensation payments certainly was not speaking to the payroll clerk or vice versa. Somebody should do something about that . . . without delay.



OUT WITH THE OLD — Remains of the demolished Condenser Service factory at Observer Highway and Bloomfield Street in Hoboken await removal from the property which will soon be converted into a parking lot.

Church of Holy Innocents rated among historic places

TRENTON — Environmental Protection Commissioner David J. Bardin today announced that the Church of the Holy Innocents in Hoboken was added to the State Register of Historic Places.

Bardin also nominated the church to the National Park Service for inclusion on the National Register.

The church was designed by Edward Tuckerman Potter and built in 1872 under direction and financial backing of Martha Bayard Stevens, wife of Edwin A. Stevens, founder of Stevens Institute of Technology in

Hoboken. "Holy Innocents is an excellent example of high victorian gothic architecture — unsurpassed in Hoboken and one of the best of its type in the state," Bardin said.

The church was built to serve German and Irish immigrants who lived in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The State register is a list of properties and areas worthy of preservation for their historic, cultural, architectural or archaeological distinctions.

Hoboken opportunity

Hoboken is foreclosing on two important waterfront properties for non-payment of taxes: the former Todd Shipyard and the 5th and 6th Street piers.

These properties have a tremendous potential for revenue and jobs, if only the right people can be found and persuaded to develop them.

The foreclosure is timely in that the city is also setting up an Economic Development Corporation to halt the flow of industry from Hoboken and to attract new industrial and commercial establishments.

In carrying out the latter function, the new agency should study the possibilities of the waterfront properties the city is acquiring and look for someone who could use them to the city's advantage.

This will require much effort, patience and negotiating skill, but the rewards are great enough to justify the effort.

Cappiello calls budget session

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has summoned City Comptroller John Erbeck for a meeting to discuss the 1977 city budget, which has to be made final in the next few weeks.

Cappiello said today he did not know whether the budget would go up. But, he added: "I doubt very much

that it will come down. It will probably go up a little — but we really can't tell. It depends on a number of factors."

The mayor added that he was going over the prospective budget figures with Erbeck "to get some feel of where we are."



State environmental inspectors Ron Nicholson Sr., top, and Richard DeNito, center, accompanied by Tom Downes, operator of Hoboken's 16th Sewage treatment plant, check inoperable pump at the plant in midst of snow flurries.

Hoboken optimistic on sewage plant results

Hoboken appears to have made it through the state re-inspection of its sewage treatment plant without any major problems.

At least that's the impression Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale says he got from the reaction of Richard DiNito and his team of inspectors from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) yesterday.

How the city officially fared won't be known for about three weeks. That's how long it is estimated it will take the DEP to prepare another inspection report on the Hoboken facility.

"I think they would have been much happier had we accomplished more in putting the treatment plant back in top shape," said the director. "But I also think the inspection team was aware of some of the problems the city is facing in doing that and they were satisfied with what has been done in view of these problems."

However, Vitale said that the city must continue to show progress to the state and that it is taking positive action to correct the violations. If it doesn't, it can expect the state to take positive action to force correction of the violations on its terms.

Vitale accompanied the inspection team for part of the inspection, along with Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Some of the violations noted by the state in its original inspection made last October included a faulty chlorination system, inoperative pumps and settling tanks, a dumping area next to the plant and failure to submit monthly reports.

The director said that new equipment has been ordered for the chlorination system, the dumping area is being cleaned out, new equipment and repair work on the plant is being budgeted for this year and arrangements are being made to comply with the report schedule.

After checking out the plant, located at 16th and Adams streets, the inspection team went back to another of Hoboken's problems — a sewer under the Bethlehem Steel shipyard that is discharging untreated waste into the Hudson River. Tests have determined that the discharge is not originating from within the shipyard but have been unable to pinpoint the source.

Vitale said the state wants Hoboken to have television equipment sent through the lines in the area to see if they are ruptured at any point. The director said the city will comply, but must first check the prices for the work. If it is over \$2,500, the job must be put out to bid and that may take a month to do.



BUILDING LEADERS — St. Mary Hospital trustees elected to leadership positions review the progress of the Hoboken hospital's building program and fund raising efforts. From left are James Ungertler, treasurer; William Stack, second vice president; Sister Rita E. Kerry, first vice president; and James T. Lucey, president. Also selected for leadership positions but not shown are Eric Lawton Jr., secretary, Sister Felicitas Lichtenauer, assistant secretary; Sister Grace Frances Strauber, executive treasurer.

