

Scotch Plains Council to Begin Talks on 2014 Municipal Budget

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township council is expected to hold meetings later this month to begin considering the 2014 municipal budget. Township Manager Jerry Giaimis delivered to the governing body what he emphasized was an “early draft” of his spending proposals for this year. At the council’s conference meeting on Tuesday, he said that if the council approved the budget as submitted — “which I don’t expect it be,” he said — the tax rate for the municipal portion of property taxes would rise two cents.

Mr. Giaimis’ budget proposal, his first since taking over as manager last summer, includes a \$40,975 reduction in overall expenditures, he said, while total salaries will increase by \$491,000, with the vast bulk of that due to negotiated contractual obligations. He said the proposed library budget — the subject of most wrangling a year ago — will be the same as 2013 as will most other departments. He will seek to use about \$2.7 million in surplus funds to alleviate a higher property-tax rate.

In other business, the council deferred discussion on a proposed or-

dinance governing the particulars of homeowners having an open fire — such as a chimney or fireplace-type device — in their yard. The fire department has been pushing for some oversight, and Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis and Township Attorney Jeffrey Lehrer will meet to review the proposed ordinance, with Mr. Lehrer saying on Tuesday that he wanted to “tighten some of the language” before the council formally considers it.

Deputy Mayor Michael Marcus expressed some reservations about the proposed penalties for violations, wondering if fines of up to \$1,000 and possible jail time were appropriate. Councilwoman Colleen Gialanella seemed to question the need for the ordinance, saying she had not heard of any instance of an out-of-control backyard fire. Councilman William Vastine wondered if an ordinance would lead to neighbors unnecessarily complaining about smoke from a neighbor’s fire bothering them in their own home.

Later in the meeting, Police Chief Brian Mahoney and Sgt. Ernesto Hernandez briefed the council on some of the actions taken by the police department and the office of emergency management — headed by Mr. Mahoney — in the 15 months since Superstorm Sandy. Last week, the council approved the purchase of \$114,380 worth of equipment to be used by emergency management personnel for a portable 9-1-1 system and video monitoring equipment to be installed at the municipal building and used to enhance municipal capabilities in the event of a major emergency.

In the wake of Sandy in late October 2012, and amidst criticism from some residents about the township’s efforts during and after the storm, the police department was tasked with overseeing emergency management efforts. Sgt.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Mayor Glover Discusses PD Merger, Budget, Downtown

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains Mayor Kevin Glover discussed a number of issues that the township faces in 2014 during a phone interview with *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* on Friday.

The mayor said talks between Scotch Plains and Fanwood on merging the two towns’ police departments have stalled recently as some on a committee working on the merger are opposed to a Joint Meeting, a state-sanctioned entity that would operate the joint department. As previously reported by *The Times*, the Joint Meeting would be governed by a management committee made up of three members: one appointed by each governing body with the third appointed by the two appointees. All three would serve one-year terms and either be reappointed or replaced annually.

An executive director would oversee the day-to-day operations of the department, which would eventually have 56 total officers versus the current combined 61.

“It clearly has stalled,” Mayor Glover said. The mayor said he wants to meet with the committee, noting that some have concerns on the Joint Meeting setup as it might cause public-safety issues. Mayor Glover said he does not share those concerns.

He said the Joint Meeting format would produce the most savings for the two towns, noting that the savings for the township from the merger is estimated at \$700,000. He said the police department accounts for 35 percent of the township’s operational budget.



BIG SNOWMAN...Anita Dazzo, Caroline Warren, Matt Oslislo and Richard Dazzo hang out with their nearly 10-foot-tall, supersized snowman on Monday on Woodside Road in Scotch Plains, taking advantage of the heavy snowfall.

Photo courtesy of Susan Dazzo

FW Council Discusses Budget Goals; Orders Additional Salt

By CATHERINE WATSON

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — At Tuesday night’s agenda meeting, the Fanwood Council focused on budgetary goals for 2014 and on preparation for continuing snowstorms this winter. In a special meeting preceding the council’s regularly scheduled agenda meeting, the council approved 2013 budget transfers. Following the agenda meeting, the council went into executive session to discuss matters of litigation.

