

## Committee Says 'No' To Road Equipment

**BY JOHN FRIOT**  
CANTON — Members of the St. Lawrence County Transportation Committee spent approximately two hours Tuesday afternoon discussing whether or not to accept county Highway Superintendent John Cook's request for equipment purchases in the coming year before deciding to plow under nearly all of those requested purchases.

The county Highway Department has budgeted approximately \$300,000 for equipment purchases this year, but that amount may be trimmed some due to a \$470,000 cost overrun resulting from unpaid bills in 1979.

Cook had drawn up a list of equipment he would like to buy this year including two snowplows, graders, loaders, backhoes, three pick-up trucks, and an automobile. The committee spent considerable time discussing the requests and committee chairman Robert Thompson said that "one of the most critical things he (Cook) needs are graders."

The committee appeared concerned about the amount of money that would be available to be spent on equipment because of last year's overspent highway budget.

Committee member Donald Smith put a motion on the table that was passed unanimously which allowed Cook to continue to lease two used snowplows "until the snow season ends" and then the county would solicit bids on the two trucks now being rented and "on two new trucks for comparison" with the intent to buy only two trucks in 1981.

Highway Superintendent Cook disagreed with Smith's idea of bidding out two new and two used trucks because "I don't like to play games" with the vendors involved. He said he objected to the county taking the bids on both used and new models if they did not intend to actually buy them, claiming he could obtain some prices for comparison without having to go out for bids.

necessary equipment.

Thompson voted against the resolution to continue renting the equipment for this year and to consider purchasing some new equipment in 1981, with the exception of a grader. He was turning this whole thing down and rent everything."

The grader, which the committee agreed to let Cook purchase, was the one piece of equipment that was determined most needed by the department for the current year. Legislators Don Smith and Edward Johnson voted against the purchase of the grader, which the county had previously been renting.

**Other Action**  
In other action at Tuesday's meeting, the committee was informed that a proposed fuel island and overhead lubrication system would cost approximately \$40,000 plus some labor costs.

The committee had requested that the Highway Department look into the feasibility of such a fueling station on a suggestion from Cook. Under the proposal, three tanks would be installed at the highway department property on Park Street with each consisting of 10,000 gallons of regular, unleaded, and diesel fuel.

If the concept were agreed upon by the legislature, it is believed to be able to

alleviate some current problems being experienced by various departments which pump their own gasoline.

County Administrative Assistant William Collins said that "we have some situations that make this type of thing attractive" adding that the Sheriff's Department has some problems with fueling as they "do not have good control or monitoring procedures." There also is a possibility of other county departments using the fuel island if it is constructed.

Collins said that the county is currently looking at whether or not it would be more feasible to purchase more cars or increase mileage reimbursements. The committee took no action on the matter until more study has been done.

The committee also agreed to allow the highway department to do some repair work at the Jones and Laughlin plant in Star Lake at the request of the county Economic Development office. That work would consist of the construction and repair of a new road and trench at an estimated cost of \$13,000 to \$18,000. Collins said that this is a case where one county department will assist another without any money to be paid, even though a record of how much was spent on the project will be kept.



**TAKING ANOTHER RUN** — Members of the committee for the second annual Edward I. Moses "Run for Life" event recently in Canton to discuss the run. This event, sponsored by Kinney Drugs Inc., Gouverneur, for the St. Lawrence County Unit, American Cancer Society, will be held on April 26. Shown at the meeting are, from left, front row: Mrs. James Halpen, wife of co-chairman James Halpen Madrid; Mark Brackett, assistant manager Kinney Drugs, Canton;

Marion C. Cameron, executive director, St. Lawrence County Unit; Warren Dyke, Brasher Falls, co-chairman; back row: William Lewis, Potsdam, president; Timothy Opdyke, Norfolk, Northern League Track Chairman; Curran Wade, advertising manager, Kinney Drugs, Inc., Gouverneur and C. Edward Brackett, Canton, first vice-president, St. Lawrence County Unit.

## Olympic Security Plan In Place

**BY MIKE CLOONAN**  
With the opening of the 1980 Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid just days away, police, county, and volunteer agencies in St. Lawrence County are playing a major role in assuring the safety of persons traveling in the North Country to and from the games.

According to New York State Department of Transportation estimates, 35 percent of the anticipated 52,000 daily spectators at Lake Placid will arrive at Lake Placid through the western corridor route which includes traffic along Routes 3, 68 and 56.

Lt. J.J. Ryan, Zone 2, Canton state police, said that the primary concerns of St. Lawrence County-based state troopers will be concentrated on traffic and the safety of tourists who are traveling to and from Lake Placid.

State troopers, according to Lt. Ryan, will be working two 12-hour shifts rather than the normal three eight-hour periods during the Olympic Games.

State police, Lt. Ryan said, will beef up their patrols of Route 3 which has been designated as an official travel route to and from the Olympics and Route 56 which Ryan described "as treacherous highway from south of South Colton to Sevey's Corners."

"Any motorist who is stranded on either highway should have to wait any extended period of time before help arrives," Ryan said.

**Emergency Plan**  
State police, Lt. Ryan explained, have been working with several agencies throughout the county in developing an emergency plan in the event that northern New York is hit with a major snowstorm during the month of February.

