

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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Cohen seeks regionalization of solid waste facilities

If Union County residents are to see any financial relief from skyrocketing garbage disposal costs, county officials must find ways to regionalize such services, according to Union County Freeholder Neil Cohen.

"There is a misperception that once Union County constructs its Resource Recovery plant in Rahway our problems will finally be over," Cohen said.

"However, once the garbage is burned, we still face the problem of what to do with the ashes that are left behind," said the freeholder. "And this problem carries a significant price tag all its own."

Cohen faulted the Union County Utilities Authority, which is an independent agency not subject to the Board of Freeholders, for not addressing the subject of ash disposal, an issue he raised at a meeting in May, 1988.

"We need a comparative analysis of the costs of shipping the ash out of state versus regionalizing with neighboring counties to operate a single ash dump locally that would eliminate transportation costs," Cohen said.

Some estimates already project the cost of an ashfill, a landfill for the ash generated by resource

recovery facilities, could run to nearly \$48 million, according to the freeholder. Cohen said it was imperative that the Legislature act on a bill (A-2393) sponsored by Middlesex County Assemblyman George Spadoro, requiring the state Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Commission to address the issue of ash disposal.

"If each county moves ahead individually, without any coordination by the state, we may end up with the costliest garbage disposal system ever dreamed of," Cohen said.

"Before counties move ahead and finance their

own ashfills, state and county officials must take a serious look at whether a regional approach would be the cheapest alternative. Every county does not necessarily have to have its own ashfill," said the freeholder.

Cohen warned that the Union County Utilities Authority is considering a site in the industrial section of Elizabeth, on Kapkowski Road, for such an ashfill.

However, the Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Commission "has not included resource recovery facilities in its assessment of the state's disposal capacity requirements for

hazardous waste disposal, and has not made any provisions for the disposal of this ash," according to Spadoro's bill.

The proposed bill also warns that while the state is going about approving nearly 18 resource recovery facilities, the plans for the disposal of the ash only require that it be placed in adjacent landfills equipped with the minimum protective devices.

Cohen said Spadoro's bill would establish guidelines ensuring that the ash from the resource recovery plants be managed in an environmentally sound manner.



DEDICATION ACKNOWLEDGED... Clark residents Violet Kennedy, Kay MacVicar and Maude Stadlander were among the many members of the Rahway Hospital Hospice team who were recently feted at the Annual

Hospice Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. After a formal dinner the volunteers were awarded certificates for their achievements. Rahway Hospital Hospice services 12 to 13 terminally ill patients each month.

Council opposes Freeholders' raise; votes against Judge's fringe benefits

by Pat DiMaggio
Clark's Municipal Council approved a resolution voicing opposition to the proposed freeholders salary increase at their regular meeting held last week.

Members of the Union County Board of Freeholders have proposed a 16 percent raise in their salaries retroactive to January 1, 1988. The raise would increase freeholders salaries to \$21,000, with the freeholder vice chairman to be paid \$22,000 and the freeholder chairman to receive \$23,000.

"Clark's council" approved a resolution opposing the increases for the years 1988, 1989 and 1990.

"I believe this pay increase is outlandish," said Council Member Bernard Hayden. "It should be put on referendum. If they (freeholders) didn't like the pay that went with the job, they shouldn't have run for election. When they were running for election, they didn't once say where they would vote themselves a pay increase."

The resolution was approved on a vote of seven in favor, with Councilman Robert Ellenport opposed.

"The issue of increased salaries for public employees is not limited to the freeholders," said Ellenport. "It affects state legislatures and congress. I feel that to isolate just the freeholders in one resolution misses the mark."

A resolution extending benefits to Township Judge Positzi after 25 years of continuous service was defeated by the council. The Township has on the books an ordinance granting benefits after 25 years of service to the township clerk, the public works foreman and the police department's chief and captain. Resolutions have been passed allowing other employees to retain benefits paid for by the Township.

