

Consultants, PURA Settle

continued from page one
 "I would like to give a historical perspective to the Newman and Doll payment. I believe that this matter is an excellent example for the public to understand the problems this agency has faced in the last two years.

"When this agency was appointed nearly two years ago, there was an ongoing construction project in operation with Newman and Doll as the engineering firm in place at that time. Almost immediately one of the engineers came to meet with the Mayor and me to say that there were many outstanding bills that had not been paid by previous agencies. His company was interested in seeing those bills paid as soon as possible as some had been due since 1972.

"Upon investigation, we soon found that Newman and Doll had been hired in 1971 to serve as engineers for the Agency and also to do other related services. The original contract had been signed by the Agency, but never in all those years approved by HUD. The original contract became clearly inappropriate as time went on and major contract amendments were proposed by Newman and Doll. These were never executed by the Agency nor approved by HUD.

"Further, various 'special services' were performed and billed by the Engineer, on apparently a verbal basis. As you may recall, there was a questionable finding in the audit report of 1975 amounting to \$80,172.96 as a payment to Newman and Doll.

"Almost immediately upon taking office, I began to work on the problem of getting HUD approval of that contract, as I felt we could not pay any large sums on the outstanding debts until that contract had been approved. The Engineering Department at HUD began working with us, but some of the personnel was new and the original contract with Newman and Doll ancient history.

"Finally, we reached the point where Robert Murray of Crandall Associates acting in our behalf, and a representative of Newman and Doll met with the engineering staff at HUD to try to arrive at a compromise on all the complex aspects of this case. At the close of that conference, Newman and Doll was to put together additional data HUD felt was needed to justify approval of the contract after the fact.

"Perhaps this case more than any other was a casualty of the HUD move to Buffalo from New York City. All the time spent to that date was wasted since the final resolution of the problem had not been made. Meantime, Newman and Doll and the Potsdam Urban Renewal Agency agreed to end the relationship that had existed since 1971. Understandably, Newman and Doll began to ask for the payment of many bills that were outstanding.

"Mr. Walrath (consultant to the Agency) began to go through the files searching for every voucher and/or bill or information relating to the Newman and Doll issue. We worked with Buffalo HUD very closely explaining what we needed from them after all these years to clear the books at the local level.

"In January on our visit to that office, additional information was taken and they promised a quick resolution to the problem—one way or the other. You must realize that if they rejected the

Touch Of Potsdam In NYC Parade On St. Patrick's Day

There may be a little bit of Ireland in everyone on St. Patrick's Day, but there is sure to be a bit of Potsdam in the famous New York City St. Patrick's Day parade.

Two Potsdam natives, Brenda Lynch and Kathy Champney, will be in the parade. And two Potsdam women, Sharon and Susan Dreyse, have written a special Irish score especially for the event.

The four are affiliated with Roethel's Executive Drum and Bugle Corps of Ogdensburg. The Executives, Northern New York's all-girl Junior Champions and three-time FASNY (Firefighters' Association of the State of New York) champions, have been invited to participate in the gigantic parade on March 17.

Brenda and Kathy, who are students at Roethel's Ogdensburg Business Institute, are in the color guard of the drum corps. The Dreyse sisters are horn instructors for the Executives.

The annual parade has become well-known for its meticulous selection of excellent precision and musical marching units.

The parade will be televised by station WPIX from New York City.

unsigned and unapproved amendments to that original contract, any money paid since the 1975 audit to Newman and Doll would also be disallowed in any closeout audit. Getting the contract amendment approved by HUD was one of our top priorities in this office. As Newman and Doll continued to get more demanding about payment, the more important a compromise resolution became.

"I am happy to announce that just three weeks ago, we got written verification from HUD that they were approving the amended contract with Newman and Doll. We have received verbal confirmation from HUD that the Newman and Doll audit finding has been reinstated in the amount of \$40,000.

"This good news meant that we could proceed to work with Newman and Doll on the payment issue. Last week Bob (Juravich), Dick (Walrath) and Dick Cambridge went to our attorney's office in Syracuse to meet with Newman and Doll representatives for this purpose.

"The resolution with the amount shown on the agenda is the result of that day-long meeting. We had many questions about some of the charges and asked for further verification before payment is to be made. Bob (Juravich) believes this is a justifiable settlement figure and it is with some relief that this case dating back to 1971 can finally be cleared away.

"I want to stress that a successful resolution of a very complex and nagging problem does not diminish the seriousness of that problem. Recently it has been mentioned by some in the Village that because Urban Renewal seems to be looking better than any of us thought possible two years ago, it is an indication that we were exaggerating the problems. Not so. I hope the details of this particular issue make it clear that the problem was very serious, but that persistence and determination on our part resulted in a positive outcome. The long term effects of no resolution would have been disastrous in the final audit."

Draft Health Plan Is Available

The Central New York Health Systems Agency is a regional health planning and implementation organization established under the provisions of the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974. It is funded by federal grant and federally matched county contributions, with governing authority vested in a 71 member volunteer board of directors consisting of consumers and providers of health care in Central New York.

The agency's federal authorization and funding are negotiated annually on the basis of a continuation application. Federal provisions governing HSAs require each HSA to hold a public hearing to receive comment on its continuation application; a 30 day notification period is required, during which copies of the application must be available for public scrutiny.

The CNYHAS has distributed copies of its draft fourth year (July 1, 1979 - June 30, 1980) Continuation Application to public review sites throughout the 11 county Central New York health service area. These sites include county legislatures, (clerks, chairpersons, and health committee chairpersons), libraries, Community Action Programs, county medical societies, ambulatory care centers and public health nursing services.

