

Five County School Districts Adopt Budgets Totalling Over \$4.4 Million

A total of over \$4.4 million in school budgets were adopted last night by five Saratoga County school districts.

Districts adopting their 1961-62 budgets included Stillwater, Waterford, Shenendehowa, Galway and Corinth.

School officials were also elected in the districts of Stillwater, Shenendehowa, Galway, Corinth, Saratoga Springs and Mechanicville. (Other school stories on page 3.)

STILLWATER

Stillwater Central School District I adopted a \$617,847 budget, a capital reserve building fund and elected four trustees at last night's annual school election.

The annual meeting for the Towns of Stillwater and Saratoga, Saratoga County; Easton, Washington County, and Schaghticoke, Rensselaer Coun-

ty, got underway at 8:30 in the central school cafeteria.

The accepted budget exceeds this year's by \$24,159, most of which will be used to increase teacher salaries and the number of teachers. Approximately \$176,509 will have to be raised by taxes.

A total of 161 votes were cast on the budget, with 154 in favor, six against and one void.

Elected to the nine-man board of trustees for three-year terms were James E. Gannon, incumbent, running unopposed, who received 181 votes; Eugene Smith, incumbent, unopposed, 180 votes; Lawrence McDonald, incumbent, 145 votes; Roy Sharp, who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of a trustee, 148 votes.

The capital reserve building fund was passed on a separate ballot by a 146-22 vote. Its sum-

—\$5,000—is included in the total budget figure.

WATERFORD

A \$644,023.66 budget, which provides a substantial tax rate increase, was approved last night by the voters of Union Free School District 1, Towns of Waterford and Halfmoon.

The tax rate for the Waterford section is \$59.64 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, an increase of approximately \$15 over last year's figure. The rate for the Halfmoon section is \$44.73 per \$1,000, an increase of \$11.

The main reasons for the increases in the tax rate are:

1. An increase in teachers' salaries.
2. The additional costs of teacher retirement.
3. Additional transportation costs mandated by the Speno Bill.

4. First payment on the \$1,875,000 new Waterford school.

Under the new budget provisions, \$349,023.66 will be collected by tax levy. The payment on the principal and interest on loans for the new school is \$120,312.50.

The budget vote was 110 in favor, two opposed and two blank ballots.

SHENENDEHOWA

A \$1,581,377.22 budget was approved by voters of the Shenendehowa Central School District last night, with \$242,000 to be raised by taxes.

The estimate will cover costs involved in the addition of about 100 pupils to the present enrollment of 2,200.

The highest estimate tax rate will be \$53.23 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for Still-

water. Other estimated tax rates include: Clifton Park, \$43; Halfmoon, \$37.26; Malta, \$50.81; Waterford, \$46.58 and Ballston, \$50.81.

The purchase of five buses for a total of \$40,848 was approved 249 to 16. Four of the buses are priced at \$8,212 and the fifth at \$4,000.

Donald Bassler was reelected to the seven-man school board, defeating Laddie Stahl, 134 to 124.

GALWAY

A \$558,770 school budget was adopted last night by voters at the annual school district meeting.

Voters approved an increase in the budget of \$8,000, the cost of one school bus. The vote to include the cost of the bus in the 1961-62 budget was

306 in favor, 89 opposed and 10 void ballots.

It was decided to purchase a second bus through a bond issue. This resolution was approved by a vote of 277 to 61.

A second resolution, calling for an expenditure of \$4,000 for improvements to the bus garage, was defeated, 255-152.

Richard Stonka was elected to a five-year term on the Galway board of education. He received 234 votes to 133 for Mrs. Alan Burrows. One ballot was void.

CORINTH

A \$1,035,369.98 school budget was unanimously adopted last night by voters of the Corinth Central School District. Forty votes were cast.

Mrs. Mildred Mosher was re-elected to the board of education despite write-ins. She re-

ceived a total of 329 votes.

Write-ins were cast for Phillip Proller, 43; Fred Clothier, 1; A. Steel, 1; Joseph Petro, 1, and Harold Dodge, 1.

Albert Steele, with 242 votes, defeated Harold Dodge, with 185, for the other board seat vacated by the resignation of Van Bloodgood. Both terms of office are for five years.

SARATOGA SPRINGS

Mrs. Mary Kmen was reelected to her third five-year term on the board of education yesterday in an uncontested election. She received 100 of the 103 votes cast.

