

Committee Reviews CETA Project Funds

CANTON — Although the county's economic development committee spent the greater part of three hours going over CETA finances, the "theoretical" nature of much of the funds delayed a firm decision.

But the committee approved three projects for which the county is sure of funding, or has carry-over funds from the current fiscal year.

In other action, the committee quickly approved a \$57,000 budget for the economic development office, a \$1,750 increase over the current budget. Another \$4,279 was passed for the Black River-St. Lawrence Economic Development Council, but the county Chamber of Commerce's request was trimmed from \$32,000 to \$30,000.

Approved for CETA were an \$80,316 Youth Community Conservation and Improvement Program, a \$339,290 Youth Employment Training Program, and a \$102,545 Senior Community Service Project, of which \$1,482 is to be paid by the county, for employee benefits.

CETA head Carlton Doane had also introduced a Title III budget, but the committee decided to use the proposal for informational purposes only, since the fate of Title III funding hangs in the balance in Washington. Doan had based his projections on 93 percent of the current year's allocation, but the administrative assistant suggested that the committee withhold action until the county CETA office knows exactly how much money it will get.

As Doane briefly discussed Title VI funding for the upcoming fiscal year, also a "when and if" proposition, the CETA head was asked how Title VI funding will be allocated, should it fall short of projections. The legislature had already approved a few projects, with the cost of each at least \$75,000.

Large Numbers Served, Low Cost
Doane responded that decisions in such an eventually will be based on

"proposals that serve the largest numbers of persons at the most reasonable cost." Whether the project employs heads of households, war veterans and other considerations will be involved, he noted.

The committee agreed to put on the legislature's September agenda a contract with the St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties BOCES for an educational cluster program, at \$125,000. Through some type of slip-up, according to Doane, the matter should have been considered at the August meeting, but wasn't, so the start-up of the project will have to be delayed. The program is to involve 135 participants, if approved by the legislature.

Approval of a contract to provide \$70,000 to index the Canton Commercial Advertiser, a now defunct newspaper, died for lack of a motion. The North Country Reference and Research Resources Council, which had originally proposed to take on 10 participants to index The Watertown Times, changed its selection of a newspaper largely because of criticism by the editor of a competing local newspaper and local historians.

In other CETA concerns, the committee endorsed a \$9,500 contract with Canton ATC to provide eight weeks of electronics assembly training for 15 participants. The purpose of the project is to provide manpower with sufficient skills for a firm which plans on locating in the North Country.

Day Care Center
The committee was notified that the Potsdam Day Care Center now has a director, and that United Way is conducting a review of the director's abilities. The legislature has withheld action on a subcontract with the center because of the absence of a director.

Economic developer William Cook's proposed budget passed within minutes. Under the current budget, Cook had funds to purchase a new car.

\$10,000 Raise Proposed For County Lab Director

CANTON—A \$10,000 a year salary increase for the director of the St. Lawrence County laboratory was one of the major topics of discussion at an eight-hour meeting of the County Legislature's Health Committee last week.

The raise, which the Health Committee approved, will hike the salary of Lab Director Dr. Shahin Niroomand from \$53,000 to \$63,000 per year.

It was just one of many topics considered as the committee tried to come up with a county health budget that it can propose to the County Legislature. The committee was reviewing budget requests from various departments and was attempting to whittle them down to a level that will be palatable to the legislature. Some of the requests were cut, but most cuts were less than \$5,000. More reductions may be forthcoming from the legislature.

The most substantial of the nine proposals reviewed was that of the county lab, at some \$28,600.

Approved without alteration was the \$450,536 community services budget, which includes \$356,290 for mental health services and \$94,256 for alcoholism services. The total budget figure represents a seven percent increase over the current year's allocation.

County coroners had requested \$34,060 but that amount was reduced to \$28,700 by the committee. Included in the coroner's proposal was \$5,000 for the purchase of radios for each coroner, an item that the committee slashed for the second year in a row.

Federal aid will pay for \$763,883 of the \$925,288 budget approved for the Central New York Health Systems Agency. Carry-over funds and private contributions will leave some \$14,800 to be raised by the county. That sum,

according to the agency, amounts to 15 cents per capita.

All but one of the 11 counties participating in the agency will pay the 15-cent per capita rate with the coming year if their legislative bodies approve.

The \$162,654 budget for physically handicapped children was approved narrowly. That department anticipates \$51,000 in revenue, both from parent payments and state aid, leaving a \$111,654 balance to be raised by the county.

The committee had been asked to approve a \$15,000 allocation to the St. Lawrence County Well Child Clinic's \$216,000 proposed budget for 1979. But it eventually decided to keep the local level of funding at the existing \$12,000.

