

Town board passes 1997 budget in Schroepel

by Meg Wickman

The town board members, with the exception of Joanne Sivers, voted to accept the 1997 budget for the Town of Schroepel at the regular meeting Wednesday, Nov. 6. The decision followed public hearings on each of the town's three fire district proposed budgets and one on the proposed town budget.

Total appropriations for the town as whole, both general and highway, are \$1,259,633. Total appropriations for the town outside the village are \$276,799 for the general and highway side of the budget. The townwide tax rate is \$1.87 per \$1,000 assessed value. The tax rate for the town out-

side the village is \$1.12.

Two town residents, Sharon Candee and Dr. Sue Hammond, spoke at the public hearing on the budget. Mrs. Candee questioned how the board determined who would get raises and the size of the those raises.

"The salaries are not too consistent," Mrs. Candee pointed out.

Supervisor Robert Dalton said that the board considered that some of the elected officials had not received raises in several years. Councilor Judy Brandt noted that some of the employees who were slated to receive smaller raises had had raises more recently.

Mrs. Candee also asked if the town board was planning to use all of its antici-

pated county sales tax revenue.

"No, we are not," Dalton said. "The extra will go into the general fund, will roll over, and we'll see it next year."

Dr. Hammond said that the board should not use the sales-tax money as an excuse to be fiscally irresponsible. She also said she objected to giving members of the town board and the planning board raises.

She reminded the board that delegating the duties of a comptroller to bookkeeper Pat Altenburg should have decreased the responsibilities of the town board. "I think you have to justify giving town board members raises when you've taken away some duties," she said.

She also questioned a \$3,000 appropriation for the comptroller, since, although the position was created, no one was ever appointed to be the comptroller.

"We do not have a comptroller, so I don't understand how you can put \$3,000 for a comptroller...when we don't have one," Dr. Hammond stated.

During the old business portion of the meeting, Ms. Sivers read aloud a letter she received from Robert Freeman, executive director of the Committee on Open Government in Albany. Ms. Sivers said that she had written to Freeman to get his opinion on the legality of an executive session called at the Oct. 2 meeting. The executive ses-

sion had been called for the purposes of "personnel, contracts, and possible litigation."

According to Ms. Sivers, planning board member John Capenos came to that executive session and criticized her for remarks published in the Sept. 30 issue of *The Valley News*.

At Wednesday's meeting, Ms. Sivers said she had not known that the personnel matter pertained to herself. She also said that the town board members and the town counsel should not have allowed Capenos to use the executive sessions for that purpose.

"At the least, I would expect a public apology from Mr. Capenos," she said. Capenos was not present at the meeting.

Resident Sue Hanford later asked the town board to explain the incident.

"When we went into executive session, we were under the impression we were doing it legally," Dalton said.

Town Counsel David Hawthorne said that he would advise the board that if, in the future, anyone asks for an executive session, the board members should find out what it's about first.

In other business, all three fire-district budgets were passed unanimously. No one offered any comment at any of the three public hearings on those budgets.



National Veterans Remembrance Month declared

Fulton Mayor Donald Bullard declared November as National Veterans Remembrance Month in honor of veterans who served in all wars. Present for the proclamation signing were, from left, Leading Knight Tony Terramaggi, National Service Committee Co-Chairman Wayne Deshnau, City Administrator Joe Aiello, Exalted Ruler Lenny Ostness, and Co-Chairman Bud Shinnick. The motto of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks during the month is "So long as there are any veterans in our hospitals, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

-Valley News photo by Lyle Fulton

Granby budget discussions...

[Continued from page 1]

The contract with GreenBriar will instead cost the town \$7,000 plus \$20 for each dog euthanized. The town has budgeted \$7,500 for dog control. Residents with dog control-problems will have to call the company in Auburn for assistance. Those redeeming dogs that have been picked up by GreenBriar will have to travel to Auburn for them.

The town's three-year ambulance service contract with Menter's Ambulance Service expires at the end of the year. The company provides 24-hour-a-day service and answers about 350 calls per year. After what town officials called a "lengthy discussion," the town has signed a one-year contract for 1997 at \$17,550. The amount is the same as 1996.

Historically in the playground and recreation line of the budget, the town has paid for swim-and-gym programs at the Fulton YMCA for Granby youth. This year the town is planning a broader plan that will include five to seven field trips. The budget line, therefore, is being increased from \$2,000 to \$4,700. The program is reimbursable by the state at a rate of 50 percent.

