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FIFTEEN CENTS

Mount Joy rate hike delayed

The Mount Joy Borough Authority heard a report on the financial condition of their water project at their last meeting. They also got some good news.

The proposed 14% water rate increase will not be necessary at this time. The increase was to have taken effect on January 1st, but now the Authority says it won't need the increase until later, after the end of this fiscal year next April. At that time, the Authority will take another look at its financial condition and make a new decision.

In other business, an agreement with Rapho Township is ready to be

signed by the Rapho supervisors. The document will allow Mount Joy to provide sewer service to the Meadows apartment complex just east of the borough limits. The agreement calls for service to 152 units in that complex. The Meadows is the only such area serviced by the Mount Joy Authority at this time.

Mount Joy will not pay any installation costs for the Meadows' sewers. The borough will be paid a rent for processing the sewage.

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*"It's like waiting
to go to the gas chamber."*



Joyce Reimherr Perry

*How it feels
to run a radio talk show
story on back page*

FREE! FREE! FREE!

And now the good news: Mayor Flanagan has announced that all metered parking in Marietta will be

FREE until January 3rd. Now you can spend your last dime on Christmas presents.

Marietta Ambulance needs \$20,000

The Marietta Ambulance has answered 181 calls this year — and their old ambulance is getting tired. A new one will cost 20,000 dollars, and the crew plans to start a big fund drive soon to raise money.

At their last meeting, the ambulance crew unanimously re-elected Steve Bailey as operations chief. Sgt. Steve Englert was elected assistant chief and Charles Marley was elected training officer.

The crew trained on their new portable suction unit. The unit, which cost \$240, can be used to clear a victim's respiratory tract of blood or vomit. "It's an expensive, but necessary piece of equipment," says Mr. Bailey.

The crew also trained on their new burn kit.

An appreciation banquet for the crew will be held next Saturday at the Colonial Inn. The fund drive will get underway at that banquet.

Siberski's hearing before the Donegal School Board —6 hours of legal debate



Siberski, Hallgren, and Scott at the meeting

The meeting started at 8 PM, but around 9, three lawyers trooped into the room and took over.

For six hours, their objections, motions, and legal haggling filled the air, and by three in the morning, the board members were having visible difficulty keeping their eyes open.

Mr. Siberski, who was fired by the board on Superintendent Hallgren's advice last month, was accompanied by his attorney and a PSEA representative. Mr. Wagonseller represented the administration, and another lawyer, Mr. Kagle, presided over the hearing in the manner of a judge.

The hearing took the

form of a trial, with the school board acting as a jury.

In fact, the attorneys seldom addressed the school board directly. Mr. Siberski and the lawyers were the only people in the room who were able to muster a sustained interest in the proceedings.

In fact, most of legal wrangling seemed aimed not at the "jury," but at the record, in case the question goes to court on appeal (which will happen if the board doesn't reinstate Siberski, a distinct possibility.)

In spite of this circumstance, several bleary-eyed reporters from local news media sagged in uncomfortable chairs throughout the legal ordeal.

Mr. Hallgren was sworn in as the first witness by the shorthand man. He made the following points:

Each teacher is responsible for obtaining his own certificates; Harrisburg will not accept certification forms, which must be filed on Nov. 1st each year, without official transcripts; He claimed that Mr. Siberski had promised repeatedly to get the needed documents, but had failed to do so by the 17th of November, when he was told not to come back; Mr. Siberski's long overdue transcripts from Millersville State had arrived since the firing, but no transcripts from the Colorado school were in yet.

Mr. Hallgren at one point was stopped by Mr. Scott, when he stated that the correspondence courses taken by Mr. Siberski from the University of Northern Colorado were making a "mockery" of post graduate education.

Mr. Scott objected that Hallgren was not qualified to pass judgement on courses offered by an accredited university. The objection was sustained by Mr. Kagle.

Scott asked Hallgren if he had ever let a teacher keep his job without proper transcripts before. Mr. Hallgren said he didn't remember. Mr. Scott then referred him to the case of Kermit Norris, who is now a teacher at Donegal. Mr. Wagonseller objected. Haggling ensued. Finally Hallgren was directed to answer the question. He replied that he "probably" had let Mr. Norris teach without proper certification, but said that the state is much stricter now on such matters.

Hallgren said that he had requested "emergency certification" for Siberski by phone, but did not file a formal request because he was told he wouldn't get it.

Hallgren charged that Siberski had offered him a "deal," saying he would drop the Human Relations charges of discrimination in return for reinstatement.

Mr. Scott, on the basis of mentions of Siberski in the board agenda, showed that the firing was not contemplated until shortly before the meeting.

After Hallgren, Mr. Norris testified that he had taught special education for one year at DHS without a special education certificate.

Mr. Siberski next took the stand. Mr. Scott, by questioning him and producing documents proved that the story Siberski had given the press was true. Siberski had indeed been sick; had paid for transcripts to be sent from Millersville years ago; and proved that he had made an effort to obtain the proper documents for certification. It was also brought out that Siberski had begun teaching at Donegal prior to getting his certificate. In fact, he did not even officially graduate before he started teaching.

The three-year story of Siberski's failure to get the transcripts was complex. A large part of his explanation was based on his health problems (obesity, hypertension, and fainting spells). All the medical excuses were documented.

Besides the lost transcript from Millersville and the "quarter-credit" mixup at the University of Northern Colorado, and his health problems, Siberski testified that his mother had had a heart attack just before his final exam for the Colorado school.

While Wagonseller was cross-examining Siberski on

the chronology, Mr. Scott (who had appeared to be the most alert person in the room) suddenly began rubbing his eyes and asked for an end to testimony in consideration of the late hour. Mr. Kagle, who perhaps recalled Scott's earlier statement that he would go till 5 in the morning in the interests of justice, overruled his request. Mr. Wagonseller smirked at this point.

In their concluding remarks, the attorneys made these summaries of their cases:

Mr. Scott claimed to have shown that Siberski had made an effort to keep his position. To a relatively objective non-lawyer, he seemed to have indeed shown this. (Mr. Siberski's obvious anxiety during the hearing indicated that he was at least concerned about getting his job back.)

Mr. Scott also brought up certain previous cases as precedents. In one case, a teacher had produced the transcripts but had not obtained the certificate itself. He was re-instated. In another case Mr. Scott mentioned, a woman had taken a year's maternity leave, and the courts had

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