Mrs. Mary Fennell's reelection to another five-year term on the Saratoga Springs Public Library board of trustees was also uncontested. She received 95 votes.

A total of 103 voters went to the polls, one at Saratoga High

School and the other at Division St. school.

Mrs. Kmen received 66 votes and Mrs. Fennell received 65 votes at the high school. At the elementary school, Mrs. Kmen received 34 votes and Mrs. Fennell received 30 votes. Three votes were unaccounted for.

MECHANICVILLE

Mrs. Hawley B. Harvey, whose five-year term of office expired this year, was re-elected to the Mechanicville board of education in an uncontested election yesterday. She received a total of 112 votes.

Although school officials announced that write-in votes were legal and it was expected that some would be forthcoming, the tabulations showed that Mrs. Harvey was unanimously elected. One vote was declared void.

THE SARATOGIAN

THE KNICKERBOCKER NEWS—SARATOGA EDITION

60 PAGES, 4 SECTIONSSARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y., WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1961. VOL. 24, NO. 104 SEVEN CENTS

Westvaco Union Seeks 'Action'

Mechanicville—Performance must match "nice words" to assure harmony between labor and management, union leaders at West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company have declared.

A letter from the executive board and bargaining committee of Local 678, United Papermakers and Paperworkers, gives the union reaction to recent actions by West Virginia to improve "human relations" at the mill and in the community.

The letter, sent to members of the union and residents of the city, outlines five "elements of performance which the workers desire," to prove the company's desire to "make a clean, fresh start."

The letter pledges the union's good faith and welcomes new

management personnel assigned to deal with human relations. It declares that "both sides must be willing to go more than halfway . . . but the initiative remains . . . with management."

The letter reads, in part: "The members of this union do not and never have favored conflict. We are not at Westvaco to make 'a killing,' to accumulate a pile of money and then leave Mechanicville. This Mill is more than a job to us. Our families are rooted here, our friends . . . This is our life.

"We want nothing more from Westvaco than a fair share of what we produce and the right to a voice and vote in our own destinies. We too want the company to profit . . . suffi-

ciently so that it will not only keep the mill running, but expand and modernize it . . . so that there is no more profitable mill operation — for workers and management—anywhere in the paper industry.

"This can not be done by nice words alone. Performance is the only measure . . . on both sides. We have heard nice words before . . . including those which were uttered by the very person who has been removed from here as a 'symbol of conflict.'

"What are some of the elements of performance the workers here desire?"

Five Points

"First, We expect decent and human handling of grievances at the lower steps of grievance procedure. For the past two

years management has deliberately made a 'federal case' of petty grievances . . . forcing to arbitration cases which should be settled at the mill level.

"Second, We feel a meaningful gesture at making a 'clean, fresh start' would be to right some of the past wrongs. An example would be the management action depriving veteran workers of past vacation benefits. This was a perversion of the contract's intent and inflicted grievous wrong on many workers through the company's exploiting technicalities of contract language.

"Third, the company is in full production and there are still many of our fellow workers unemployed. 'Good faith' efforts by management would mean

the company having as much concern for these unemployed workers in our community as does the union.

"Fourth, we do not believe that bargaining by management should be limited to matching what other mills have already established. Let's put Westvaco among the leaders of the industry, not just in quality of product, productivity and profits—but in wages and working conditions too.

"Finally, let us approach the bargaining table with the union recognizing the representatives of management as bona fide and the company, in turn, giving the elected union committee the same recognition. 'Good faith' would eliminate either party from trying to undercut the other . . ."

Merchants' Petition Knocks Arterial

Al Gardner, member of the Retail Merchants Council, and Norman Fox, president of the Citizens Organization for Progress in Saratoga (COPS) addressed the city council last night, presenting an "incomplete" petition stating that "80 per cent of the Broadway merchants are against the arterial as it is presently proposed."

Gardner, who spoke first, told the council the city should

"wait at least a year after the completion of the Northway to prove for certain whether or not the Northway will take the large portion of through traffic off Broadway" before building the proposed arterial.

He also stated that the arterial would create a new business area where the Central Markets is now locating, and would cause the Broadway merchants considerable harm.

Gardner told the council that the merchants on Route 9 all the way to South Glens Falls are against the arterial program, and that it needs much more discussion. He also stated that the merchants are willing to put up money to fight the arterial program.

