

# Clark Patriot



'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

VOL. 19 NO. 17

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1985

USPS 115-760

20 CENTS

## Surplus use to cut tab draws councilwoman's fire

By R.R. Faszczewski

A state backlog on approval of municipal budgets prevented Township Council from adopting Clark's 1985 tab on April 19, but it didn't prevent Governing Body members from expressing their opinions on the \$5,753,107.45 tab, which will give township taxpayers no boost in their tax for municipal purposes.

Explaining her March 22 abstention when the budget was introduced, Third Ward Republican Councilwoman Ruth DeLuca said the two weeks the councilmen had to prepare and discuss the budget had not been a sufficient amount of time.

Councilwoman DeLuca also pointed out the 1985 budget is \$350,000 over last year's tab and attacked the way the Governing Body anticipated revenues in order to arrive at a zero tax increase.

She noted when Frank Suplee, the township auditor, completed his calculations the budget showed an increase of three points in taxes, and there was a surplus of \$871,000 from 1984 and a 1984 capital surplus of \$104,000.

The Third Ward representative noted \$568,000 was taken from surplus, with \$68,000 of it from capital surplus and \$168,000 was anticipated as coming in this year from the Municipal Court.

She added she did not approve of reducing the anticipated revenues at such a high level from the court because the township could not predict how many traffic violations the police will hand in this year.

She added, "I feel this budget will certainly effect the 1986 budget. We will not have a large surplus to fall back on. We will be using new tax assessments that will go into effect on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1986 because of the revaluation. I feel it would have been better to raise the taxes by three points this year than to postpone the increase, especially with escalating costs, negotiated salary increases and the Brewer School expense added on."

The Republican also opposed the operation of two municipal buildings and the move to Brewer School, which, she said, increased expenses in the 1985 budget by \$65,400.

She said her own proposal, made last year, for Brewer, could have reduced the budget by \$100,000 or more.

Although admitting she had not figured in a cost reduction for a cut in the salary of the director of law, the Third Ward representative disputed figures saying the administration had cut \$80,000 from the payroll account.

Her calculation put the decreases at \$73,745 with increases of \$33,966 for a savings of \$39,779.

She also complained forcing the business administrator, Joseph Monaco, to also serve as director of public works was forcing him to work up to 100 hours each week and could force him to leave the administration.

"This," the councilwoman said, "might force the township to hire two people to replace him-which it could not afford."

However, Mrs. DeLuca's Fellow Republican, Fourth Ward Councilman Brian P. Toal, said he supported the budget because the taxpayers could not afford a tax increase this year.

He also said the Brewer School was needed as a municipal complex at this time.

Responding to Councilwoman DeLuca, Mayor George G. Nucera, said the township would live within the budget while still making many changes in Clark which had never been made before.

Democratic Councilman-at-Large Joseph B. Pozniak said the surplus belongs to the taxpayers and should be used to reduce taxes.

He added this was the first year he could remember a zero tax increase, and the administration could live with the budget.

Second Ward Democratic Councilman William

Caruso pointed out a claim that the Brewer School boiler would need replacing was not true.

Because he is a member of the construction profession he said he will recommend mechanical repairs to the boiler which will bring the school's heating system up to par.

Democratic Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel added two and a half years ago when the Aybar Partnership did a feasibility study on the school and the present municipal building the study had pointed out no boiler or new roof would be needed.

Councilman Eckel also noted the new budget allowed for three new police cars and it was time the township give its youth and senior citizens something (facilities at Brewer).

Pointing out some of the things that are included in the budget, Council President and First Ward Democratic Councilman Raymond Krov said there was now \$29,000 for a cleanup program, \$13,000 for fire equipment and \$45,000 for new police vehicles.

He added Mayor Nucera's re-organization of the administration had saved the township over \$80,000.

By a vote of 4-3 the Governing Body also decided to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes in support of the deferred capital outlay portion of the 1985-1986 elementary school budget by \$70,000, thus making it \$129,950 instead of the \$199,950 originally submitted to the voters.

Democratic Councilman-at-Large Bernard Hayden, who had supported an \$85,000 reduction originally set forth by the Council in discussions with the Board of Education on April 15, voted against the \$70,000 figure with the two Republicans.