Members of the public are invited to examine the continuation application during the next 30 days and to offer comments to the agency in writing or in person at a public hearing on the continuation application to be held on Thursday, April 5, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. in the agency's main office, 5795 Widewaters Parkway, Dewitt, N.Y. 13214.

Comments on the proposed application will be transmitted to the full board of directors at their next regularly scheduled meeting on April 19. At that time, the Board will be requested to approve the application for submission to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for final approval.

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Community Events

LIBRARY BOARD

March 13 - There will be a Potsdam Public Library Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the library.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

March 13 - Planned Parenthood of Northern New York will conduct a birth planning clinic for the Potsdam area on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the American Baptist Meeting House, 24 Leroy St. Appointments are necessary for those desiring medical services. For clinic appointments and information call: Sharon Hollinger, weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; clinic manager at 265-4187. For birth planning information and education sessions call: Planned Parenthood office, 386-2441; or leave message at: Potsdam Neighborhood Center, 265-3920 between 9 a.m. and noon.

NUTRITION CLASS

March 14 - Cooperative Extension and Potsdam Neighborhood Center will co-sponsor a Nutrition Class on Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Baptist Meeting House, 24 Leroy St. Helene Ramsay will demonstrate cooking grains. Hilda Merrill, nutrition aide, will show how to make Easter surprises. Each participant should bring two cups of white sugar. The nutrition class is open to everyone and newcomers are welcome. For more information call the Potsdam Neighborhood Center, 265-3920 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no charge for the class.

CSEA MEET

March 15 - St. Lawrence County Chapter CSEA Local 845 will meet Thursday at the St. Lawrence Inn, Canton. Board of directors meet at 7 p.m. and general meeting at 8 p.m.

COVERED DISH SUPPER

March 15 - Covered dish supper at Hopkinton Town Hall on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Public is invited. Free will offering will be taken to benefit the Congregational Church of Hopkinton.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

March 16 - International Dinner, sponsored by the Potsdam Quaker Meeting, on Friday beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Center, Potsdam. \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for students, special family rates. Benefit the Indians of Ganienkeh.

GREEN CARNATIONS

March 17 - Potsdam Rescue Squad auxiliary will be selling green carnations Saturday at the local supermarkets.

TURKEY DINNER

March 18 - 26th annual St. Patrick's Turkey Dinner will be held Sunday, at the Madrid Elementary School. Tickets may be purchased at the door: adults \$3.50, children \$2.50. Serving 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. All proceeds for the benefit of the Madrid Fire Department.

ST. PATRICK'S SUPPER

March 19 - Sandstone Senior Citizens will hold a St. Patrick's covered dish supper at 6 p.m. Monday at the club rooms, 1 Elderkin St. Ham is furnished by the club, scalloped potatoes are solicited. Members should bring other dishes they wish and own table service. Dancing will follow dinner and the program.

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

March 19 - A spring meeting of the Lambda chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society will be held Monday at the University Inn in Canton. Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., after which a business meeting and program will follow. Maureen Regan, asst. professor of education at SUNY Potsdam, is in charge of the program, "Education Through the Media." Kathryn Sullivan is program chairperson; Joan Donovan and Nancy Hoffman will be the hostesses. All members are urged to attend.

LA LECHE LEAGUE

March 20 - Potsdam LaLeche League will be holding a morning meeting at

9:30 a.m. at the home of Cathy Minnetyan, 23 Chestnut St., Potsdam. All new and prospective mothers are welcome for information and discussion on breastfeeding and mothering. For more information please call 265-6851 or 265-4495.

BOARD OF VISITORS

March 20 - The Sunmount Developmental Center Board of Visitors will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, in the Board Room at the Center in Tupper Lake for the monthly meeting.

MASONS MEET

March 20 - What Cheer Lodge 689 will meet Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. A program on St. Patrick's Day will follow the meeting.

HILLTOPPERS DANCE

March 21 - The Parishville Hilltoppers will hold a "Welcome Spring dance" at the Parishville Town Hall on Wednesday evening, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Music by the Mockingbirds. Coffee and doughnuts to be served.

GIRL SCOUTS

March 22 - Raquette Valley Girl Scout Neighborhood will meet Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. in the Potsdam Presbyterian Center.

LITERARY DISCUSSION GROUP

March 22 - Literary Discussion Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Jean Kilroy's home, 2 East Drive. The readings to be discussed are Kafka's "Jackals and Arabs," "Sorrow-Acre," by Isaac Babel and "Bitter Honey-moon," by Alberto Moravia.

GIRL SCOUTS MEET

March 22 - The Raquette Valley Girl Scout Neighborhood will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Potsdam Presbyterian Center. Members should note this is a change in date.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

March 23 - The Public Health Nurses will sponsor an immunization clinic to be held at St. Patrick's School, Brasher Falls, on Friday from 10-11 a.m. At this clinic, children may receive triple vaccine for protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough, oral polio vaccine, measles vaccine against both the red and German measles and Mumps Vaccine. Rubella (German) measles vaccine can be given to children up to ten years of age. The clinic will be under the supervision of Dr. Marshall Stevenson, health officer.

FASHION SHOW

March 27 - The 4-H Handy Helpers will have a fund-raising Sarah Coventry Fashion show put on by district manager Shirley Metcalf at the Norwood Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. The new line of jewelry will be shown. All proceeds will go to the 4-H group. Door prizes and refreshments. For further information call Judy Harper at 353-2086.

RESOURCE GROUP MEETS

April 5 - Annual meeting of the Black River-St. Lawrence Resource Conservation and Development, beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday in the formal lounge of the Noble Center on the campus of SLU in Canton. Speaker will be William Tyson.

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