

\$6 Million Debt to Be Combined

By TRACY EVANS
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

During Tuesday night's public meeting of the Westfield Town Council, the first reading of an ordinance allowing for the consolidation of debt accrued between 1993 and 2001 was passed by the governing body.

Forty-five ordinances have been combined and the consolidated debts will be sold as bonds. Town Administrator Jim Gildea explained that this ordinance would provide the funding for any outstanding projects and assign a useful life to each. The monetary cap on this bond, totaling \$5,973,000, was set based on the value that fits into deferred charges as of this year, Mr. Gildea continued.

First Ward Councilman Peter Echausse paused to ensure that the clarification was made that this was being done in order to avoid future tax spikes.

The bond will be sold in mid-July, as Bond Council Attorney Steve Rogart determines the best price.

The final reading of a special ordinance dedicating town property as a permanent memorial dedicated to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack was passed unanimously.

In addition to supporting the finance committee's resolutions for drawing warrants on overpaid taxes and refunding parking permits, the council voted to renew the agreement with the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program (SLAP). This program offers manual labor opportunities for low-profile offenders.

The first reading of two ordinances, which amended the salary ranges of non-union town employees were met with unanimous support by the council.

The council approved sidewalk cafés for the following downtown establishments: Sweet Waters Steakhouse, Northside Trattoria, Panera Bread, Ferraro's Restaurant, Jeffrey's, Lime, and The Samba Grill.

A resolution to designate the Reichard Homestead, which is located at 419 Boulevard, as a historic landmark was also approved.

A slowdown occurred in the flow of the council's proceedings with the request of the League of Municipalities to open.

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Westfield Bd. of Education, Public Debate Open Lunch

By ROBERT COAKLEY
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

Tuesday night's meeting of the Westfield School Board focused on the open lunch policy of Westfield High School. Parents, teachers and students spoke to the school board from both sides of the controversial policy.

Parents have expressed concern about the policy, which allows juniors and seniors at WHS to go to lunch outside the school. They do not seek to abolish the policy altogether but to limit it to seniors and to add restrictions.

According to Dr. Robert Petix, the principal of the high school, the privilege is based on the demonstrated maturity and responsibility of the juniors and seniors, and signals the school's recognition and commitment to both the social and intellectual growth of the student. It is also understood that not all students possess the maturity to accept the responsibility the privilege carries.

Parents raised concerns about students playing hooky, arriving late, and engaging in drugs, alcohol, and sexual activity while off school grounds. The teachers and administrators responded that giving the students 40 minutes of free time allows them to show how mature they are becoming.

Dr. Petix presented the findings of a committee organized to evaluate the open lunch program. The committee was made up of six parents, four teachers, four students and the three high school principals.

Dr. Petix said that the Westfield Police Department shared some recent findings with the committee.

Police Chief Bernard Tracy said that students are better behaved than they used to be and that there has been a decline in violence.

The committee members recommended that the open lunch policy be retained for juniors and seniors. They requested stricter enforcement of the policy, including ID cards, additional personnel to monitor school exits, and WHS administrator visits to local eateries. If students were caught breaking the rules, penalties would range from temporary restriction of open lunch to an out of school suspension.

Dr. Petix's argued to keep the open lunch, stating that the juniors and seniors are given a lot of responsibility and are maturing. Many will be going away to college soon, and he feels it is really a good idea to prepare them by allowing increased privileges.

Open lunch is a reasonable policy for juniors and seniors, but not for freshman and sophomores, Petix said. "Making the choice of leave the campus during the assigned lunch period symbolizes that the adult community respects them," Petix told the

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Voter Turnouts Low; Forrester Gets Nod

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

Voter turnouts were low throughout the state for Tuesday's primary. The local area produced the same results, with 1,372 voters in Westfield, 901 in Scotch Plains, 415 in Mountainside and 408 in Fanwood.