He said if the Board had a counter proposal to be made it should have been made on April 15, not after

consultation with one councilman.

Councilman Krov pointed out in a telephone conversation with Board President Thomas Faria, Mr. Faria had told him the school body would appeal an \$85,000 cut to the Union County superintendent of schools but could live with a \$70,000 cut.

Councilman Toal replied some Council members had sought a \$100,000 cut.

He said he could live with an \$85,000 cut, but not a \$70,000 one.

Pointing out he had toured Board facilities with the school business administrator, H. Edward Flanagan, the day after the school body Governing Body meeting, Councilman Caruso said he saw the need for certain repairs to maintain school property for the safety of the children.

Councilman Hayden replied Councilman Caruso should have made the tour prior to the meeting of the Board and Council and had undermined the Council's bargaining position by

supporting the \$70,000 cut.

Councilman Caruso responded as liaisons to the Board from the Governing Body both Councilman Hayden and Councilwoman DeLuca should have kept the Council informed about what the Board was discussing before it became necessary to make the cuts in the budget.

He also said it would have been wiser for residents to defeat the current expense portion of the school budget rather than the capital outlay portion.

## Firemen burn over Sangiuliano rejection

By R.R. Faszczewski

The failure of Township Council to appoint former Republican Councilman-at-Large George A. Sangiuliano as a member of the township's volunteer fire department April 19 drew criticism and catcalls from members of the department, who filled many of the audience seats in the crowded Council chambers.

Mr. Sangiuliano's application was rejected by a 5-2 margin, with only the GOP members of the Governing Body supporting it, despite a recommendation from the department's screening committee in favor of the appointment.

A member of the screening committee, Robert Volpe of 213 East La., said it had been the first time in 61 years the Council had refused a citizen appointment to the department.

Mr. Volpe pointed out the 50-question department application fulfills all the requirements of the township's ordinance and a person's political party affiliation didn't matter to him when picking firefighters.

Replying to a question from the fireman, Council President Raymond Krov said Public Safety Director Joseph Comarata had recommended the rejection.

Saying he understood Mr. Comarata had said an applicant for the department should have no points at all on his driving record, Mr. Volpe said this would make the present minimum age for membership in the department rise from 18 to 22 - It requires three years for all points to be expunged from a driving record.

He added he expected the Council to call Mr. Sangiuliano in and tell him why he was rejected and what he could do to rectify the situation so he could be accepted.

Replying to a request from Mr. Volpe as to the specific reasons the application was rejected, Councilman Krov said Mr. Volpe could ask the township attorney to draw up a list of

reasons in writing, but they would not be given publicly because of pending litigation.

Calling members of the Council turncoats, Deputy Chief Vincent Pereira said they had taken away from the department the right to pick its own members and the Governing Body had no right to overrule an investigating committee which had been choosing members for 61 years.

Fireman Don Kellerman, said he resented the councilmen turning thumbs down on the fire department.

In other action the councilmen voted to accept a \$38,000 bid for the renovation of a portion of the Charles H. Brewer School as a senior citizen center.

Gabriel Calanda, an architect, was appointed to serve as field director for the project.

The \$38,000 comes from a federal grant which was obtained through Union County.

The Council also appointed Carmen Giordano of Rutgers Rd. to fill an unexpired term as second alternate on the Board of Adjustment and okayed a \$4,000 temporary appropriation to cover payroll and \$107,945 to pay the township's bills until the 1985 municipal budget is adopted.

In other action, the Governing Body:

Commended Jonathan Lindquist of Lake Ave. on being made an Eagle Scout.

Introduced an ordinance to restrict parking on Brant Ave. near the office building off Gibson Blvd.

Withdrew an ordinance which would have allowed the township to investigate the possibility of going into a self-insurance plan.

Democratic Councilman William Caruso, the measure's sponsor, said at the meeting he wanted to present the Governing Body with more information before proceeding on the study, which

could have cost the township more than \$200,000 a year.

He said the Clark Patriot after the session, however, the reason he withdrew the measure was he couldn't get the four votes necessary to introduce it.

Re-appointed Charles Fullager as a constable for a three-year term, effective on April 15 of this year.

Accepted the bid of Peter Usa and Son (Industrial Disposal Service) for solid waste container service for the balance of this calendar year. Mayor George G. Nucera said the bid, the lowest one received, was \$5 per cubic yard, \$1 per cubic yard less than the amount charged last year by Mr. Usa.