"Provisions have been made," Lt. Ryan said, "to house travelers who might become stranded during a snowstorm on their way to and from the games."

If there is a snowstorm in Essex County, Ryan said, there is just not enough room to house stranded spectators. Consequently they would be housed at Cranberry Lake and the Clifton-Fine Central School.

According to Lt. Ryan, provisions have been made to have 50 county cots at the Cranberry Lake Volunteer Fire Hall Community Hall and an additional 150 county cots at the Clifton-Fine Central School.

"Cooperation between the Cranberry Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Clifton-Fine Central people has been just great," Lt. Ryan noted.

Lt. Ryan said that Clifton-Fine Central School district has agreed to help supply the Cranberry Lake facility with food, if needed, at no cost to the fire department and has stated that there would be a three-day supply of food at the school for emergency use in case of severe weather.

Both the Cranberry Lake facility and the Fine Town Hall will provide coffee, and donuts and will help in giving directions to travelers passing through on their way to Lake Placid.

According to Lt. Ryan, if needed, there will also be 10 cots at the Fine Town Hall.

**DaBoll Idea**  
Patrick Verschneider, county emergency coordinator, said that the idea to use the Clifton-Fine school for emergency housing came from that school district's administrator, Duane DaBoll.

"Duane suggested the idea this past summer to open Clifton-Fine school as a "hospitality center in case of an

emergency," Verschneider said.

According to Verschneider, county officials, state police, the sheriff's department, and members of the Cranberry Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Clifton Fine school officials met in October to formalize the emergency plan.

Verschneider explained that the 200 cots that are being used for emergency housing were once part of an Army Field Hospital Unit which belonged to the Civil Defense and now belong to the county.

According to Verschneider, the 150 cots for the Clifton-Fine School will be stored in a county highway department van in order that the cots can be mobile.

"We'll store the cots in the van so they can be moved to other sections if needed," Verschneider said.

Verschneider agreed with Lt. Ryan's remarks that cooperation between all parties has "been great."

Verschneider said his department is now looking into the problem of providing emergency rescue squad service to the area from Cranberry Lake to Piercefield.

"Cranberry doesn't have a rescue unit and is serviced by the Star Lake Rescue Squad," Verschneider said, noting that if there was a major accident above Cranberry, the Star Lake unit would have to travel the eight miles to Cranberry Lake and then the additional miles to the accident.

**Sheriff's Department**  
The county sheriff's department, according to Undersheriff Gary Jarvis, will have increased patrols on Route 3 during the Olympics.

"Keith (St. Lawrence County Sheriff Knowlton) has drawn up a plan in which there will be at least two patrol units along Route 3, 24-hours a day during the Olympic Games."

Undersheriff Jarvis noted that for the most part that is the only change the sheriff's department will make during February.

**Security Arrangements**  
According to Lt. Ryan, at times, there will be up to 700 New York State troopers, helping to provide security at the games.

Lt. Ryan said that next week approximately 250 to 300 troopers will move into the Lake Placid area and will remain there until the second contingent of officers arrives.

"There will be a three-day period in which officers from both groups will be at Lake Placid," Lt. Ryan said, numbering approximately 700 men.

The second group of officers, Lt. Ryan said, will remain in Lake Placid until March 1.

According to Lt. Ryan there will be three sergeants, three BCI investigators and 18 troopers from St. Lawrence County who will be working at the games at one time or another.

**Immigration Prepared**  
Some 15,000 spectators are expected to cross the Canadian-American border in traveling to Lake Placid.

And according to the director of the Buffalo District of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Benedict J. Ferro, some 30 extra inspectors, including 10 from Buffalo, have been assigned to the border crossing at Champlain.

"There will be four inspectors added to our Thousand Island, Ogdensburg, Massena complex which is headed out of the Thousand Island office," Ferro said.

According to Ferro, it will be the responsibility of the director at the Thousand Islands bureau to use the four additional inspectors where he deems

most necessary.

In addition, Ferro said there will be regular permanent staff and part-time staff on standby.

Ferro said that it appears that the largest number of crossings from Canada into the United States will be at Champlain and not at the three bridge crossings in northern New York along the St. Lawrence River.

For that reason, Ferro said, more inspectors were added to the staff at Champlain than at other crossings.

Acting Chief Patrol Agent Alfred Saucier of the U.S. Border Patrol, Ogdensburg, said that the Border Patrol will be beefing up its watch along the Canadian Border during February, but most of the additional staff will patrol the most easterly part of the sector, basically, the Swanton, Vt. section.

According to Saucier, there are no plans to increase staff at the Ogdensburg bureau.

**Run Out Of Money?**  
Committee chairman Robert Thompson said that "I hate to spend the money now even though we need some of this equipment because I'm afraid we're going to run out of money before the year is over."

Legislator Donald Smith said "I'd rather see an old piece of equipment go up and down the road instead of seeing some new equipment with no money for the department to do any work."

The committee, after considerable debate, approved a resolution which allows Cook to purchase a grader, which will cost the county approximately \$39,100, while at the same time they decided not to buy any more new equipment until 1981 but that this year's work could be continued by renting the



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