Gardner further claimed that if the Northway proved to do what the merchants presently feel it will do, then the con-

struction of the arterial would be a "waste of the taxpayers' money." He also stated that the construction of the proposed arterial would leave Broadway the fate of a "ghost street."

Petition

He then presented the council a petition signed by approximately 30 Broadway merchants and many more taxpayers and rent payers. Gard-

ner told The Saratogian this morning that he thought there were over 100 signatures on it, although he had not counted the names.

The petition stated: "We, the undersigned, residents of the City of Saratoga Springs, New York, and being either taxpayers or rent payers, do hereby protest to the City Council of the City of Saratoga Springs the promotion and plans for an arterial highway as proposed by the Planning Board, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Saratoga Springs.

"For the reason that said plan is unnecessary, unwarranted and a waste of the taxpayers' money, not only for the taxpayers of the City of Saratoga Springs, but of the people of the State of New York, we respectfully suggest that the plans for the arterial be held in abeyance until after the completion of the Northway, when it then can be determined in a practical manner whether or not an arterial is needed at that time.

"We feel the arterial will take business away from the present downtown stores with a definite depreciation of present property values resulting in a decrease of present tax evaluations to the detriment of the City of Saratoga Springs as a whole."

Merchant Poll

Mayor James E. Benton then called on Norman M. Fox, who told the group that he was not only a member of the Retail Merchants Council but also president of COPS, present in both capacities, and that he concurred with what Gardner had said.

Fox presented the group with information concerning a poll of the retail merchants.

He stated that 80 per cent are against the arterial as proposed. He further stated that there has been no "proof" of real need for the arterial given, and until such "proof" is available it could be a "deplorable mistake."

He said there are many other immediate needs of the city, such as a new \$630,000 water program, a new high school and new grade schools. "These are not even needs of today," he said, "but rather we needed them yesterday."

Also, he said, a sizeable segment of the independent population would undoubtedly show that the people of the city would undoubtedly show that the people of the city would want a referendum before committing themselves to an arterial.

Fox further claimed that there has been very little information on the arterial made public, and that there have been no open meetings called for its discussion.

He concluded by stating that COPS is not a group of "crackpots," but rather a group of "solid businessmen who have invested much money in the future of Saratoga Springs."

Mayor Benton thanked both gentlemen for their presentation, and continued with the council's regular business.

Deputy Commissioners Renew Plea

No matter what form the city government may take, the duties performed by city deputy commissioners must continue and should be "handled" by Civil Service employees, skilled and experienced in their work and secure in their jobs, three of the deputies declared today.

The three issued their statement of the eve of public hearing before the Civil Service Commission on their appeal to be transferred from exempt status to permanent Civil Service status.

The hearing will be at 8 p.m. Thursday in City Hall. At issue are the positions held by William Phillips, finance department; Francis Smith, accounts, and James Bendon, public works.

Statement

Their joint statement deplored the injection of "political considerations," and held the matter of change of the form of government as irrelevant.

They declared: "Our application to the local Civil Service Commission for reclassification of our jobs in Civil Service has provoked widespread interest and, we feel, some misunderstanding. Civil Service here and throughout the State is regulated by law. We believe that under that law the positions we occupy would properly be classified as permanent Civil Service. In other communities that is the situation.

"We have asked the Commission to review our duties and to classify them in accordance with the state and local regulations. We have asked for determination on the merits. The commissioners of our respective departments have approved our request and urged its adoption.

"We regret that political considerations have been injected. They do nothing but obscure the real issue of good government and continuity of administration regardless of election results.

Old Question

"The advisability of permanent status for the deputies is not a new question. It has been raised many times in the past. It has been discussed by previous city councils. It has been recommended by the Planning Board. State Inspectors and representatives of the State Civil Service Commission have told us our jobs belong in permanent Civil Service. By formal enactment the duties of a

previous deputy were reclassified to permanent status and his title was changed.

"We are proceeding accordingly to law. We have been advised by the state authorities and by the local Commission that application such as we have made is the correct way to bring the matter before the Commission.

"As we understand it, the Civil Service Law was created to improve the administration of governmental functions and to provide security and stability for people employed in government. We feel that those objectives can best be accomplished by designation of our positions as permanent Civil Service and thus remove the uncertainty in pure political office. We are not elected. We do not go to the polls for approval or endorsement, yet our jobs and

our livelihood depend on the political success or failure of the men who appointed us.

