



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED...Holy Trinity Troop 73 of Westfield laid flags at Fairview Cemetery in remembrance of those who served. Pictured, from left to right, are: Tim A., Joseph S., Peter S. and Andrew C.

Mayor Giblin Gives Update on PSE&G High-Voltage

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

CRANFORD – At the township committee’s official meeting Tuesday, Mayor Patrick Giblin provided an update on PSE&G’s high-voltage line project. The utility provided a statement, which Mayor Giblin read: “Over the past few weeks PSE&G has performed extensive technical analysis regarding construction of the line along the railroad (Conrail) right-of-way...the railroad is currently evaluating our potential use of the right-of-way...”

PSE&G currently is “examining whether rerouting along the right-of-way will afford us access to construction of ongoing maintenance,” the statement continued. PSE&G’s final decision will be made from “feedback from the railroad and analysis on access issues,” according to the statement.

The township committee has asked PSE&G to reroute the proposed high-voltage power lines to along the Conrail line, so as to not be located along residential and school areas.

Deputy Mayor Ann Dooley said Governor Phil Murphy has been in contact with the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the BPU believes the height restriction is where the challenge will be.

Commissioner Thomas Hannen, Jr. said that existing high-tension lines currently run along the Conrail line, and said he feels if PSE&G could service those lines then they could service additional lines.

The Fourth of July fireworks display this year will be held on Tuesday, July 2, instead of Thursday, July 4, on the advice of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Mayor Giblin told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. The Firecracker Four Miler and Fun Run, sponsored by the Jaycees and held in Nomahegan Park, will continue on the morning of July 4, he said.

The township committee adopted a bond ordinance to appropriate \$6,587,000 for various public improvements, the acquisition of new, additional or replacement equipment, new technology equipment, and new automotive vehicles.

The committee then introduced three ordinances.

The first was to amend the code of the township, “in order to bring the administrative chapter more in line with the state law in particular, there are certain municipal officer positions...this creates ordinances to describe those positions.” Township Attorney Ryan Cooper explained. It was introduced, by a 4-to-1 vote, with Commissioner Hannen voting against the ordinance.

The second was to amend the code pertaining to land development. Currently, a development application may only be charged for a limited aspect of outside professionals and the remainder is borne by the township operating budget, Mr. Cooper said. The amendment allows the costs to be charged to the applicant, Mr. Cooper said. The resolution also creates the position of tax collector, where only the position of deputy tax collector had been.

The tax collector will be appointed by the township committee for a four-year term. It defines within the code the position of township attorney and explains the duties. It also removes a sentence stating the township administrator shall not infringe upon the duties and powers of other township officers. It was introduced, 4 to 1, with Mr. Hannen voting in opposition.

The third was to amend the code pertaining to streets and sidewalks. The amendment pertains to sidewalk café licenses to aid in the safe passage of pedestrians, Mr. Hannen said. The ordinance states a minimum of four feet from the curb line must remain open for pedestrians, as well as other standards. It was introduced by a 5-to-0 vote.

A resolution was granted for playground equipment and installation of the equipment for Johnson Park at a cost not to exceed \$19,844.20, as well as a safety mat for \$2,371.

Jared Weiss was appointed as public defender for a term ending December 31, 2019.

A contract to Severe Structures LLC for the Township of Cranford Home Improvement Program located at 11 Wall Street was awarded.

A Township Emergency Operations Plan authorizing the mayor and emergency management coordinator to sign the emergency operation plan and statement of approval was passed by resolution.

A \$9.7-million bond anticipation note (BAN) was issued from May 17, 2019 to May 15, 2020. A resolution pertaining to the BAN allowing for the interest paid on the note to not be taxable, making it a “qualified tax-exempt obligation,” was passed by a 4-to-0 tally, with Mayor Giblin abstaining. Mayor Giblin told *The Times* that the BAN is a combination of multiple bond ordinances carried over from multiple years.

A \$3.5-million New Jersey Infrastructure Bank note was voted on, with Mayor Giblin abstaining, and passed 4 to 0. The funds will be used for the Phase 2B flood management and flood control project.

Four new affordable apartments will be available to rent via a lottery on Thursday, June 27, Township Administrator Jamie Cryan said during the comments period of Tuesday’s meeting.

During the workshop meeting held before the official meeting, Ms. Dooley discussed a proposed ordinance that would restrict local shops from using and distributing materials that are not recyclable such as straws, Styrofoam and plastics bags. She said some establishments that require straws, such as a smoothie shop, may be allowed to have them.

An item on the bills list was discussed. Mr. Cooper said the general litigation bills were for a lawsuit against Commissioner Jean-Albert Maisonneuve by Benedict Caiola. Mr. Cooper said the complaint was dismissed. Mr. Cooper had billed \$8,621 for services in March and \$7,932 for services in April for general litigation services.



