

Allocation Will Be Asked To Cover Cost Overrun For Norwood Bridge

CANTON — The county legislature will soon be asked to allocate some \$55,000 from the county's contingency account to cover cost overruns on the Ridge Street Bridge in Norwood.

The bridge project, undertaken by the Economic Development Administration, was expected to cost \$550,000. It is now expected that the cost will go over that estimate by \$62,000.

The county's transportation committee looked at the situation at their meeting last Tuesday afternoon. They agreed to send a resolution to the legislature that would cover the cost overrun.

The Norwood bridge project, earmarked at some \$550,000, is expected to exceed estimates by some \$62,000. Some of that may be made up with extra funds left over from the construction of the county's new highway department

building, another EDA project.

The remaining amount, according to the chairman of the committee, Legislator Lloyd Moore, will have to be made up by the county. If the resolution to use contingency funds fails in a vote of the full legislature, then the funds would likely have to come out of the regular highway department budget for 1979.

The committee, in another action, will recommend to the full board that the county enter into a contract with the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. regarding the future of a bridge in Norfolk that runs in part over a Niagara Mohawk dam. Under the terms of the proposed contract, the county would take over responsibility for Niagara Mohawk's half of the bridge after the power company rebuilds it.

A request before the committee to provide funds for the restoration of a

bridge in Pitcairn was tabled for future consideration. According to Moore, the project would be a major expense item.

The committee also heard a proposal from Town of Canton officials calling for the construction of a truck overpass to avoid a low underpass on Route 11 toward Potsdam. The underpass has caused problems for trucks attempting to pass under it recently. The state is proposing to increase the clearance of the underpass by digging out from underneath, but Canton officials have proposed an overpass as an easier and less expensive proposal.

Moore said the committee took no action on the matter since the underpass is under state jurisdiction.

Other matters brought before the committee Tuesday included a request from the Town of Lisbon for the county to take over full responsibility for the Five Mile Line Road. About one half of that road, which runs from the Route 37 to Lisbon Central School, is now under the county's jurisdiction; the other half is controlled by the town.

The committee will recommend to the full board that the entire road be placed on the county map, making it eligible for future county appropriations.

And, Town of Oswegatchie officials have asked the county to provide funds for the construction of a new bridge across the Lisbon Creek on a portion of the Town Line Road that is now closed.

The request was brought to the transportation committee by Oswegatchie Supervisor Howard Hutchinson.

Residents of the town have requested the new bridge and the reopening of the now closed section of the Town Line Road in order to provide a more direct route into the area from Lisbon.

The county highway department will conduct a further study. Before the county will allocate funds for the project, it would have to determine whether there is a real need for the county to maintain a bridge in that area.



REALTORS MEET — Senator H. Douglas Barclay, 45th Senatorial District; Assemblyman H. Robert Nortz, 114th Assembly District; and Assemblyman John Zagame, 117th Assembly District, recently met with members of the New York State Association of Realtors from Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Oswego Counties. Current topics of legislative

concern to the Association were discussed. The realtors were in Albany to attend the Sixth Annual Legislative Reception on Feb. 26. Pictured from left to right are: Don Hopkins, Debbie Atlas, Nortz, Arlene Correll, Barclay, Zagame, Harold Wallace, Marie Harrington, Eldred Holley and Virginia Holley.

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Group Offers

Free Tax Advice

Many St. Lawrence County taxpayers who need help preparing basic income tax returns will find free assistance close to home, according to Diane Dawley, student coordinator of VITA-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Volunteers will assist low-income taxpayers and Older Americans with a step-by-step completion of basic income tax forms 1040A, 1040, and certain 1040 schedules. The aid is provided through an IRS program called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) developed, according to Ms. Dawley, to reach taxpayers who need tax preparation assistance but who cannot afford private help.

Volunteers from the four campuses of the Associated Colleges, the local chapter of AARP, and the Clarkson Society of Accountants attend an IRS training course in basic tax preparation before working as VITA assistants.

Although IRS employees offer similar assistance in Taxpayer Service Offices, many taxpayers prefer VITA assistance because VITA offices are more conveniently located and volunteers are available on a more flexible schedule. VITA offices are currently being established on the following schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, beginning Feb. 21, Clarkson College Lewis House, Ivanhoe Room 2-6 p.m. and Potsdam Civic Center downstairs lounge, 6-9 p.m. (except, March 28 and April 4).

Tuesday, Thursday (beginning Feb. 27) and sponsored by AARP. For further information call Don Wright, 265-2846 after 6 p.m.) St. Lawrence National Bank Lobby 70 Market St., Potsdam, 11:00 a.m.-3 p.m.

Anyone needing VITA assistance is urged to bring the tax package mailed by the IRS and other pertinent documents such as W-2 Forms and interest statements. However, commonly used 1040 and 1040A forms and schedules will be available to those who need them.

Interested persons unable to get to a VITA office may make arrangements by calling and leaving a message at one of the following numbers: 268-4488 or 268-2329. A VITA Volunteer will return your call.

Assistance Extended

For Energy Hardship

The St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc., has been notified that funds will be available to conduct an Extended Emergency Energy Assistance Program.

The program will assist qualified families who experienced hardships as a result of energy related fuel and utility expenses during Jan. 1 thru June 30, 1978.

Funds for this program are only available until March 15, 1979.

The county was informed of the extension by Community Service Administration Region II headquarters in New York City.

To qualify, a family must meet the following guidelines:

--Did not receive any assistance in the Emergency Energy Assistance Program during April and May 1978.

--Be within the CSA low-income guidelines.

--Meet the program eligibility guidelines which are an emergency energy need existed between Jan. 1 and June 30, 1978 and resulted in serious hardship.

To determine if you qualify, contact the Potsdam Neighborhood Center at 265-3920.

