

# FIGHT RATE HIKE

By JANET WEST

The Oswego Town Board unanimously agreed to hold assessment rates for next year's Ontario Heights water maintenance district fund at this year's level after several area residents voiced concern over the proposed increase of \$5 per \$1,000 assessment at Monday night's public hearing.

The board had proposed raising the assessment rate to \$15 per \$1,000 from this year's \$10 per \$1,000.

No one spoke in favor of the proposed increase in the maintenance district, which includes Franklin Avenue and Baylis, Swift, New and Maple Streets and a few houses on Route 104. The district has been the source of leaks and breaks in water lines for several years.

Confusion arose over the difference between overlapping water districts and the maintenance fund, which is used to repair malfunctions in the area's waterlines.

Residents in the Ontario Heights area purchase their water from either the City of Oswego or the Fruit Valley water district.

Several residents spoke against the proposed increase. Town Councilman William "Dave" White, a resident of the area, said he had surveyed several of his neighbors, and his wife, and none were in favor of the rate hike.

"The idea of building up a kitty to the tune of \$4,000 doesn't go very well with people in my area," one resident said.

"The whole thing is out of control."

The board had allotted \$4,615.50 for next year's maintenance fund. The present balance is \$370.58 with an outstanding bill, according to town administrative assistant Bonnie Beauchene.

Water Superintendent Walter Duffy said it was questionable whether the \$10 per \$1,000 assessment will be adequate for next year's repairs.

Duffy said several major

repairs were made over the past year to water lines in the area and there was no way of knowing what the next year would bring.

The board agreed to approve proposed rate hikes for street lighting on Franklin Avenue and Baylis Street, although several residents questioned the proposed \$24.46 per household assessment.

Niagara Mohawk's projected expense for the ten lights, five on each street, totalled \$1,125 for next year, an increase of \$2.32 per household over this year's \$22.14 assessment. A total of

46 households comprise the two lighting districts.

Voicing the concerns of several area homeowners, Baylis Street resident Raymond Wedlake said he was not opposed to the lights, but asked, "Are we going to have to ante up \$5 a year every year?"

"The costs are going up and out of sight," he said. "The town should have more control over that."

Town Supervisor Joseph Zagame said the town's jurisdiction over the rate hikes was limited to installing a timing meter or decreasing the amount of lights.

## White Pushes For Messenger

The Oswego Town Board took no action Monday night on a motion made by councilman William "Dave" White to rescind the town's official newspaper designation from The Palladium-Times.

Saying he was "unhappy with the service from The Palladium-Times," White said he would like to remove the town's legal advertising, which runs about \$2,200 per year, from the foreign-based Oswego daily and give it to the Oswego County Messenger or another paper.

Quiting the current strike by employees in the editorial, advertising, business and circulation departments of The Palladium-Times, White said the Thomson Corporation, which owns the paper, had a policy of "union breaking."

"I thought we ran the English out of Oswego in 1796," he said, adding the town's support of The Messenger would show the Thomson management "we're in sympathy with the Americans on the picket line."

Town resident Francis Puppato agreed with White, saying the "liberal newspapers brainwash you every day."

"I can't remember reading too much about what happens here anyway (in the Palladium-Times)," White said, adding The Syracuse Post-Standard and The Messenger both had reporters in the audience.

Town attorney Stephen Greene said according to the Town Law of the State of New York, the board has the authority to designate an official newspaper if the paper has general circulation in the town, a second class mailing permit and is published within the county.

Greene said the designation of The Palladium-Times is effective until 1981 and the town would need to show "good cause," such as a breach of obligation, to rescind the designation before January.

"I would still like to take it away from them," White said, "whether it's legal or not."

Councilman Ann Pritchard suggested the board research other papers and councilman Pat Jung agreed, saying the town should "stick it out" with The Palladium-Times for the time being. She suggested giving the official designation to the Community Chatter, a monthly newsletter sponsored by the churches of Southwest Oswego and Oswego Center.

## GOP Caravan Rolling

All the excitement and hoopla of an old fashioned whistle-stop political campaign will be recreated when the Oswego County "GOP Campaign Caravan" bus coach tours the county on Thursday, October 30.

The contingent of Republican candidates and their supporters will tour the entire county, and will feature Congressional candidate David Martin of Canton; State Senator H. Douglas Barciay, who is seeking re-election; Ray Chesbro, candidate for the 117th District Assembly seat; Charles Nellis, candidate for County Sheriff; and George Williams, candidate for County Clerk.

Representatives will also be on board to assist the national ticket of Ronald Reagan for President and George Bush for Vice President.

Republican candidates for local offices are also expected to join the tour along the route, and campaign workers will be on board to distribute campaign literature.

In announcing the schedule for the whistle-stop tour, Charles Ely, Oswego County Republican Party chairman said, "The GOP Campaign Caravan is our way of sharing some of our own enthusiasm and excitement about the 1980 Republican ticket."

"We hope to meet a lot of

people on the tour, and inspire them to get out and vote—Republican, of course—on Election Day."

The county chairman added that the bus trip will give the voters a good chance to meet the candidates for one last time, and ask any questions they may have before they cast their ballots on Election Day on November 4.

The bus tour will begin in Pulaski at 9 a.m. and

continue on the following schedule: Sandy Creek-Lacona, 9:30; Mexico, 10; Parish, 11; Central Square, noon; Constantia, 1:30 p.m.; Phoenix 3 p.m.; Fulton, 4:30; and Oswego, 6:30 p.m.

In concluding his announcement, the Republican chairman said, "We encourage all Republican committee people and interested citizens to join us along the way."

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