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FIFTEEN CENTS

School Budget Hiked Without Tax Increase

A budget for the 1971-72 school year in the amount of \$3,237,726 was proposed by the Dallas School Board at an adjourned meeting Monday night. Earl Fritzges, finance committee chairman, stated that there were no changes in the school district's tax structure—which is based on 62 mills; a \$10 per capita tax; earned income tax of one percent shared 50-50 with municipalities of the district; and real estate transfer tax of one percent, shared with municipalities.

The tentative budget will be advertised. In answer to an inquiry by a spectator, Dr. Robert A. Mellman, superintendent, said that a copy of the budget will be available in the administration office for viewing by interested persons. Mr. Fritzges observed that any changes in the proposed budget must be approved by the school board and that final approval must be made before June 30.

In other business, Dallas Area Custodial Association was approved as custodial employees' representative.

Contracts for custodial supplies were

awarded in the amount of \$2,182.70. Junior high school science supplies bids were given to eight companies, for a total \$1,685.77; senior high school science supplies, with a total of \$2,757.29.

A Lehman Avenue resident asked about the rule concerning absenteeism by board members, and was informed that if a board member misses three consecutive meetings without cause or excuse, the remaining board members "may" remove the absentee member from the board.

Pat Gregory and Ernest Ashbridge, successful Republican school board candidates, were in the audience and were introduced to the school board by Mr. Fritzges.

Horse Keeps Pace, Minus Any Backtalk

In this day of sophisticated negotiations and skyrocketing union wage scales, what employer could ask for a better deal than the one hit upon by the Raymon Hedden Co. one day last week.

With heavy equipment operators out on strike since May 1, and with work on College Misericordia's \$2 million dormitory threatening to fall behind schedule, project superintendent Earl Swan and Gus Kabeschat, a partner in the Hedden firm, got their heads together and decided to *pull the plug*.

The two men decided that a strike-breaking scab was needed, and they called assistant superintendent George



The Dallas Post (SHAWN MURPHY)

Teamster Joe Davis, left, holds the bridle of Jerry the Strike-breaker, a horse "hired" by the construction firm of Raymon Hedden to temporarily replace striking heavy equipment operators in the construction of College Misericordia's new dorm. Ed Pavlick mans the levelling scoop while George Pavlick holds the reins.

Teachers, Board Agree on Contract

An agreement on teacher contracts for the 1971-72 school year in Dallas School District has been reached, according to an announcement by Walter Glogowski, president of Dallas Education Association, at an adjourned meeting of the school board Monday night. Mr. Glogowski said terms of the contracts concerning salaries, conditions, benefits, etc., had been agreed upon, but that formal signing had not yet taken place.

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Late Vote Count Shows Hoover Over Garinger

What was reported in last week's *Dallas Post* as a victory for R. Arnold Garinger, Republican candidate for Lake-Lehman's School Board, was in fact a premature analysis of the vote in region one of the school district. Not included in the original tally given by *The Post* were returns from Noxen, a Wyoming County community, whose ballots are posted in the Wyoming County Court House.

The official return from Noxen indicates that school board incumbent J. Franklin Patton was high vote-getter in that community with 77 votes. Other Republican candidates and the number of votes polled by each in Noxen were Earl E. Booth, 54; Ellis W. Hoover, 52; R. Arnold Garinger, 39; Andrew J. Strutko, 4.

With the addition of the Noxen return to those of Harveys Lake Borough and Lake Township, then, the unofficial count

reveals that Mr. Hoover was the top Republican candidate with 363 votes.

According to Dan Ripa, chief clerk of the Luzerne County registration office, no official report of the election can be made until the fate of nine absentee ballots cast in Harveys Lake Borough has been decided.

These ballots, reports Mr. Ripa, were not included by the Harveys Lake Board of Election in either its open or sealed returns. The board will appear this morning at 11 before the *Court en banc*, Luzerne County Court House, to discuss its failure to include these nine absentee ballots in its report, Mr. Ripa said.

The voter registration clerk points out that the absentee ballots may affect the outcome of the election inasmuch as the two contenders for the second Republican nomination—Mr. Booth with 313 votes and Mr. Garinger with 311 votes—are separated by only two votes.

Election Challenged by Harveys Lake Poll Watcher

A sworn affidavit challenging the manner in which the voting at Harveys Lake Borough polls was conducted on Primary Election Day has been filed with the Luzerne County Board of Election by Democratic watcher Helen Sgarlat.

The affidavit cites eight alleged violations of proper voting procedure, and requests that the Board of Election, *Court en banc*, "act upon this matter." Mrs. Sgarlat also requests that the election board of Harveys Lake "be given proper instructions in conducting a voting polls according to lawful procedure."

Daniel Ripa, chief of Luzerne County's registration office, informed *The Post* that the Board of Election of Harveys Lake Borough has been summoned to appear before the *Court en banc* this morning at 11 to discuss the reported irregularities and several absentee ballots which were not included in the vote count.

