

Clark Patriot

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Brewer takeover, cost of new school highlight hearing on municipal budget

R. R. Faszczewski
Although the Township Council was unable to adopt the \$5,360,292.43 municipal budget at the public hearing held on April 16 because the state has not approved the tab yet, there was no shortage of questions on a number of issues surrounding the spending plan, including the acquisition of the Charles H. Brewer School for a municipal complex, the effect of a possible cut in the school tax levy and the cost of the property revaluation Clark is now undergoing.

The councilman estimated the cost of maintenance this year at only \$50,000 since the municipality would only be operating the facility for half of the year. Further support for the takeover of the school was expressed by Board of Education member, James Kehoe, who was speaking at

the hearing for the Clark Taxpayers Coalition. He said with the grants, the rents the township would be receiving from the Children's Specialized Hospital and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Young Men's Christian Assn., which currently lease space in the school and the possibility the building could be used partly for township recreation and civic groups the maintenance payment for the first year would be an easy matter.

There is a figure in the budget for the school takeover—\$185,000 in the capital budget for the renovation of the facility to house municipal facilities for 1984—with funding for the next five years for that purpose.

However, this would not cover the normal maintenance items. There were some objections to the takeover as it is presently proposed. A resident, John H. Clausen of 195 Valley Rd., asked if the township could really afford the school. He said even though the maintenance cost was projected at only about \$100,000 when the final costs were figured in it might cost closer to \$200,000 or more.

Fourth Ward Councilman John Bodnar, who has advocated the township takeover ownership of the school rather than leasing it, said he had talked to Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Fagnella and the superintendent had told him the school system was unwilling to give up control of the school completely because a recent census of three year olds in the township had shown that amount would go from 145

now to about 160 in two or three years. Councilman Bodnar added he could not see the township giving up in two or three years. However, the resident, Theresa W. ... the lease arrangement on the school was ... she disputed ... about the ... year olds in the township.

Responding to a question from Mr. ... whether the Governing Body would ... downward ... the defeated school tax levy, Councilman ... was still ... information from ... and the Council ...

special executive session on April 18 to discuss what action it would take. ... assumed any adjustment in the tab would be down because voters had shown that was what they wanted. Although the councilman had the option of raising the levy or keeping it the same.

Mr. Kehoe told the Council the taxpayers coalition supported at least a \$200,000 cut in the school budget because that is the amount the Board of Education had asked out of surplus a few years ago to make up for a cut Council had imposed at that time.

Explaining deferred charges both in the 1984 budget and in subsequent budgets, township auditor, Frank ... said the revaluation, which is mandated by state law, would cost the town-

ship \$175,000 over five years. The deferred charges for this year, according to Mr. Suplec, include \$35,000 as the first installment on the cost of the revaluation, \$30,000 for an emergency expenditure—the Terminal Ave. pumping station repair—left over from the 1983 budget and the rest for an overexpenditure in last year's tab.

Remaining deferred charges for budgets beyond 1984 are for the rest of the cost of the revaluation. The auditor also explained the "reserve" for uncollected taxes for this year is \$423,400 because the township expects to collect about 97% of the taxes this year, whereas last year it only anticipated collecting about 96%.

He added the surplus in the budget this year is less than last year because there

is less money to invest and the market conditions mean the funds invested would have to yield a lower rate. When asked about the fact the township pool had spent \$7,176.91 for 1983 to meet its deficit whereas this year's expenditure to meet the deficit is anticipated at \$10,100, Mr. Suplec explained if the pool's income doesn't meet its expenses, by state law it must raise the money to meet them each year.

Commenting on the preparation of the budget as a whole, Mr. Kehoe complimented the councilmen for holding the increase to within the 5% "CAP" limit and praised First Ward Councilman Raymond Krov, the head of the pool committee, for holding down the deficit for 1983.

He warned of a future capital investment problem however, because much of the township's equipment is

very old and will have to be replaced soon. The head of the taxpayer group also said the franchise-and-gross-receipts tax is important and because of it the municipality should try to encourage Public Service Electric and Gas Co. to locate more auxiliary power plants in Clark.

Clark Folk Festival ready for birthday

Clark's Sixth Annual Folk Festival will be held on Sunday, June 10. The festival this year will also celebrate the 120th anniversary of the township and will include international foods, displays, dancing, music, crafts, collector sales and costumes.

New shows, antiques, historic exhibits, memorabilia and trivia will be included with day-long entertainment. The event will take place at the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School Field in Clark with the official opening at noon, although the art show will begin with other displays by 10 a.m., including the Eymobile and bloodbank.

Tables will be available and tables will be set up for display, demonstration and the sale of items including decoy ducks, flower arrangements, glassware, china, primitives, jewelry, stained-glass suncatchers and novelty needlecraft.

The festival, planned by the Clark Recreation Dept., under Mayor Bernard G. Yansavage, and director, John Schwankert, is run by the Clark Festival Committee, assisted by Alan Kapkowski, Ann Augulis, Marlene West, Irene Paschenko and Jean Schwankert.

Applications are available and information should be sent to the Festival Committee, Township Hall, Clark, N. J. 07066. Applications are also available at the Clark Public Library on Westfield Ave.

County helps Hyatt get \$1.3 million grant

Hyatt Clark Industries, Inc. on Raritan Rd., Clark, was awarded an Urban Development Action Grant from the federal government through the efforts of Union County government officials in the amount of \$1,355,377.56.

The money will be used by Hyatt Clark to increase its work force by 170 permanent jobs, 34 of which will be filled by low-to-moderate-income people, and 28 of those to be filled by minorities, and to make fixed capital improvements to the plant, such as renovating machinery and starting new product lines.

The increase in jobs and improvements were promised by Hyatt Clark in order to secure the grant, which is actually a 25-year loan that Hyatt does not have to start paying back until five years from now.

The grant is part of a \$9 million package with Hyatt producing \$5 million through bank loans and other sources and the grant coming in three installments, with \$206,000 in the works now and \$1,311,000 to come. Hyatt matched the grant on a two-and-a-half to one basis. Also, an additional \$2 million Urban Development Action Grant will follow soon, reports a Hyatt spokesman.



Do you know of a preschool child who may have a developmental delay (in learning, speech, vision, hearing, motor or a social emotional area)? He or she may be eligible for the program. If you would like to take advantage of this free screening, please telephone 388-6394.



Clark Folk Festival is ready for birthday. The festival is planned by the Clark Recreation Dept. under Mayor Bernard G. Yansavage and director, John Schwankert.

Township to hold rabies clinic. The Township of Clark Rabies Clinic will be held on Monday, May 7, and Tuesday, May 8, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

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