Reclassification

"The question to be decided is whether our jobs should be reclassified. That is the only question before the Commission. It apparently has raised, however, the question of our form of government. We are not involved in this purely political matter. Regardless of what form our local government may assume, the duties now performed by us must be accomplished.

"The question is, should those duties be in the hands of political appointees or should the business of running the city's fiscal and Administrative affairs be handled by Civil Service employees, skilled and experienced in their work and secure in their jobs?"

"We have a combined total service of almost 50 years. All

who have commented publicly on our application have agreed that we are qualified and that our jobs are done capably. No fault is found with us or with our work but some say we shouldn't have the same treatment as other salaried city employees whose duties, like ours, are administrative and supervisory. There are over 100 of these who have Civil Service status.

"The matter is now in the hands of the Civil Service Commission and a public hearing will be held tomorrow. We rely on the good judgment and fairness of the men charged with the duty of administering the Civil Service Law. Others for personal reasons have opposed it. We feel we are entitled to the change and we know it is best for efficient, economical administration of the city government."

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City Tree Nursery Established

The City Council voted to enter into contract with Richard Carter for the establishment of a Tree Farm on Seward St. at their meeting held in city hall last night.

The construction of the new city tree nursery will proceed on the basis of the city leasing property to Carter on a 10-year lease at \$100 per year.

Following this vote, Mayor James Benton read a letter from the Katrina Trask Garden Club and Civic Club, dated April 18, urging such a move. The organization also took the opportunity to commend Commissioner of Public Safety Harry A. Burke and Chief of Police Robert F. Flanagan, for their service to the safety of the citizens over the past year.

The organization further commended Commissioner of Public Works Charles McTygus on his street work, and referred to his deputy, James Bendon, as a tree "expert," citing the accomplishments of the department over the past year. The letter further commended Joseph Comiskey, park superintendent, calling him an established gardener and citing the beauty of Congress Park as an example.

Sell Land

The council also authorized the mayor to sign the necessary contracts whereby the state will purchase city property lots in the South Broadway section. Attorney Dorsey told the council that these lots are necessary in the \$2.5 mil-

lion dollar expansion program of the state. The state offered a price of \$9,750, which Dorsey said was a good price.

The city will also secure a cost estimate and a planning board opinion on behalf of Marion Kolakowski, Schenectady developer of the Geyser Crest Housing Project.

Kolakowski has requested city water be run to his development from the General Foods plant. The city also accepted the first new street in the development, which is known as Hathorn Boulevard.

Commissioner of Public Works McTygus announced the appointment of Raymond Robinson as a water meter reader, filling the vacancy created by the recent death of C. Nelson Dewey.

Bids

Bids were opened on the following:

Fuel Oil: Charles Furey, \$1.1085 per gallon; Bardino, \$1.127; Ashton Fuel Co., \$1.36; Congress Gas & Oil, \$1.2405 and A. K. Rapleje, \$1.239 per gallon.

Coal: Ashton Fuels, \$21.95 per ton.

Gasoline: A. K. Rapleje, regular \$1.112 per gallon and premium \$1.440; Thomas Oil, \$1.267 and Congress Gas & Oil, \$1.469 per gallon.

Tires: Braim & Ronan, current state contract prices, less 6.3 per cent; A. K. Rapleje, New York State net contract prices less 2.8 per cent.

For one bid was received for a new scoopmobile of \$10-

492, with a trade-in allowance of \$2,000 leaving a cost price of \$8,492.

All bids were referred to a committee with power, consisting of Commissioner of Accounts Jerome Pitney, Commissioner of Public Works Charles McTygus and City Attorney Francis Dorsey.

Honor Stonequist

Mayor Benton announced the reappointment of Dr. Everett V. Stonequist to another five-year term as chairman of the City Housing Authority. In so doing, the Mayor said that he wished to thank Dr. Stonequist for the "marvelous" job he has done in Saratoga on all the civic projects which he has served.

City Attorney Francis E. Dorsey entered a resolution for the consolidation and sale of bonds totaling \$216,000, which the city council passed unanimously.