Due to the heated race for the Republican nomination for Senate, Republicans turned out in significantly higher numbers than Democrats in the area.

Millionaire businessman Douglas Forrester, who won the state's primary bid for Senate against Diane Allen and John Matheussen, and will face incumbent democrat Robert

Torricelli in the November election, also won the primary in the area.

Mr. Forrester received 250 votes in Mountainside, 341 in Scotch Plains, 625 in Westfield, and 150 tallies in Fanwood.

Incumbent Democrats Nicholas Scutari, Angel Estrada and Rick Proctor won the race against the three independent democrats; Carole Cascio, George O'Grady and Becky McHugh for Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Democrat Tim Carden defeated Tyrone Cass Ross for the Seventh District in the House of Representatives primary. Mr. Carden will face incumbent Republican Mike Ferguson in November.

Mindowaskin Park Overlook Nears Completion as Historic Timepiece

By TRACY EVANS
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

From shaded strolls by the lake to the lighthearted presence of feathered companions, the residents of Westfield have enjoyed the picturesque comforts of Mindowaskin Park since its original development in 1918.

The Friends of Mindowaskin Park have made sure that it stays this way. Led by Nancy Priest, the non-profit organization has taken on another project in the effort to restore and beautify the park. On June 15, a ceremony will signify the completion of work on the lake's overlook. The new appearance is modeled af-

ter the original park structure, created in the early 1930's as part of a flood abatement project. While the town incurred the costs for the substructure, support for the authentic facade of the overlook came from the community.

"We have a very good track record," remarks Ms. Priest. "People saw what we have done and they wanted to contribute."

After sending out informative mailings to every household, as well as local clubs, the Friends of Mindowaskin Park were met with responses from more than one hundred willing donors and a sum of three hundred thousand dollars to-

ward the park's improvements.

The organization began work on the park during the late 80's, culminating with the official reopening during the 1994 Bicentennial year. Mindowaskin has been recognized by the Historic Preservation Commission; an honor that Ms. Priest wishes to uphold; "our concern is to beautify and make this park a real gem. We are constantly doing things in cooperation with the town and getting people to realize how important it is."

An essential aspect of the park's upkeep is the maintenance of its historic landmarks that contribute to the aesthetic flavor of the park. The overlook's restoration required not only time spent rebuilding, but also time devoted to research.

David Rogers, an engineer working with the Spring Valley Monument Company of New York, served as a knowledgeable bridge between decades, offering his expertise in re-designing and recreating the structure.

Since mid-March, Mr. Rogers has volunteered his time to personally

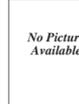
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PRIMARY 2002 RESULTS

United States Senator, 4 Candidates, 6-Year Term

 Robert Torricelli (DEM) Votes Unavailable	 Douglas Forrester (GOP) 95,275 votes	 Diane Allen (GOP) 79,124 votes	 John Matheussen (GOP) 40,111 votes
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Member of House of Representatives 7th Congressional District, 3 Candidates, 2-Year Term

 Mike Ferguson (GOP) Votes Unavailable	 Tim Carden (DEM) 6,015 votes	 Tyrone Cass Ross (DEM) 613 votes	No Picture Available
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Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, 9 Candidates, 3-Year Term

 Nicholas Scutari (DEM) 9,905 votes	 Angel Estrada (DEM) 9,944 votes	 Rick Proctor (DEM) 9,536 votes	 Carole Cascio (DEM) 3,981 votes	 George O'Grady (DEM) 3,937 votes
No Picture Available	 Becky McHugh (DEM) 3,877 votes	 Joel Whitaker (GOP) 6,583 votes	 Elyse Bochiochio Medved (GOP) 6,329 votes	 Anira Clericuzio (DEM) 6,464 votes

Westfield Mayor: 3-Yr. Term

 Greg McDermott (GOP) 896 votes	 Tom Fucillo (DEM) 300 votes	 Keith Turner (GOP) 272 votes	 Paul Mirabella (GOP) 274 votes
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For Westfield Town Council: 3-Year Terms