The town expects insurance on the buildings, vehicles, and bonding to decrease from \$32,612 to \$28,000. Lyman said the town overestimated the figure last year.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) landfill line will increase from \$10,417 to \$62,502. The town has already raised the funds during the last six years and this will not impact taxpayers, according to Lyman. The funds constitute the Town of Granby's share for an EPA study of the Silk Road landfill, which has been capped and closed. The town is not sure if the EPA will start the study this year as planned, but the funds need to be accessible. Lyman said.

In the general budget, other salaries scheduled to increase include the town clerk from \$14,364 to \$15,000; the bookkeeper to the supervisor from \$2,873 to \$4,000; the deputy town clerk from \$2,700 to \$2,820; the superintendent of highways from \$34,100 to \$34,780; and the two justices from \$12,000 each to \$13,200.

When asked by someone in the audience, Best said no money had been set aside for weed harvesting in Ox Creek or any

other area. Lyman said that state audit control had criticized the town in the past for using "whole-town" funds for a project that benefited a few residents. He said that if a special district was formed, a special tax could be assessed on waterway residents for the project.

Members of the Fulton Public Library's board of directors also appealed to the Granby board for financial assistance for the library. Joyce Cook, library director, noted that 1,251 of the 9,506 residents with library cards reside in Granby.

The biggest increase in the highway budget was a 2 percent raise for the seven full-time employees from \$12.81 per hour to \$13.07 per hour. The Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding from the state will be \$67,895. The town is purchasing a new pickup truck driving the machinery equipment line from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year. A new snowplow, added to a 1994 loader purchase will increase the debt service from \$17,200 to \$39,920.

On the revenue side of the budget, the town is planning on receiving the full estimation of the county sales tax and has put \$104,306 in revenue on the general side and \$52,152 on the highway side of the budget. Lyman explained that the revenue appears on both sides of the budget because if the estimation was higher or lower than expected he could work from both the general and highway portion of the budget to debit or credit accounts.

On the downside of the revenue portion of the general budget, the town is expecting to lose \$21,250 in mortgage tax for a 1997 revenue of \$36,000.

The town has also lost a significant amount of taxable assessment through an assessment settlement with Niagara Mohawk, as well as assessment board of review grievances and a settlement with Anderson Apartments.

Best said that historically the taxable assessment of the town has increased because of new construction and mortgage splits. He said the net result after all settlements and growth is a \$136,000 loss in taxable assessment for 1997. This raises the tax rate per \$1,000 assessed value.

Best explained that much of this loss in revenue and taxable assessment was offset by the county sales tax.

Recalled flu vaccine not used in county

The New York State Health Department has notified Oswego County Health Department officials that the Park-Davis Division of the Warner-Lambert Company has voluntarily recalled four lots of its influenza virus vaccine, also called Fluogen.

According to Commissioner of Human Services Steven Rose, the flu vaccine used

at Oswego County Health Department clinics did not include any of the recalled vaccine.

The vaccine lots are being recalled because a component of the vaccine has decreased in potency. The safety of the vaccine is not in question.

Persons who received the affected vaccine, do not need to be re-immunized.

Election results

The following are the unofficial results for local, state and congressional races in Oswego County. Results do not include write-ins.