Garage refinancing considered by council

The Hoboken City Council today is wondering whether to pledge the city's credit to back a proposed refinancing of the greater part of an \$8.5 million bond issue floated several years ago by the city parking authority to build three parking garages at Grogan Marine View Plaza.

Appearing before the council last night at a special public caucus to outline the proposal were Joseph Hottendorf, executive director of the authority, who had laryngitis, and William S. Jeremiah II, authority counsel, who spoke.

As of March 1, said Jeremiah, the authority will have a remaining debt of \$8,321,000 which is presently being paid off at a rate of 7.7 per cent. If the authority reissued the bonds now, he said, it could get an interest rate below 7 per cent, which could mean a potential long-term savings.

The authority is looking for the city's blessing to select one of three investment firms with which to begin negotiations on a refinancing plan, said Jeremiah, but Councilman Walter Cramer urged that before any selection is made, the council should be asked its opinion since the city would be asked to guarantee the new bonds.

Going one step further, Council President Martin J. Brennan said the city might do well to hire its own bonding consultant "that we can provide for in this year's (municipal)

budget. In the past, the council had nobody to turn to for advice on these bonds."

Mayor Steve Cappiello, warning that the refinancing proposal and the securing of a reduced interest rate are subject to the whims of the bond market, offered two alternatives — going to public bidding or appealing to state legislators for a bond guarantee similar to "qualified" school bonds.

Taking a "very cautious" position was Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who said the city "may very well be going beyond the bounds of our right" by obligating perhaps as high as one-fourth the value of land of each local property-owner to back the bonds.

Ask appeal to Byrne in Hoboken budget crisis

By TERRY BRENNAN

The president of the Hoboken Board of Education yesterday called upon city officials to join in asking Gov. Brendan T. Byrne to resolve the present "budgetary crisis."

Mary Gaspar, who said city taxpayers could never afford the proposed \$14.87 million budget for 1977-78, asked Mayor Steve Cappiello and city council members to ask the governor to help cover future education costs.

Hoboken was thrown into a budgetary crisis when the state ruled the city could no longer pay teachers' salaries for the summer months with funds drawn from the budget of the following fiscal year. This forces Hoboken to add \$1.5 million to its next budget. How Hoboken is to pay this hinges upon a ruling by the state Education Commissioner, Fred Burke.

"I agree that we could never afford the proposed budget the way it stands right now," Mrs. Gaspar said. "The only solution I see is that officials go as a family to beg the governor to bail us out. The proposed budget would be a terrible burden on all of us."

While Mrs. Gaspar said the board couldn't "in good conscience" do anything to increase taxes for the "overloaded

taxpayer," Councilman Robert Ranieri asked Hoboken citizens to vote down the proposed budget when it is put to the people March 29. He claims final passage would be an "economic catastrophe" for the city.

"I'm pleading with everyone in this town to renounce this irresponsible budget and urge them to knock it down," Ranieri said. "It's an outright danger to the financial progress and economic future of the city. We just can't let it pass."

Although Ranieri charged the board with "taking the life blood out of the city" by tentatively approving the budget, Mrs. Gaspar said the board had to budget the increase because they were ordered to provide for the salaries.

The state attorney general ruled last year that the board pay the \$1.5 million in summer salaries out of the same year's budget. Hoboken had been paying the wages from the following school budget since what Mrs. Gaspar called "before the flood."

"Everybody and his brother is charging the board with creating this whole mess with the \$1.5 million," Mrs. Gaspar said. "I think it's about time they stopped taking pot shots and started working together as a team. The disputed way of pay-

ing teachers goes back as far as script in this town."

Mayor Steve Cappiello had charged the board with refusing to take the city's financial problems into consideration by increasing the budget. He said the 1977 city budget could have given taxpayers a reduction in the present \$1.06 of each \$1,000 of assessed valuation if the board had economized.

Ranieri said the board should "revise its bookkeeping methods" to assure that the city doesn't "fall into this fiasco again." He predicted that individual and corporate property owners would have to leave the city because taxes would "soar 25 per cent" with the proposed budget.