 Sal Caruana (GOP), Ward 1 238 votes	 Mark Kuehn (DEM), Ward 1 66 votes	 Rafael Betancourt (GOP), Ward 2 236 votes	 David Owens (DEM), Ward 2 58 votes
 Andy Skivitsky (GOP), Ward 3 191 votes	 Claire Lazarowitz (DEM), Ward 3 108 votes	 Chris Paganos (GOP), Ward 4 184 votes	 Larry Goldman (DEM), Ward 4 78 votes

Planning Bd. OKs Vernon Terrace Subdivision With Many Conditions

By LAUREN S. PASS
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

Monday evening's regular monthly meeting of the Westfield Planning Board included comments by Republican Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt and Council Liaison to the board regarding an editorial that ran in the May 16 issue of *The Westfield Leader*.

Councilman Betancourt stated that the editorial, which questioned the purpose of the planning board and researched past decisions made by the board, "does not reflect what goes on here."

Board member William Ziff commented that the board follows process in an open manner and that all decisions are made with the public interest in mind.

The board approved the subdivision of 118 Vernon Terrace from a single lot, to two lots in conformance with zoning regulations.

Board member Vic Trzenowski stated, prior to any testimony, that this was a conforming application and that no variances were needed. He added that the board had asked that the neighbors be notified, which the board was not required to do.

The property, owned by Cheng and Jane Wu, has been in their family for 17 years. Though they have not previously lived on Vernon Terrace, they have been Westfield residents

for 30 years.

Mrs. Wu stated that it is their intention to live in one of the homes to be built and the possibility for one of their children to live in the other. Mr. and Mrs. Wu presented the board with an artist's rendering of the two proposed houses.

Board Chairman Robert Newell asked Mrs. Wu if they planned to take down any trees on the property. She responded that she does not want to remove any trees unnecessarily.

Residents from Vernon Terrace were present to voice their objections to the subdivision. They cited that the homes to be built would not conform with the mostly ranch-homed neighborhood, and that the lot sizes would be 50 feet wide, where most lots on the block are between 65 and 80 feet wide.

Mr. Newell stated that most of the lots on Marlborough Street, which this property backs to, are 50 feet wide.

Members of the board got into a lengthy discussion on how they could impose the year old ordinance passed by the town, which was designed to keep neighborhoods aesthetically similar and prevent the "shoe horning" of properties. Shoe horning occurs when two houses are built on a lot where a single house stood.

Councilman Betancourt stated that he wanted more input on the aesthet-

ics of new homes being built in town.

Mr. Newell stated that the drawings presented now become part of the record.

Mr. Trzenowski voiced his con-

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Former Jersey City Mayor Schundler Discusses Plans For His 'Empower The People' Website

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader

Prior Westfield resident, ex-Mayor of Jersey City, gubernatorial candidate and WHS football star, Bret Schundler gave an exclusive interview to *The Westfield Leader* last week to discuss his future plans and career goals.

After taking a much-needed hiatus from political life to spend time with his family, Mr. Schundler said that he plans on resuming his commitment to social action in the fall.

This September, Mr. Schundler will be a visiting fellow at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, teaching civics and urban studies. His classes will cover such issues as how to save American cities, ways to approach problems and how to get taxes under control, he told *The Leader*.

He also plans to activate the "Empower the People" website, which, Mr. Schundler said, he envisions as "a think-tank for analyzing and evaluating state policies and proposals."

Akin to the Heritage Foundation, a national think-tank engaged in a search on federal government proposals, Empower the People's website will provide citizens and the media with "research and analysis, evaluating major issues in New Jersey and their impact on the average citizen," Mr. Schundler explained.

"The website will analyze the trade-offs of political policy decisions so that the average citizen can make informed decisions," Mr. Schundler told *The Leader*.

In addition to sharing information with the public, the second goal of this project will be to, "try to advance good policies and to block bad ones," he added.