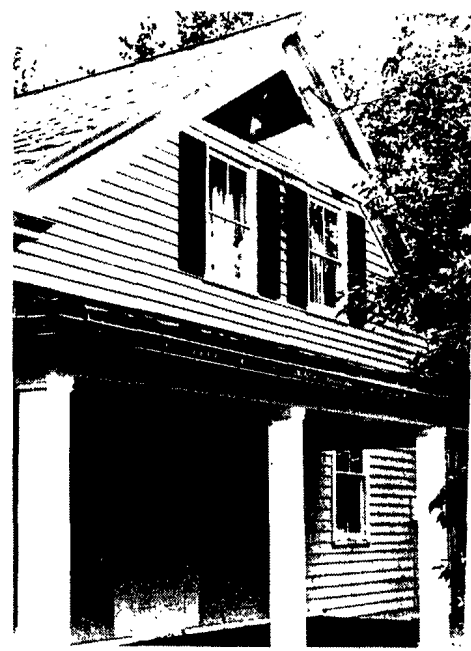
Planned Parenthood

And the current local share of Planned Parenthood of Northern New York's budget, \$15,000, was approved for 1979 by the committee. The organization's budget for this year, \$140,000, is rounded largely on federal aid and Medicaid, although patient fees account for some \$34,000.

Lastly, the committee substantially altered the public health nurses' budget, but those changes involved transfer of items out of the budget, for listing as separate items, rather than reductions. The proposed budget does not differ all that much from the current budget, with salaries in the range of \$404,000, as opposed to some \$401,000 for the current year.

The figures have yet to be added up again, but the budget should be in the range of \$490,000, with the largest increase involving transportation costs, which have risen from \$32,000 to roughly \$60,000.

The chairman of the Health Committee, West Stockholm Legislator Augustus Marscher, cast the only dissenting vote to the proposed \$10,000 raise for Dr. Niroomand.



STORM DAMAGE—High winds followed by a driving rain storm on Saturday night caused trees, large limbs, and utility poles and wires to come down in West Stockholm. In the above photos, at upper left wires pulled a section of sliding away from the peak of the roof of this home owned by Elizabeth Brown of New Haven, Conn. At upper right, damage appeared most severe in front of the West Stockholm Post Office in background. At bottom, a section of this large tree brought down trees and utility poles in the yard of Mrs. Ruth Davis. (Hal Stokes photos).

Public Safety Budget Request Up 138%

CANTON — The public safety committee of the county legislature endorsed one budget Monday representing a 138 percent increase over the current year, trimmed another to below the current level, and pared \$80,000 off the sheriff's proposed budget.

The committee spent yesterday examining the proposed budgets of the fire and rescue department, emergency services, and the county jail, in addition to the sheriff's department.

The amended proposals will be brought before the finance committee, and then to the entire legislature, where further cuts may be made.

The sheriff's department and jail had come in asking for \$1,105,515, but walked away with \$1,045,000. The civil and criminal sheriff's departments requested \$616,895, while the jail's portion was \$488,620.

\$27,000 For Equipment
The proposed budget for the fire and rescue department for 1979 was endorsed at \$53,150, for a 138 percent over the current \$22,350. Some \$27,000 of the proposed budget was needed,

according to fire coordinator Patrick VerSchneider, to replace outdated, and repair-prone radio equipment.

Emergency services' proposed budget was in the amount of \$43,561, as compared with the current year's \$37,000. But the committee did away with what it considered to be non-essentials, and the proposal was reduced to \$34,911.

Sheriff Ceylon (Lefty) Allen's proposal included \$40,000 for the purchase of seven new vehicles. The committee trimmed that sum to \$30,000 enough for five new cars. The committee also revised revenue estimates, in the area of sheriff's fees, to bring the total figure for both the civil and criminal departments to in the vicinity of \$570,000.

Meanwhile, the 16 new employees that county jail warden Keith Knowlton had included in his budget, costing \$159,000, were reduced to 11. The state had recommended the 16 new employees following a personnel study of the jail. But the committee felt that the county should try to get by with 11, and leave the rest up to the state.

As modifications were made to the over-time estimate and other revenue projections, the end figure, according to administrative assistant William P. Collins, was \$1,045,000, for a \$60,000 difference compared to the original request.

Most of the \$27,000 of the \$53,150 fire coordinator's budget was for replacement of radios installed in each county fire department in 1955. VerSchneider department to replace 16

units this year, for \$16,000, and to buy mobile radios for three tankers and eight deputy coordinators, for \$11,000. He had also included \$6,500 for a new station wagon.