REMEMBERING OUR VETS...Mountainside held a ceremony on Memorial Day at Mountainside Veterans Memorial Park at Constitution Plaza.

Mountainside Planning Bd. OKs Three New Applications

By JENNIFER GLACKIN
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — The planning board approved three new applications Tuesday night and postponed another application.

The postponement of the 247 New Providence Road application is due to the architect not being available for questions at Tuesday’s meeting. The three approved applications all involve changes to residential properties.

Salvino Aguiar and Marlene Melim of 1361 Stony Brook Lane applied to construct a deck in their backyard. Neighbor Kris Dunlap asked if there was a water run-off plan, as he has noticed pooling water in Mr. Aguiar’s and Ms. Melim’s backyard. Mr. Aguiar stated that after the deck was approved and finished, he planned to consult a landscaper and come up with a plan for pipes and/or a retaining wall.

Mr. Dunlap also asked if there was a timeline for the project, as there currently is a lot of debris in the backyard. Mr. Aguiar responded by saying he hoped it would be done by the winter. The board approved the project based on three conditions suggested by Board Attorney Vincent K. Loughlin: the deck must not be enclosed by an awning or roof; a drainage plan must be presented to the borough engineer prior to the start of the project, and a landscape plan, including the removal of the debris, also must be submitted.

Two applications for second-story additions were approved as well. Adam and Jennifer Herits of 1294 Wood Valley Road applied for a variance to add a level on their Cape Cod-

style home. According to Donald Rinaldo of Enterprise Home Builders, LLC, approximately four years ago the side-yard zoning for the R2 section, where the house is located, was changed to 10 feet. The current side yards are 9.43 feet on the right side and 8.93 feet on the left side. A variance is needed to continue the exterior walls from their current place, instead of having to pinch in the sides of the addition a few inches on each side. Mr. Rinaldo said he believes the straight sides are a more appealing look for the neighborhood.

Another application to add a level was approved for Tara and Lucas Mistretta of 513 Woodland Avenue. Daniel Falcone, architect for the project, claimed the applicants were seeking three variances and said the house currently is non-conforming in many ways due to the irregular shape of the lot. Board member Theodore Zawislak commented that it was the first W-shaped lot he had seen. The current house has a front-yard setback of two feet, and the one-story, one-room addition will have a setback of 10 feet.

In other board news, a resolution for a subdivision on Dunn Parkway was accepted. The proposal, submitted by Clemco II LLC and approved at April’s meeting, will subdivide 1460 Dunn Parkway into three lots. Other approved resolutions included solar panels on Prospect Avenue and an addition to a home on Wychwood Road that is a multiple municipality lot. The Wychwood Road proposal was previously approved by Westfield.

The next planning board meeting is set for Tuesday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Discussion Postponed on Ord. Re. Units Per Acre

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD – A discussion regarding a possible ordinance to restrict habitable dwelling space originally scheduled for April 24, then May 22, was postponed during last week’s Fanwood Planning Board Meeting. The board noted that a meeting regarding further discussion of the proposed ordinance will be announced in the near future. It was decided that there were too many members absent from the meeting to have a healthy dialogue regarding the subject.

In April, a lengthy discussion was held as board members reviewed the ordinance that would restrict how many residential units per acre can be built within the borough. Currently, the borough’s land use ordinance has height restrictions and front setback restrictions, but not units per acre restrictions. The discussion was prompted at the request of the borough council members.

The ordinance was unanimously passed upon first reading at a borough council meeting in the beginning of March to limit the habitable dwelling density for future housing projects within the borough to 36 units per acre. Officials said at the meeting that other surrounding towns have averaged 40 units per acre, while Fanwood proposes 36.

According to the members of the borough’s Downtown Redevelopment Agency, which consists of the

same members as the borough council, the ordinance has come about because of recent inquiries concerning dwelling projects that the borough has seen.

Some planning board members were in favor of the new ordinance and some were not.

There are approximately a half dozen projects that might be coming before the board soon and that could be affected by the new ordinance, officials have said. They include 1 South Avenue, 2 South Avenue, 40 South Avenue, 105 South Avenue and 193 South Avenue.

Originally the borough council was looking to pass upon second reading the new ordinance at its April 15 meeting, but officials decided to table the discussion until the planning board could further discuss it with professional planners.

In other business, second resolutions were unanimously passed for two home renovations that were first passed in the early spring. Both needed relief from width variance.

Andrew and Jessica Weaver of 35 Shady Lane were granted a lot width variance for their plans and also were granted relief for a driveway setback.

Richard and Michelle Hagopian also were granted width variance relief as well as side-yard setback relief for a patio.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
A MEMORIAL DAY TRADITION...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Marching Band commemorates the fallen, and all who have served in America’s armed forces, during Monday’s Memorial Day Parade.