Brett Schundler

"Citizens must organize at the grassroots level in order to have as much pull as the powerful lobbyists do," he said.

Mr. Schundler said that he believes that large numbers of citizens can have a very profound effect on public policy by actively participating in the political process, but they must get more involved.

"I believe that calls to legislators have a tremendous influence on their decision-making process," he said. "Lobbyists and organized interest groups know this."

"Campaign donations by lobbyists only represent money to buy advertising for more votes," Mr. Schundler opined. "Large numbers of citizens have just as important an

impact," he stated. "I want to mobilize and organize people around good policies," he said. "People must become more engaged in the process for democracy to work."

When asked what policies he will continue to promote, Mr. Schundler said that relieving New Jersey's tax burden was high on the list, along with giving people freedom of school choice. Mr. Schundler has been a long-time advocate of the school voucher proposal.

"School choice is not abandoning public schools, but rather making them accountable. It works in the same way that free enterprise does. Individuals should have the freedom of choice to do what they think is best for their children and government should empower individuals with those choices," he said.

"New Jersey citizens should also be very suspect of a Governor who claims to have a huge budget deficit, but wants tax-payers to fund a colossal stadium," Mr. Schundler com-

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Lauren S. Pass for The Westfield Leader

TIGERS FOR KIDS...The Westfield Community Policing Division's Youth Programs will hold Family Fun Day for children and parents on Saturday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Exxon Tiger Mart located on the corner of South and Central Avenues. There will be fingerprinting, face painting, games and prizes for the kids. Exxon will donate 2 cents for each gallon of gasoline purchased to support community programs that include the Youth Academy, DARE School Youth Liaison, and the County Basketball League. Call Det. Sandy Chambers of the Westfield Police Department at 908-789-4024 for further information. Pictured above are Westfield Police Officer Frank Moya, left, and Officer Jason McEarlen with children from the Westfield YMCA pre-school at the First Baptist Church.

Underage Drinking Ordinance In Scotch Plains Is Reviewed

By JEREMY LIPSTEIN
Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader

Last Tuesday, the Scotch Plains Township Council held a public hearing allowing community members to voice their opinions on the proposed underage drinking ordinance.

The law, as it currently stands, without the ordinance, bans minors from being served alcohol in a bar or restaurant, drinking in public, and purchasing alcohol. The law does not stop minors from drinking in a private residence.

In June 2000, the state legislature passed a piece of legislation enabling municipalities to enact underage drinking ordinances. The enabling legislature gives municipalities the power to make underage drinking illegal, with the exception for a religious ceremony or with consent of a parent, guardian or relative above the age of 21.

The ordinance that the Township of Scotch Plains has open for discussion would only permit underage drinking in a religious ceremony or under the direct supervision of the parent, guardian or relative above the age of 21. This ordinance would prevent adults not directly related to the minor from giving them alcohol. Penalties for underage drinking can range from a fine up to \$350 to loss of postment of driving privileges.

Almost all who take this ordinance into consideration are against underage drinking, but many in the community feel uncomfortable about the ordinance, saying that it violates the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. This is a common misconception about the ordinance. Police would only be allowed to enter a private residence if they have probable cause of a violation of the ordinance and in most instances, possess a warrant.

Some may say that the police have no right to monitor what goes on within a private residence, but the government does have control of conduct within the home. As in cases such as illegal drug use, prostitution, child pornography, illegal weapons (including bombs and grenades), zoning and building code violations and construction violations, the government has this right. In most of these cases a warrant is necessary for the police to enter a residence, unless exigent circumstances.

It is recognized by the federal government that each state has the power to control the use of alcohol, and many of these powers may be delegated to the municipalities.

Though, those for the ordinance, such as the Municipal Alliance Committee, say the ordinance would significantly reduce the amount of underage drinking in town.