Pointing to the ordinance, Councilman Hayden said allowing other employees to benefit from the plan would be costly to taxpayers. "We are creating a fringe benefit that will cost the taxpayers of this town \$4,000 a year for an elected official," said Hayden. "Nowhere is it discussed giving the judge a free ride on benefits. We are opening up a Pandora's Box

for every appointed employee who serves 25 years or more.

"After reviewing the cost of the entire program, I feel we should rescind those already approved for it," said Councilman William Carusi. "When you multiply this \$4,000 by 10, it does affect the taxpayers. We have to start thinking where we are going with all these fringe benefits."

Councilman Joseph Pozniak, who moved that the resolution be placed on the agenda, disagreed with his fellow council members.

"We are not giving him (Positzi) a free ride," said Pozniak. "He is more than a part-time employee; he is beyond that. Here's a man that deserves it. We control who we want to put on this program and he deserves it. That he gets for this part-time position is peanuts."

The motion was defeated with Council members Ellenport abstaining and Pozniak and Fred Eckel voting in favor of it.

In other business the council:

- Renewed the license of Clark Lanes.
- Processed a voucher submitted by Fink, Rosner

and Soltzer in the amount of \$1,518.25.

- Refunded \$135 to St. Agnes Church.
- Authorized payment to Township engineer Anthony Tese in the amount of \$2,625.
- Authorized the installation of a "drop box" for use by the Municipal court for the daily deposit of court papers, bail and deposit monies.
- Authorized processing of purchase orders in the amount of \$12,261 for renovations to the public safety building.
- Issued a check to W.D. Snyder Co. in the amount of \$7,565.40.
- Authorized the processing of a voucher in the amount of \$13,446 to W.D. Snyder Co.
- Urged state agencies to replace the track at the Lehigh Valley Railroad crossing on Karlan Road.
- Urged the Union County Utilities Authority, the B.P.U. and the DEP to take steps to reduce tipping fees.

Peace In The New Year



CLEAR MESSAGE... Clark Republicans join Senator Don DiFrancesco (2nd from right) and Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden in urging Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick (left) to run for Governor. Others pictured left to right are



POOLING THEIR EFFORTS... Theresa Ward, Rosa Tomchek and Ed Muchmore (pictured from left) were honored for their service on the township's Pool Advisory Committee

Pool committee honored

by Pat DiMaggio
Longtime members of Clark's Community Pool Advisory Committee were honored by a resolution commending their services at a Municipal Council meeting held last week.

Rose Tomchek, Theresa Ward and Edwin Muchmore were commended for their "tireless years of service and dedication that added to the dream in the hearts of

citizens" for a Township pool.

Tomchek and Ward served 16 years on the committee and Muchmore served 14 years. "On behalf of the committee and all the members who served on the committee, I'd like to thank you," said Tomchek. "We would like to see the pool remain in its present status. It has now become an asset to the community in lowering tax dol-

lars. We look forward to helping the Township reduce tax dollars even more."

The Municipal Council also approved a resolution designating the property on which the pool is located as public recreational land.

The eight-acre property is located on Oak Ridge Road between Woodland Road and the Clark-Edison boundary.

"This resolution is continuing our efforts to protect the pool property area as a recreational facility," said Councilman William Carusi.

Dog licenses expire soon

Township Clerk Catherine M. Clancy reminds all dog owners in Clark Township that all Licenses expire at the end of January. A Late Charge of \$1.50 will be imposed on any Dog License issued after January 31.

For the public's convenience, the Office of the Township Clerk, located in Room 28 in the former Brewer School, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the following Saturdays: January 7, January 14, January 21 and January 28.

For additional information, call the Clerk's Office at 388-3600.

Airman Brown completes basic

Airman David A. Brown, son of Clair and Stanley G. Brown of Cornell Drive, Clark, has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airman who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the community college of the Air Force.

Airman Brown is a 1988 graduate of Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School, Clark.



Airman David A. Brown