Proposition No. 1- Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996

Yes 7,591

No 20,795

President

Clinton/Gore (D.L.) 19,785

Dole/Kemp (R.C.F.) 16,764

Perot/Choate (Ind.) 7,396

Phillips/Titus (RTL) 76

Hagelin/Tompkins (Natural Law) 25

Browne/Jorgensen (Lib) 71

Nader/Tillinghast (Green) 244

Moorehead/LaRiva (WW) 24

Harris/Garza (SWP) 15

State Supreme Court Justice

David Garber (D.I.) 16,296

John Tenney (R.C.) 19,608

John Lawton (R.C.) 21,578

John Grow (R.C.) 19,375

Congress, 24th District

Donald Ravenscroft (D) 9,005

John McHugh (R.C.) 27,172

William Beaumont (I) 1,917

State Senate, 46th District

Stephen Burke (D.I.) 12,328

James Wright (R.C. Freedom, Voter Rights) 25,808

Assembly, 117th District

Robert Bowman (D.I.) 13,171

Fran Sullivan (R) 24,512

Fulton City Judge

Fred Sumner (D) 1,903

Spencer Ludington (R.I.) 2,151

Granby Justice

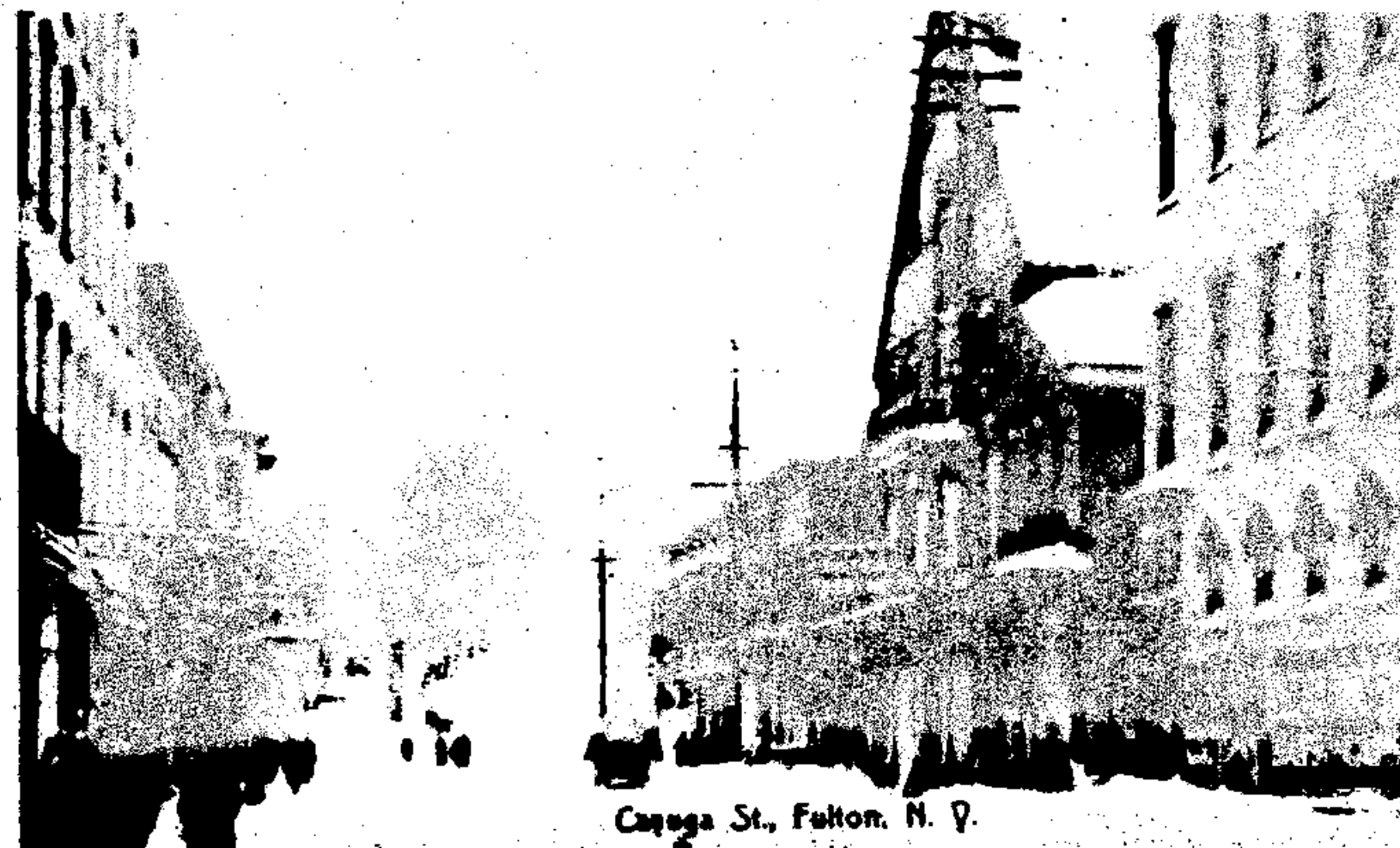
Frank Fox (R.C.) 1,533

Granby council

Rose Anthony (C.I.) 1,205

Chester Kempston (R) 772

From the Old Album



Cayuga St., Fulton, N. Y.

A winter day in Fulton

Fultonians are now bracing themselves for snowstorms that are apt to occur-soon. It is no different than it was 80 years ago as this Old Album photo shows. The view is from South First Street looking east on Cayuga Street. It is not snowing on this particular day but it did snow for several days previously. Pedestrians plow through the snow to get to their destination and a horse-drawn sleigh can be seen parked in front of one business establishment. Hotel Lewis is partially visible at the left. Foster Theater is on the right.

