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Distressed cities aid halved Last year \$1.4M; this year 7Gs of requested \$4.6M

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway has been notified that it will receive \$700,000 in aid from the state, an amount substantially lower than applied for and expected.

Rahway's Municipal Council introduced its \$19.1 million budget last month to meet the state-imposed deadline. The budget, as introduced, did not include anticipated funds from the state and Business Administrator Joseph Hartnett said it would be "substantially cut" before adoption by the council.

The City applied for \$2.7 million in distressed cities

aid and later amended its application to request a total of \$4.6 million in state aid. The \$700,000 to be received falls far below the application amount.

Last year, Rahway received \$1.4 million in distressed cities aid. The budget remains \$400,000 over CAP, the increase allowed by the state.

Mayor Daniel L. Martin said the City is anticipating additional funds from the state. "The \$700,000 is the first to come out of Trenton," he explained. "We anticipate that we will receive more, although from what source is unknown."

Martin said additional funds would have to be received to bring the budget under the CAP allowance or layoffs of City personnel would have to be implemented.

Rahway is only one of many municipalities who have delayed adoption of their budgets in anticipation of receiving more monies through state funds, said Hartnett.

With the addition of the \$700,000 to be used on the revenue side of the budget, the tax increase for homeowners would be reduced from \$300 a year for municipal purposes to \$225 per year on the average home in Rahway, said Hartnett.

NJSBA: Restore school aid

An official of the N.J. School Boards Association recently called on the finance committees of the state Legislature to provide additional funding for public education and help school districts "restore program cuts and rescind anticipated teacher layoffs."

Regan pointed out how the shortfall will burden property taxpayers. "Loading another \$234 million onto an already staggering property tax is clearly not the answer," he said. "New Jerseyans already pay the fourth highest property tax in the nation on a per capita basis, exceeded only by Alaska, Washington, D.C. and Wyoming."

Regan noted that NJSBA would support additional state-level taxes to provide the funding. But "if no agreement can be reached on revenue measures, we urge you to reestablish priorities within the governor's proposed budget and allocate to education, monies which are now proposed for some other purpose."

He concluded, "It is not too late to restore funding. The additional monies will go to restore program cuts and to rescind anticipated teacher layoffs."

Kean signs bill allowing recycle trucks on state highways

Multimaterial trucks, used for the collection and transportation of recyclable trash, will be permitted to operate on New Jersey roads under legislation recently signed by Governor Kean.

Under prior law, no commercial vehicle (other than safety equipment) exceeding 8-1/2 feet in width, including load and contents, could operate on a public highway in this state. On roads on which safety considerations are paramount, the maximum outside width could not exceed eight feet.

Assemblyman Alan J. Karcher (D-Middlesex), the co-prime sponsor of the measure (A-2436), explained that the state-of-the-art recycling collection vehicles are typically eight

feet wide, but are also equipped with side steps necessary for loading access, which add 16-17 inches to the width of the vehicle.

Although the side steps are folded up when the vehicle is moving, they must be let down during collection periods, and at those times the trucks exceed the legal width limit.

"In order to promote recycling, we're already giving companies that buy and operate these trucks a 50% sales tax credit on the purchases," said Karcher.

"It doesn't make too much sense to encourage people to get involved in this business if they're going to be breaking the law every time they take the trucks on the road," he said.

Hartnett puts Library Park sale on hold Other lot sales put 268Gs in city coffers

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Municipal Council approved City-owned property sales at a meeting held last week after six parcels located behind Rahway's Public Library were removed from the list for approval on the recommendation of the Business Administrator.

A sale of City-owned properties was conducted on March 17. Most of the parcels were irregular or interior lots and many were purchased by adjacent property owners. The total sale of 21 parcels of land equaled more than \$268,000 and will be used on the revenue side of this year's Municipal budget.

Six parcels located on

Central Avenue and Pierpont Street were removed from the list prior to approval. Business administrator Joseph Hartnett, acting as City auctioneer responsible for conducting the sale of the properties, recommended that these parcels be removed because of problems in the manner in which the bidding took place.

Hartnett said one bidder did not have the full deposit, and when the sale was adjourned and continued later, not all bidders attended. Citing these "irregularities in the bidding process," Hartnett said the administration will study the situation, consult with the City's attorney and will make

future recommendations. "It is important that we get the money in the budget for tax relief," said Hartnett.

The buildable lots located behind the library drew bids ranging from a low of \$35,000 for one 50 by 112-foot parcel to a high of \$68,000 for a 50 by 104-foot parcel. Several councilmembers spoke against the sale of these properties at a previous council meeting, saying the land should be kept for recreational uses.

Residents in the area consider the property park land, referring to the parcel as "Library Park." The time and date for any future sale will be announced by the City.

Rinaldo introduces toxic waste bill

Rep. Matthew J. Rinaldo (R-N.J.) and other leaders of the Northeast-Midwest

Congressional Coalition have introduced legislation aimed at reducing the

production of hazardous and toxic wastes.

The proposed Waste Reduction Act is intended to encourage voluntary efforts on the part of industry to curtail hazardous waste disposal problems, Rinaldo said.