While the proposed underage drinking ordinance proves constitutionally lawful when acted on properly, there are some critical problems. Under the ordinance, a person under the age of 21 is permitted to drink if under the permission and supervision of a parent, guardian or relative over the age of 21. However, a police officer cannot tell if the action is illegal merely by observing it. If a person, who is obviously under 21, is sitting on a porch drinking, an observing police officer does not know if the minor has permission and is under supervision. In order to conclude that the ordinance is being violated, an officer would have to enter private property to question the individual.

The ordinance may also have counterproductive effects. Should the ordinance be passed in Scotch Plains, those under 21

could go to another town where it is legal to drink alcohol in a private residence and then drive home, promoting drinking and driving. This particular problem mirrors the times when New York had a drinking age of 18 and New Jersey's was 21. Many would flock across the border to drink and then drive home to New Jersey in an intoxicated state.

Should control of alcohol be solely up to the state legislature, a uniform code of laws could be enacted, as opposed to an uneven patchwork of ordinances from town to town.

As this ordinance may or may not be best suited to be decided upon on a municipal level, the Scotch Plains Township Council has several options, among them are: voting for the proposed ordinance, voting no, voting to table the decision or passing a resolution asking the state legislature to pass a universal state-wide law.

The proposed ordinance will be further discussed at the Tuesday, June 11 meeting, where the council will again listen to the voice of public opinion.

Planning Board Approves Vernon Terrace Subdivision

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cern that any conditions set forth now would not be carried over to the next owner of the home.

The board approved the subdivision with the conditions that the owners meet a site plan, appear before the architectural review committee, present a grading plan and have the tree preservation commission look over the property.

The board also approved a subdivision for Michael Mahoney, for 529 Edgar Road. The subdivision will retain the existing home and garage

St. Lawrence Univ. Grants Degrees To Westfielders

WESTFIELD - Jonathan Ainslie and Andrew Cambria, both Westfield residents, were among the 429 students who received a degree at St. Lawrence University's Commencement Ceremony, which was held on May 19 on campus in Canton, N.Y.

Jonathan graduated from Morristown-Beard School in Morristown. He earned a degree in Anthropology at St. Lawrence.

Andrew graduated from Westfield High School. He received a degree in Government at St. Lawrence.

Overlook

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facilitate the restoration project. Much of the detail work had been covered by cement, Mr. Rogers explained, in part due to the remodeling of the overlook in the 50's. His vision began by obtaining the original plans, and then deciphering what had been left out of the design. He continued to point out how the actual blueprints for the overlook offered an artistic rendering of the structure, with plants and flourishes shielding the original intentions. Fortunately, historical photos provided evidence of minutia that failed to be captured in the plans.

Through the use of Stan Lipson's book on the history of Westfield, as well as an heirloom photograph donated by a local citizen, Mr. Rogers was able to piece together the historical overlook and envision its resurrection.

The importance of creating a long-lasting structure resulted in Mr. Rogers' decision to replace the existing cement with granite, gathered from Vermont and Georgia, the two most abundant suppliers of the rock. The light color of the granite has been matched to the original appearance of the structure.

Perhaps most notable is the inclusion of preserved pieces of the original structure. When patrons step onto the overlook to take in the serenity of the lake, their hands may graze the same "Mindowaskin Park" sign that appeared before citizens seven decades before. The two luminaries on the far ends of the overlook are seated atop balustrades also dating back to the 30's, which have been refinished gratis by the Brass Shop.

The structure fuses vintage Westfield with a reminder of how important this appreciation of nostalgia is today. Pavers line the interior floor of the overlook, with names of those individuals and organizations that have donated more than five hundred dollars to the project. Plaques will also adorn the two benches, costing \$25,000 apiece. The overwhelming support for the projects of the Friends of Mindowaskin Park has only increased since the commencement of the overlook's restoration. Following this phase, Ms. Priest mentioned a third project in which pavers will be added to the paths surrounding the gazebo and the original stairways of the park's interior will be restored. In addition, she mentioned the welcomed enthusiasm to donate new trees throughout the park.