During the agenda meeting, Councilman Dan Levine stated that

especially careful planning would be necessary to make the most of Fanwood’s 2014 budget. “The capital budget will likely be a little bit tighter for the next couple of years than it has in the past, just as things

are rolling off,” he said. To meet the demands of a tighter budget, he said, the council will review the timing and dollar amounts of all expected capital expenditures in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

SP-F BOE Hears Presentation On Common Core Standards

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Topping the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education agenda last Thursday was a presentation given by Supervisor of Social Studies Noel Baxter and Erin Mullman, elementary instructional coach.

As highlighted by the presentation, the common core state standards for elementary language arts and social studies for K-5 are addressed within the cross content teaching styles for both subjects.

According to Ms. Baxter, grades 3, 4 and 5 write persuasive letters, letters to the editor and persuasive essays regarding school rules, positive changes to their community or inventions created within the last 100

years, respectively. In the report it was noted that types of writing, including argumentative writing, are encouraged in addition to civic, global studies and history lessons.

In addition, Ms. Baxter noted that the district has “anchor standards for reading that integrates both knowledge and ideas.” She stated that students are taught and encouraged to evaluate all information presented visually through media such as videos and television, as well as books, newspapers and other written passages. She also stated that students are taught to “delineate and evaluate arguments and specific claims in a text including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance.” This, she noted, was done by using mul-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



OUTWARD BOUND...Troop No. 177 out of Mountainside competed in the Klondike Derby held January 25 in the Watchung Reservation for the first time. Although they did not place, they learned from their mistakes and had a great time.

Greg Ryan for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times



PICTURE PERFECT...The cannon in Scotch Plains is covered in snow on Monday after Mother Nature delivered another winter storm to the area.

Fred T. Rossi for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WF Police Participate In Counterterrorism Training

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Police Department (WPD) took part in counterterrorism and crowd-control events surrounding last Sunday’s Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium.

Police Chief David Wayman said the WPD was asked to take part in a number of events at the invitation of Hoboken over the past year. He said the city has a lot of “soft” targets for likely domestic terrorism.

“We took part in this because not only does it give us the opportunity to utilize the equipment that we just purchased...[but to ensure] that all the equipment remains operational, because if you don’t use it for a couple of months and then you go to use it, this is broken, that’s broken, so it constantly has to be maintained,” Chief Wayman said.

The department brought its new Mobile Command Center, the generator truck known as the Power Hawk and the Polaris military diesel all-terrain vehicle, which has a medical stretcher, to Hoboken. The chief said the counterterrorism events provided

“a unique and excellent training opportunity for the members of our police department.” Had an incident occurred in Westfield, the chief said the officers and equipment could have been back in town within 25 minutes with equipment all set up.

The Hoboken events included gatherings ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 people coming to a one-square-mile area.

He emphasized that Westfield received the training to bolster public safety in the town at no extra expense to the town or its residents due to the changing of police officers’ schedules. In addition, Hoboken supplied the items necessary for Westfield to run its resources, such as fuel. There also is no overtime for the officers taking part in the Hoboken counterterrorism events. He said some officers participated in the events on their own time.

“The opportunity to work with Hoboken allows our administrators to take part in the creation of their operational, tactical and logistical planning for these events where we gain experience on the actual cre-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



HELPING HAND...The Westfield Police Department’s Emergency Service Unit (ESU) was stationed on Pier A in Hoboken on Sunday to assist with emergency situations related to Super Bowl XLVIII.

Photo courtesy of Westfield Police Department

EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSIONALS

Whether Your Real Estate Needs Are Local, National, or International

Your Move Is Our Move and We’re Ready To Assist You Every Step Of The Way.

Westfield - West | 600 North Avenue West, Westfield | 908-233-0065 | www.coldwellbankermoves.com/westfieldwest



PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	14-15
Editorial	4-5	Sports	9-13
Police	6	Real Estate	9-13
Community ...	6-7	Classifieds	13
Obituary	16	A&E	15-16