The measure would provide \$8 million a year in matching state grants to help companies learn how to decrease the production of harmful waste materials and \$10 million to develop a national program of information and education for industry on waste reduction efforts.

"Stopping waste at the source of production is far safer, technically easier and more economical than cleaning up after it goes out the factory door," Rinaldo said. "A number of companies that already are leaders in hazardous waste reduction have found there are huge savings to be gained by eliminating expenses for waste management, disposal and liability."

Both the House and Senate passed similar legislation last year, but Congress adjourned before a compromise could be reached on differing House and Senate versions of the bill.



BLOOD DONORS NEEDED — Toni Szuhany, North Jersey Blood Center technician, checks 80 units of inventory necessary for the liver transplant program. The need for blood is always increasing. Pledge your support to programs like the liver transplantation by making an appointment to donate blood. Call the North Jersey Blood Center at the East Orange location 878-4700 or Morris County location at 335-8162.

PO. to remain open 'til midnight April 17

Postmaster Joseph R. ...
The lobby and the ...
There will be no mail pickup that evening.
All mail deposited in the post office or the outside collection boxes will be postmarked April 17.
NOTE: The late opening is for the main Rahway P.O. ONLY!

Mayor Martin on tube

Bob Zeglarski will host a conversation with Mayor Daniel L. Martin, live on Suburban Cablevision's TV-3 "Downtown", Wednesday, April 19, at 8 p.m.

Viewers will have the opportunity to call in with their questions, air their views, and discuss issues concerning their community. The phone number is 636-5333.

A repeat showing (not live) will be aired Sunday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ... (L-R) Freeholders James Connolly Welsh, Joseph Suliga and Walter Boright get ready to cut the cake in celebration of Women's History Month (March) and Girl Scout Week (March 13-17), as some hungry scouts from Troop #409, Elizabeth, look on.

Board of Ed backpedals on entrance dates \$1.1 million asbestos removal to commence this summer

by Pat DiMaggio
Rahway's Board of Education has reconsidered its decision to change the entrance date for pre-school and kindergarten children and have moved the cut-off date back by one month.

The board, at its regular meeting last month, approved for first reading a motion that will change the entrance date for pre-school children to four years of age by October 1, effective with the start of the 1989-90 school year and to five years of age by October 1 for kindergarten children, effective with the start of the 1990-91 school year.

Previously, the board approved a date change from the current December 31 cut-off to an entrance date of September 1. Board Attorney Leo Kahn said the change to October 1 was made because of the recommendations of the commissioner of education and the State Board of Education. The board approved the change based on those recommendations.

"I believe our initial change was proper and correct," said Board Member Raymond Grimes. "But based on the recommendation of the county superintendent and our board attorney, I will agree to the new date." "I regret the board's

decision," said Board Member Jacqueline Fagan. "The committee allowed a sound process in determining the new dates. One month does make a difference in the developmental life of early childhood. It is unfortunate that this district cannot do what it knows is right for our children."

The board also announced a five-year plan for the removal of asbestos in the district. Princeton Testing Laboratory recently inspected school buildings for asbestos containing material (ACBM). The inspection was for both friable and non-friable ACBM.

A management plan was prepared and submitted to the state for approval. It stipulates certain response actions regarding ACBM found within the buildings. Every 6 months all friable or potentially friable ACBM will be inspected for possible deterioration. If found, the area will be repaired by trained personnel and cleaned using proper techniques.

The five-year plan will begin this summer and will continue through the summer of 1994 at a cost of \$1.1 million, according to Business Administrator Anthony Rocco, Jr.

The board recognized the following students for their achievement in the Central Jersey Educator Association Region II Band and Or-

chestra: Janet O'Leary, Rose Gross and Kelly Kenna.

In other business the board:

— Accepted the resignation of Margaret McGuire, teacher.

— Adjusted the salary of Eileen Pashuck to \$23,470.

— Appointed Corinne Wack as support services counselor at the High School at \$29,481.

— Ratified the appointment of Judith Evans as a substitute clerk at Roosevelt School at \$7 per hour.

— Submitted an application for a mini-grant program for the New Jersey Business/Industry Science Education Consortium for a kindergarten teacher at Franklin School, entitled "Classroom Critics" in the amount of \$499.26.

— Submitted a Support Grant application titled Project Plus in the amount of \$13,681.67.

— Submitted a Support Grant application titled Project Culture in the amount of \$13,283.20.

— Submitted an application for a mini-grant program for a 1st grade teacher at Franklin School entitled "Good For You and Fun To Do" in the amount of \$498.50.

— Submitted an application for grants in the amount of \$4,057.50 and \$28,745.00 for a High School Proficiency Test Summer School Program.

— Declared the following band instruments as surplus: 2 saxophones, 1 bass drum, 40 marching hats, 4 marching snare drums, 2 marching tenor drums, 1 snare drum and 2 sets of mallets.

— Approved purchase of P.A. System, in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the band and orchestra.



ACE STUDENT AT PHARMACY ... Junior ACE student, John Sabin, is shown at work in a local Pharmaceutical Discount Store along with his supervisor, Mr. Peter Sabin. Sabin is enrolled in the Rahway High School Alternative Center for Education, (ACE). Photo by ACE Project.