Mr. Rogers remarked on the new granite overlook as a permanent fixture in town: "our grandfathers paid to have it done, our fathers paid to have it fixed, we're paying to have it redone, but no one will have to fix it again!"

This summer, the new face of the overlook serves as a monument to Westfield's history and the treasured Mindowaskin Park. While the structure is guaranteed to last the test of time, of greater value is the care taken in recreating its style, guaranteed to transcend the test of time in its historic and picturesque accuracy.

Westfield Bd. of Education, Public Debate Open Lunch

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school board. Some questions were raised about school liability for what happens to a student off campus during school hours. School board president Arlene Gardner said there has been no case yet.

The school board also discussed students getting written permission from their parents before being able to use the open lunch policy. It was decided that was too hard to enforce, and the parents should just tell their children that they cannot go off campus for lunch.

The board discussed other possibilities for school security, such as time-locked doors, extra paraprofessionals to watch the doors, and installing doors that only open from the inside. The need for such measures would have to be balanced with how much the district can afford.

The school board pointed out there had been 168 violations of the open lunch policy this year, although this means the policy has been enforced 168 times. There was also question of how students can "get around" almost any policy they wish. Dr. Foley said if the board feels the students cannot be trusted, then perhaps the Open Lunch policy should be done away with.

Ron Allen, a junior and a member of the committee, said that taking away open lunch would not stop students from taking drugs or engaging in sexual activities, they will just do it after school. "Improved enforcement is needed, at least on a trial basis," he said.

Sophomore Tiffany Johnson said that students just need a little time to relax during the day, and taking away 40 minutes is not going to stop the rule-breaking.

Jamie Arbis said that with an open lunch, the students get time to relax and "feel more alive."

Ali Ryan said school is full of pressure and competition, and the open lunch alleviates some of that. Also, if the school takes the rules seriously, then the students will take them seriously.

David Eisenberg Jr., a student on the committee, said that Westfield High School is considered a safe place and there is a good relationship with the police department. Over 90 percent of the students consider open lunch psychologically beneficial, he said.

Carolyn Yarbrough, a sophomore, said if the open lunch policy is changed, then it should be "grand-fathered" in, so that sophomores this school year will be able

to use the open lunch policy next year. After the students spoke, parents talked to the school board about the policy. Parent Claudia Osborne pointed out that the open lunch policy does not exist in many other schools in the area; in districts where it is used, it is limited to seniors only.

Carolyn Fleder said that the policy needed to be enforced, and just restricted to seniors. It is a matter of "closing the window of opportunity" for students to get into trouble.

Over 300 parents have asked the school board to limit the policy to seniors through a petition, and 300 more can sign it as well, Fleder said. With only seniors allowed off campus for lunch, the rules can be enforced for a quarter of the student population instead of half, she said.

Josh Lawrence, a junior, said the school board should focus on the Westfield policy, and what other schools do is not relevant.

Eri Golemba, a parent and member of the commission, said it is crucial the entire problem is not "thrown" at the school administration. He suggested the high school use "prefects," 20 or 30 seniors assigned to watch the other students as a safety patrol.

Peter Horn, a WHS teacher, said students could need to, "decompress," during "pressure packed," days. Mr. Horn said the school district should not be turned into a "police state," and certain levels of trust and responsibility must be given to the students.

Parents stated their concern with the students using illegal drugs, and many of them said the open lunch policy is what allows the students to buy, sell and use narcotics during school hours.

Other parents said the school has their "head in the sand," on the drug issue, since Westfield students have the money and the freedom to use narcotics.

Westfield Police Chief Bernard Tracy said the Westfield Police Department is working on ways to combat illegal drugs, and that the school and police are working together. Chief Tracy also told the public that if there are any drug concerns, people could call the police department.