The committee was not enthused with the 138 percent increase over the current budget, but realized that the radios will need to be replaced eventually. As Massena legislator Nicholas Viskovich put it, the \$27,000 is "a figure that's been long overdue."

But Bill Lemieux, Canton, pointed out that the budget is still 18 percent over the current year, without the \$27,000. There was some discussion concerning the need for a car, but the committee eventually passed the budget untouched, with the suggestion that VerSchneider investigate the possibility of local departments footing a share of the radios' cost.

John Paxton, coordinator of emergency services, had asked for a new car, at \$5,000, and a county highway radio, at \$2,000, both of which were denied by the committee. Paxton said that the car was needed to replace the one he now has, which has 69,000 miles registered.

The car repair and parts portion of the budget was modified once the committee turned down the car request, and in the end, emergency services had a \$34,911 budget endorsed by the committee, which is some \$2,000 less than the current year, and about \$8,600 less than what Paxton had asked for.

The Matterhorn was first climbed in 1865.

Social Services Positions Okayed

CANTON — After Social Services Commissioner Donald Kitchin said that the county is missing out on reimbursements due to a lack of manpower, the social services committee of the county legislature approved creation of four positions with Kitchin's department.

Kitchin had requested that the committee agree to abolish a Grade B supervisor with the department, at grade 29, and create one senior worker position, at grade 25, and a senior social welfare examiner, grade 20.

He said that the services those two persons would provide will help to enable elderly or ill individuals to remain in their homes, rather than entering medical facilities or nursing homes.

Two other positions, in the support collection unit, were needed because of a backlog of 139 cases that the department doesn't have the manpower to attend to, Kitchin said. He told the committee that

the county is missing out on a lot of money in not dealing with the cases, since the government reimburses the county for a large percentage of them.

The committee approved the two support investigator positions, but wants a report after six months or so on the results of the action.

In other action, Kitchin reported that the state Welfare Inspector General's report concerning county management of the welfare system found that the county, "got the highest rating we could."

Kitchin also reported on the impact of the St. Joe's Minerals strike. According to department statistics, 151 strikers in June applied for non-public assistant food stamps, while the figure for July was 116. Forty one strikers applied for public assistance.

Lastly, the commissioner reported that the public works projects are doing very well, with the majority of welfare recipients who volunteered for the program working, or some to start on jobs.

Two Indicted In Drug Case

Kenneth Allan Chase, 22, and Jill Elaine Thomas, 19, both of Hannawa Falls, have been indicted by the St. Lawrence County Grand Jury on charges of criminal possession of marijuana first degree and criminal possession of a controlled substance seventh degree.

The two were arrested July 20 when police used a search warrant to enter their home at Postwook Park and discovered over 10 pounds of marijuana.

The arrests capped a cooperative investigation of Potsdam police and Canton-based state police and BCI.

In another indictment issued by the May grand jury, Jackaleen Theriault, East Hartford, Conn., was indicted on a charge of conspiracy first degree.

Child Killed Crossing Road

NORFOLK—A 17-month-old toddler was struck by a car and killed Monday while crossing the Plum Brook Road near her parents home.

St. Lawrence County Sheriff's deputies said that Shelly-Ann O'Shea, young daughter of Steven and Paula O'Shea, sustained severe head injuries when she apparently walked unattended into the path of a car driven by Harold F. Thomas, 60, Winthrop.

Deputies said that the young girl had apparently crossed the road from her parents home to a neighbor's, and was coming back across when she was hit by the car. The incident took place about 11:51 a.m. on the Plum Brook Road, about four-tenths of a mile from the Route 56 intersection in Norfolk.

She was pronounced dead on arrival at Massena Memorial Hospital by Dr. Sami Daye, who was appointed coroner's physician by St. Lawrence County Coroner David Donaldson. Deputies said that death was attributed to multiple skull fractures and extensive brain damage. The child was transported to the hospital by the Norfolk Rescue Squad.

No criminal charges have been filed in the case, although sheriff's investigator Dominic Germano and Deputy Lowell Livingston were continuing their investigation of the incident.

Services for the child are tentatively set for 10 a.m. Thursday at the Reagan Funeral Chapel, Massena. Burial will be in the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Calling hours will be at the Chapel from 7 to 9 p.m. today (Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1978) and 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

The child is survived by her parents, Steven and Paula Peck O'Shea; one brother, Shawn; her paternal grand- parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer O'Shea of Russell; her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Peck of Massena; and the three great-grandparents, Mrs. Ida O'Shea of Harrisville, and Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Peck of Massena.

Knowlton Declines Debate Invitation

County Jail Warden Keith Knowlton last week declined to participate in a televised debate because, he said, only two of the candidates for county sheriff had been invited.