Three bidders were announced to level the property that contains the Saratoga Diner on Railroad Pl. Robert Gass, member of the real estate committee, said the bids were: John West, \$510, Roadmaster Construction Co., \$484 and the Ballestero Construction Co., \$470. The contract was awarded to Ballestero. Gass told the council that he had been assured the job will be completed within seven days, weather permitting.

The next regular meeting of the city council has been set for Wednesday, May 17, at

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ENLARGED AIR PROTECTION—The radar unit charged with sweeping an assigned vector of sky at the 656th AC&W Squadron, U.S. Air Force, Saratoga Springs is getting a "face lift." The hard rubber dome which covered the unit was removed, the old radar "sail" taken down and replaced with this newer, larger model which will be covered with the latest innovation for radar domes, a rigid model, built of plastic sections. The main purpose of the dome is to protect the sail from weather.

News Briefs

Friday Shepard's Earliest Date

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. will have to wait at least until Friday to become the first American shot into space, a top project Mercury official reported today. Walter Williams, project operations director, confirmed reports that the shot—postponed Tuesday—cannot be attempted again until Friday.

"It will take that long before we can have the Redstone booster rocket ready to go again," Williams said, explaining that it is a complicated process to drain off the tons of fuel that were pumped into the vehicle and recheck it to make certain all systems are functioning properly.

Truce Looms Despite Attack

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—The pro-Communist Pathet Lao command ordered its troops to cease fire today but rebels attacked Pha Lane, a key town on the road to central Viet Nam at the thin waist of Laos. Informants here said the assault in battalion size began this morning and was still going on near midday.

Pha Lane is about 60 miles east of the southern government stronghold of Savannakhet, on the west border. The highway east leads to an area of South Viet Nam just south of the border with North Viet Nam. Despite the attacks, there was some belief that bad communications were to blame and did not destroy the chance for an over-all cease-fire.

Tower Disaster Warning Cited

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under-secretary of the Air Force Joseph V. Charyk said today the Air Force was warned three days before the collapse of Texas Tower No. 4 last Jan. 15 that the radar structure was in serious condition. The tower, off the New Jersey coast, carried its 28 occupants to death when it collapsed in a storm.

Charyk told the Senate Armed Services Preparedness subcommittee, which is inquiring into the tragedy, that the warning came from an architects-engineering firm at a meeting Jan. 12. Charyk, under questioning by Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), said it was correct that the Air Force had been advised the tower might collapse.

Barred Price-Fix, Paxton Says

WASHINGTON (AP)—Robert Paxton, retiring president of General Electric Co., told Senate investigators today he gave subordinates explicit instructions "to have no truck" with price-fixing deals. The white-haired business executive testified that it was not until the price-fixing scandals in the industry broke in the summer of 1959 that he learned his trust had been misplaced.

Lions Horse Show Draws Skidmore Unit

A special division of six events, open only to Skidmore College girls, is a feature of the First Annual Horse Show of the Saratoga Springs Lions Club to be held at Oklahoma Race Track all day Sunday, May 14, rain or shine.

According to Ralph P. Symmes, Skidmore's instructor in equitation, upwards of 50 students will compete, some with individually owned mounts, 33 classes.

A total of 33 classes are included in the prize listing for the five divisions, the largest being the Saddle Horse Division with 12.

This has classes for juveniles and women. The Equitation Division lists four classes for children while there are five classes in the Jumper Division, and five in the Working Hunter Division.

It was indicated today that J. F. Stewart, Albany, would enter his Little Fiddle, last year's national high score green working hunter champion, while the committee has been notified that Ronnie Mutch, formerly of the U.S. Equestrian Team, would be on hand. Officials of the show include Symmes as adviser. He came to Skidmore two years ago.

Judging the hunters, jumping and equitation will be James Rooney, widely known Albany horseman. Richard Streeter, Longmeadow, Mass., will judge saddle horses, jumpers and equitation, while Donald Sheldon, Hyde Park, will handle the Western and Equitation classes.

The announcer will be William Bryant, New York, public relations manager for the United States Equestrian Team while Joseph Maguire, Williamstown, Mass., secretary of the Professional Horsemen's Association, is steward. David Wright, New York dealer in saddlery, will be ringmaster.

For the Lions Club J. M. Monosko and John Bickelhaupt are chairmen and Mrs. Emory W. Norton is secretary. The mailing address is Box 445, Saratoga Springs.