The public discussion went past 10:30 p.m., without the issue being resolved. It is not known if any more special meetings will be held to allow the public to discuss the open lunch policy, and how or if the school board will change the policy.

Town Council to Consolidate \$6 Mil., 8 Years of Debt

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pose Bill S1044-A1926. The bill would allow municipalities to enter into contract labor agreements without going through the competitive bidding process.

First Ward Councilman Carl Salisbury reiterated statements made in the previous week's meeting, stressing that the bill permits, but does not require municipalities to enter into contract labor agreements without the competitive bidding process. A vote against the council's resolution, he clarified, signifies disagreement with the league's position to oppose the bill.

Third Ward Councilman Kevin Walsh questioned whether voting at the present time was appropriate.

The vote resulted in a split decision, 4-4; Second Ward Councilman Matthew Albano was not in attendance.

Third Ward Councilwoman Claire Lazarowitz, Councilman Echausse, Second Ward Councilman Rafael Betancourt, and Mayor Gregory McDermott voted in favor of the resolution to oppose the bill while Councilman Salisbury, Fourth Ward Councilman Lawrence Goldman, Councilman Walsh, and Fourth Ward Councilwoman Susan Jacobson voted against such movement.

Mayor McDermott told *The Westfield Leader* that such a tie would ultimately mean inaction at the moment, and an

overall disagreement with the request by the League of Municipalities.

The Public Works Committee passed the final resolution to apply for consideration by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for improvements on Rahway Avenue, South Chestnut Street, Prospect Street, Elm Street, and Boulevard.

Approval for the final payment to Spring Valley Monument Company, responsible for work on the Mindowaskin Park Overlook, was passed as well.

On behalf of the Transportation, Parking, and Traffic Committee, the resolution to petition the county to reduce the speed limit on West Broad Street from 35 to 25 miles per hour, was approved unanimously by the council. This change will include the stretch between Pierson Street and Lamberts Mill Road.

Councilwoman Jacobson expressed how pleased she was with the initiative taken by the council for this petition, as the presence of McKinley Elementary School and the Memorial Pool Complex in the area pose serious traffic concerns.

Resident Alice Barbieri congratulated the council for their "proactive" approach to traffic safety, acknowledging the paradox of Westfield's attractive nature that draws in patrons, and the dense volumes of traffic that result. She was especially thankful for the consideration of, "keeping the safety of all our kids at the forefront."

In response to a question regarding road closures at Gumbert Park during baseball games, Mr. Gildea provided information on the presence of barricades in the area. They will be used between the hours of 5 p.m. and dusk on weekdays, as well as the usual hours during the weekends while the games are in session.

Westfield resident Bill Brown, speaking on behalf of noted that the speeding problem may be addressed through the use of police-operated cameras, rather than the need to close of streets.

He also requested that the Mayor Gregory McDermott initiate an education program in which respect for the flag is taught to our children and their families. His concern was based on his own observations of the behavior of crowds in attendance at the recent Memorial Day Parade.

"The flag may be simply a cloth symbol," Mr. Brown said, "but it is what it stands for that counts."

The next public meeting of the council will be held on Tuesday, June 18, at 8 p.m.

Schundler

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mented. "That makes no sense."

"I hope in the years to come, people will take more responsibility to get actively involved in politics and to learn about the real issues, not just the advertisement hype that is paid for by various candidates," Mr. Schundler said. "We must educate ourselves and not rely on just television for information."

Mr. Schundler also expressed that he will always have a warm spot in his heart for Westfield, where he loved growing up. "It's a great community," he said.

As for his future with the Republican Party and plans to run for office, he said, "nothing about the future is certain, but I will likely run again as I feel very strongly about my responsibility to be actively involved in government."

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Certified Civil Trial Attorney
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Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas, LLP
Attorneys At Law - A Full Service Firm

40 Paterson Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(732) 545-4717

116 S. Euclid Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 232-9944

DFasciale@hoaglandlongo.com
www.hoaglandlongo.com

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