Authorized the director of revenue and finance to receive \$7,306.22 in retainerage to Allen Blacktop Corp. for work it completed on the State St., Hayes Ave. and Holland Dr. improvements.

Gave its permission for the business administrator to spend a maximum of \$12,000 for the removal of leaves at the rear of the municipal building which the township health officer said were causing a health hazard.

Approved the moving of two streetlights from the Broadway Firehouse-one to a pole on Liberty St. and one to a pole on School St.

Authorized the establishment of a new and separate bank account for the use of the recreation department.

Amended the 1985 municipal budget to provide \$200 for a vacation replacement in the department of administration, health and welfare.

Pool pictures to be at Brewer Identification card validation and photographs for the Clark Community Pool will be done at the Charles H. Brewer School on Westfield Ave. tomorrow and Wednesday, May 1; Friday, May 3; Friday, May 17, and Wednesday, May 22 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Participants should use the cafeteria entrance. For more information please telephone the Township Clerk's Office at 388-3600. (The sessions were originally scheduled at the Municipal Building.)

College honors Susan Bresser A Township student, Susan W. Bresser, was named to the president's list at Union County College for the fall semester.

To achieve the honor, the liberal arts/communications major had to attain a minimum of a 3.5 cumulative average based on a 4.0 scale.



RECYCLING PAYS FOR UNION COUNTY...is the message to local leaders of business and government at the Union County Waste Seminar held recently in Clark. Sponsored by the Union County, Suburban, and Union Township Chambers of Commerce and the Union County Solid Waste Office, the seminar explored the problems of hazardous and solid waste disposal and proposed solutions. State officials emphasized one immediately available solution is recycling. Here, MR. R.E. CYCLE, the working symbol for the New Jersey Dept. of Energy, Office of Recycling, demonstrates -- THE MAGIC IS...RECYCLING PAYS! to Clark Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel, left, and Second Ward Councilman Bill Caruso, second from left.

## Merck income rises 8% from 1984

A spokesman for Merck & Co., Inc. of Rahway today announced net income for the first quarter of 1985 was \$131,522,000, compared with \$125,125,000 for the first quarter of 1984. Earnings per share were \$1.83, up 8 percent from \$1.69 for the first quarter of 1984.

Sales for the first quarter were \$856,280,000, an increase of 1 percent from \$848,606,000 for the first quarter of 1984.

"First-quarter results were adversely impacted by the continued strength of the United States dollar," said John J. Horan, chairman and chief executive officer of the health-products firm. "If the effects of currency exchange were excluded sales would show an increase of 8 percent. A lower effective tax rate benefited year-to-year comparisons."

Earnings per share growth of 8 percent exceeded net income growth of 5 percent, reflecting the repurchase of company stock completed during 1984 and early 1985, Mr. Horan added.

Among the products contributing to the sales gain were "Tonocard," for treating heart arrhythmia (abnormal heartbeat), and "Noroxin," an oral antibacterial for urinary tract infections.

Registering unit sales gains were "Mefasin," an injectable antibiotic; "Timoptic," prescribed for control of glaucoma; "Heptavax B," vaccine against hepatitis B; and "Moduretic," a potassium-sparing diuretic.

As previously announced the company has reached agreements to sell two of its subsidiaries, Baltimore Aircoil Co., Inc. and Calgon Carbon Corp. These agreements had no effect on reported first-quarter results. When these sales are completed in the second quarter of 1985 the projected gain is not expected to have a significant effect on net income, he concluded.



HERE'S CLARK...James Mumford, right, a member of the Clark Historical Society, points out the township on a map at the Robinson Plantation in Clark to Frank K. Mehny, School fifth graders, who include Rebekah Baker, Brian Paris and Irene Tondera. The students will be entering an essay contest on their trip.



MAKING IT OFFICIAL...Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education members, being sworn in during the Board's re-organization meeting recently, by Board attorney, Franz Skok, left, shown, left to right, David M. Hart of Mountainside, John E. Conlin of Garwood, Natalie R. Wald of Springfield and Melvin D. Altman of Clark. Mr. Altman replaced Stephen Marcink, who resigned in January.