In objecting to the "unlawful manner" in which she claims the elections were carried out, Mrs. Sgarlat has stated that "a police officer, Alfred Wendel, unlawfully served as Judge of Election for

more than half of the election period."

Mr. Wendel told *The Post* that he had been appointed to the position of Judge of Election May 12 following the resignation of Cornelius Smith from that post because of ill health. Mr. Wendel is a part-time police officer in Harveys Lake Borough.

"I didn't know that my position as a police officer excluded me from serving as Judge of Election until Mrs. Sgarlat challenged me at the polls Tuesday afternoon," Mr. Wendel stated.

He reported that he removed himself from the position after being informed

"by the court house" that the Board of Election should appoint someone else to serve in his place. The Board of Election then appointed Cornelius Smith as Judge of Election, he said.

The other charges Mrs. Sgarlat has included in her affidavit include complaints that:

"The polls did not close at the proper time. Electors were allowed to vote until 9:24 p.m. DST. About 40 electors voted after the time of closing;

"More electors than the allotted number permitted, were allowed inside the voting space;

"After absentee ballots were counted, everyone, candidates, voters, etc., were allowed inside the voting space;

"The count from the machine was given unlawfully by Anthony Javers, who was not serving on the election board, nor was he appointed overseer;

"My request to the Judge of Election, Cornelius Smith, to close the polls properly, was met with, 'We're going to let all of them vote';

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Early Copy Memorial Day

The *Dallas Post* will observe Memorial Day, May 31, according to the Monday Holiday Bill, the office will be closed. An earlier deadline must be regarded by correspondents and publicity chairmen. Please have all copy in to *The Post* by Friday or Saturday morning.

Assessment Costs Burden Sewer Authority

"We ask for your continued patience," declared R. Spencer Martin to some 60 Back Mountain residents who were in attendance at the regular meeting of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority Thursday night. Authority chairman Martin and other authority officials were showing considerable patience themselves after being bombarded with questions for a three-hour period. In one instance, a resident resorted to personal affronts toward the authority solicitor.

The open portion of the meeting was held for this purpose—to answer any and all questions residents might have. Most queries concerned assessments.

The authority adopted a resolution to amend, supplement and modify an original resolution of Dec. 14, 1970. The amended resolution changed methods of assessing certain properties.

A screen and projector were used to illustrate 14 cases of frontage assessment. These 14 typical cases should cover any property in Back Mountain, said Mr. Martin. Douglas Diehl, project manager for the engineering firm of Roy F. Weston, Inc., gave case explanations.

"In most cases, 95 percent of properties are clear-cut," stated Mr. Martin. "Five percent will be taken to the authority. After assessment bills are sent out, the property owner may make an appeal to the board of review."

The minimum assessment for front footage is 75 feet. This figure is used because it is the minimum lot dimension permitted by Dallas and Kingston Townships; Dallas Borough allows minimum lots of 100 feet dimension only.

When one resident complained of the \$8 a foot assessment, Chairman Martin ex-

plained this figure does not begin to cover the real cost of pipe installed in front of each property. "\$16 would not cover the cost. You are not paying for the pipe in the ground. You are paying for sewer service."

Other questions were:
What kind of pipes can be used by property owners in their hook-on lines?

Terra cotta, concrete and asbestos may be used with the proper joints. Plastic pipes are being studied, but no decision has been made concerning their use.

What size of laterals should be used?
In most cases four inch laterals are sufficient. A larger lateral can be put in upon request of property owner. Industrial plants, institutions, etc., will need larger laterals.

Why are vacant lots assessed?
The property is benefitted by the addi-

tion of sewer service. J. Traver Noble, a realtor and authority member, gave an example by saying that if a lot is worth \$40 a foot without sewer service, the value can increase to \$50 a foot with service.

What about damage to property by construction companies?

Construction companies have a contractual obligation to carry liability insurance. A claim form may be obtained from the Roy F. Weston office in the Brothers Four Restaurant building, Dallas.

When will assessment bills be sent out?

Assessment rolls are in the process of being developed. The first invoices should be mailed by July, but only to those property owners where the line already has been installed.

What happens if there is default on payment?

The municipality is liable for payment; if it so directs, a municipal lien can be placed against property and the property sold.

When is it mandatory to hook on?
It is mandatory if property is within 150 feet of sewer line.

What about inspection of sewer lines installed by property owners?

These lines have to be inspected. The authority is presently actively engaged in seeking a lateral inspector.

What about road replacement?

After lines are installed, there will be a waiting period of at least 90 days for complete ground settlement. After a section is completed and the ground settled, roads in that section will be replaced. All roads will be repaired eventually.

(Illustrations of the 14 cases used are shown on page 18 of *The Dallas Post*.)