Knowlton and District Attorney investigator Bud Daley were asked to appear on WYNY's "Sounding Board." Daley agreed to participate in the debate, which was to have involved just the Republican candidates.

Daley and Knowlton will oppose one another in the Republican primary, with the victor to run against Sgt. Dominic Germano, a Democrat.

Knowlton said he turned down the offer since "I don't want to go on and put my platform out yet...and have it torn apart by the opponents."

He would have agreed to the debate had all three candidates been included, Knowlton said, adding that he intends to join in on a debate if he wins the primary.

He felt it would have been "senseless" for him to accept the offer before the primary.

Seaway Closes December 6

The St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation last week announced that the St. Lawrence River will be closed to inbound ships Dec. 6.

Outbound ships can exit the Seaway later into that month, but surcharges as high as \$80,000 will be imposed after Dec. 16.

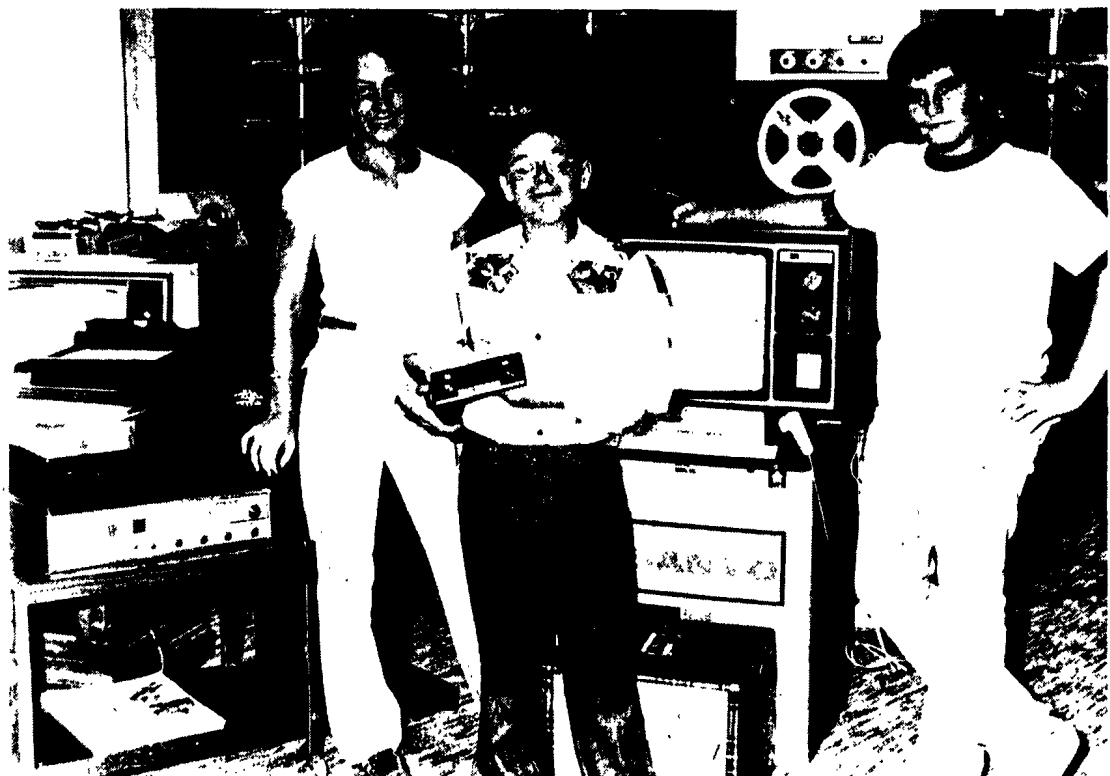
Downbound vessels will be accepted into the system at Welland Canal until midnight Wednesday, Dec. 6, according to the SLSDC.

Upbound vessels, which traditionally play a cat and mouse game with the weather and try to exit the Seaway before it freezes, will be accepted into the river until midnight Dec. 15.

Seaway officials said that on the following day, Dec. 16, vessels will be levied a \$20,000 surcharge. On Dec. 17, the surcharge increases to \$40,000; on Dec. 18, \$60,000 and on Dec. 19 it increased to the maximum of \$80,000.

Ship captains were warned, however, that the calculated dates depend on weather and ice conditions at the time and may be subject to change, officials said.

They said "Seaway entities, in their discretion," may adjust closing dates and corresponding surcharges as they deem necessary.



RADIO WINNERS—Three young people were the winners of a recent drawing held during Rodger Radio's going-out-of-business sale. The three are, with their prizes, from left: Lisa

Golden, RFD 1, a stereo; John William, Route 1, Colton, a scanner; and Larry Rheame, 17 Pine St., a color television.