Freeholders

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will be completed by 2021.

That project is up to \$4,541,830 in cost.

Freeholder Chris Hudak said his concern was that it was not anticipated in bid specifications that the walls would have to be painted after stabilization of the lead paint.

“Because that’s a significant increase,” Mr. Hudak said, commenting on the \$419,000 cost.

Mr. Graziano said almost \$25 million “was put aside for this project,” saying the county is not going to rebond for the project. He said the \$4.5 million for the tower stairwell project and the work in the rotunda are all part of the same project.

The board also approved a \$395,000 settlement for litigation entitled Susan Pearl and Cynthia Pisano versus County of Union, et al.

The county will pay \$230,000 of the settlement, with Chubb Insurance Co. paying the balance. The legal defense cost for the county totaled \$40,000.

County Counsel Robert Barry said the matter was brought by two county employees with allegations of workforce harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

The board also introduced an ordinance that set fees for campers using the new Wheeler Spray Park in Linden and Ulrich Pool in Rahway. Fees will be \$1 for Union County residents and \$2 for non-residents for morning use of the facilities by campers. In addition, there will be a \$40 reservation fee for a two-hour time frame for county residents to use the spray park and \$60 for non-residents.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
SOLEMN MOMENT...A member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Band plays taps at the end of the wreath-laying ceremony as part of Monday’s Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade.

Primary Election

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In the 22nd Legislative District, incumbent State Assembly members James Kennedy of Rahway and Linda Carter of Plainfield face a Primary challenge from Carlos Rivas and Mark Lighten, both Linden residents running under the “Democrats United for Progress” slogan. The lone Republican to file for Assembly in District 22 is Patricia Quattrocchi of Clark.

In the race for Union County Democratic Committee, in Fanwood, the candidates are as follows: District 1, (male representative) Michael Marcovecchio against William A. Lee, Jr.; (female representative) Katherine Mitchell; District 2, (male) Robert Brennan against Steven Falco; (female) Barbara Brennan against Patricia Walsh; District 3, (male) Scott Brelinsky against Scott Sinclair, (female) Kerry Brelinsky against Amy Boroff;

District 4, (male) Michael Campion against Matthew Glennon, (female) Jennifer Ann Campion against Adele Kenny; District 5, (male) Mark Brink against John Celardo, (female) Anita Mc Namara against Erin McElroy Barker; District 6, (male) Alexander Mirabella against Salvatore Fazzino, (female) Phyllis Mirabella against Colleen Mahr; District 7, (male) Jeffrey Briel against Thomas Plante, (female) Vanessa Hobbs against Patricia Plante.

In Cranford, there is a challenge in District 1, (male) between Daniel Gomez Suarez and Robert Pipchick; District 2, (female) Susan Berry against Harriet Mazur; District 7, (female) Michelle Mross against Nancy Kaimowitz; District 22, (female) Patricia Wilson against Amelia McHugh; District 25, (male) Matthew Pillsbury against Mark Bagniewski, (female) Amy Sisk against Jessica Harnden; District 27, (male) John Salerno against Chris Chapman, (female) Gloria Kelsey against Frances Chapman; District 29, (male) Peter Valenzano against David Pringle.

In Scotch Plains there is a challenge in District 3 where (male) Gerald Meola will face Brett Pugach and in District 4 between (male) Frank Dinizo and Sean Smith.

In Westfield, there is a challenge in Ward 1, District 4 (female) between Maureen Kehoe and Emily Root; Ward 4, District (female) Lisa Quackenbush against Lisa O’Dwyer. The Union County Clerk’s Office will be open this Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Elizabeth and Westfield for voters to apply for a mail-in ballot for the Primary Election. This Monday, June 3, before 3 p.m., is the last day to apply in person for a mail-in ballot at both County Clerk offices.

Election polls are open Tuesday between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Ice Rink

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ise to provide reports on traffic and noise impacts. He said he did not want to merely take the operator’s word that decibel levels from the rink were under the 60-decibel level promised. Another resident of The Pointe said that “whistles” and “hockey puck slaps” were consistently heard by those living near the rink during its initial season that ended in March, and accused Mayor Brindle of having “no regard for Garwood.” He also claimed that residents at The Pointe had never received formal notice last year about plans to install the rink.

Despite the dispute, Mayor Todisco said discussions with Westfield about the rink would not affect other arrangements between the neighboring towns, including various shared-service and other agreements. “We will continue to work with Westfield as our good neighbors,” the mayor said.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
AND THE BAND PLAYS...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Marching Band performs during Monday’s Memorial Day Parade.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
A MEMORIAL DAY TRADITION...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Marching Band provides patriotic music during Monday’s Memorial Day Parade.



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY...These youngsters are all decked out in patriotic outfits for Westfield’s Memorial Day Parade.