

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Pcp
Tues.	5	-3	0.88
Wed.	8	-12	0
Thurs.	11	-13	0
Fri.	12	-11	0
Sat.	13	0	tr.s
Sun.	26	11	0.78
Mon.	29	25	0.68

Courier Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Best wishes to the Norwood Brass Firemen as they prepare to march in President Reagan's inaugural parade.

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Village Will Hire Engineer

BY RON ROBERTSON
Potsdam village trustees last week agreed to formulate a long-term capital improvement and replacement program and to hire an engineer to oversee those projects.

In two meetings last week, the board discussed priorities for the next fiscal year's budget and possible changes in the village's administrative structure.

The primary administrative change considered by the trustees was to hire a full-time staff engineer.

Trustee Girard Mulherin said he would support the immediate hiring of a "large engineer" at the next regular trustees' meeting.

Mayor Paul Claffey said he would draft a resolution to hire an engineer to be presented at the Jan. 23 board meeting.

Mulherin suggested that since the staff engineer would oversee the operation of the village's entire physical plant, he could be paid out of the water, sewer, and general funds in proportion to the amount of time he would spend working at each.

Trustees also agreed to offer a minimum salary of \$25,000 to attract an engineer. The board hoped that such a salary would attract highly-qualified applicants.

Mayor Claffey said the engineer, who would be instrumental in capital planning for the village, should be someone who has had experience in municipal engineering, "not someone just out of Clarkson."

"We need an experienced civil engineer," Trustee Jeffrey Belodoff agreed.

Where Engineer Fits
There was some disagreement on where the engineer would fit in the village's administrative structure.

Belodoff said the engineer should report directly to the mayor, while Trustee Hugh Sprague said the engineer should report to the administrator as do all village employees.

Sprague said that because the Potsdam mayor's job is a part-time position, the person filling that post doesn't have time to personally oversee the village's operation.

That's the administrator's job, Sprague said.

Currently, the police chief and the administrator report directly to the mayor and the board of trustees.

The engineer, the trustees agreed, would be the head of the Department of Public Works and be in charge of street and building maintenance and the water treatment, sewage disposal, and water treatment plants.

The board noted that the village's complicated new water and hydro plants need an engineer to oversee their maintenance.

NBC To Interview Brass Firemen

NORWOOD — As the Norwood Brass Firemen prepare to leave for Washington, D.C. later this week to march in President Ronald Reagan's inaugural parade, the likelihood is growing that North Country residents will be seeing the band on the national television news.

Band manager Bob Haggett said Monday night that NBC news in New York called him to set up an interview with band members for Sunday morning.

Also on Sunday morning the band will be interviewed by Washington network affiliates and other media representatives.

Haggett said NBC's representative told him the interview will air on NBC news. "She seemed pretty impressed that 'America The Beautiful' will be played at Nancy Reagan's request," Haggett said.

ABC TV's "Good Morning, America" has already contacted the band for an interview, Haggett said.

Band members will leave for Washington by bus early Saturday morning.

Chilean Exchange Student To Speak

Gerardo Soto, Potsdam's American Field Service exchange student living with the Eric Thacher family this school year, will give a slide lecture on Chile, his native country, in the Fireplace Lounge at the Newman Center at 7 p.m., Jan. 27.

The AFS family finding committee urges that all persons interested in hosting an exchange student attend this meeting or contact Judy Weise, 265-4071. The public is invited.



BRASS BAND'S FLAG — Assemblyman John G.A. O'Neill, front row left, recently presented a flag of New York for the Norwood Brass Firemen to carry as they march in President Ronald Reagan's inaugural parade. With O'Neill in the front row is Fred Morgan, popularly known as the "father" of the

Brass Firemen. In the back row are, from left, Norwood Fire Chief Roger Davis, fire department president Tim Levison, band manager Bob Haggett, and director of music Andy VanDuynne. (Ron Robertson photo)

CSEA May Seek Reopener Over Holiday

BY JOANNE SKOOG

CANTON — St. Lawrence County Civil Service Employees Association officials may exercise their right to an automatic reopening of their contract to discuss with the county whether they should have the state's first Martin Luther King Day off.

But unless union officials request the action, the employees will be on the job next Monday while county offices will be closed to the public.

At Monday night's meeting of the St. Lawrence County Legislature, following a lengthy discussion, the board voted 15 to 7 to require its employees work on the state holiday because while the state says offices must be closed to the public, it does not specify employees must be given the day off.

But Ralph Greco (D-Star Lake), who cited a paragraph in the current CSEA contract, said if the state legislature passed any permissive legislation regarding public employees, the union would have an automatic reopener to discuss how it would be implemented.

While the union has not requested the contract, currently under

negotiation, be opened regarding the Martin Luther King holiday, Greco said the resolution requiring the employees to work belonged "in the Pearl Harbor file."

And Ernie LaBaff (D-Norwood), who said last week he was in favor of the employees working, said Monday night that because all the neighboring counties were giving their workers the day off, St. Lawrence County should too.

"The board should treat their employees like the rest of the counties," he said.

LaBaff, supported by legislator Lloyd Moore (R-Clare), introduced an amended resolution to give the employees the day off, which was defeated 20 to 2.

"I think it's ridiculous if the union will go along and introduce something for a new contract and ignore what they've already got," Greco said.

Administrative Assistant John Krol said many counties are taking the same action as St. Lawrence County. "It's definitely a gray area. We can jump on either side."

"If we give it off, can you guarantee we won't end up paying time and a half because of some improper action," Donald Liv-

ington (R-Oswegatchie) asked Krol.

"The answer is there are no guarantees on anything," Krol replied. Attorneys across the state have said the county's action is legal, but "that's not to say CSEA is not going to take on 30 to 40 counties and win."

Out of 52 counties, there are probably 20 ways to deal with the holiday, he said. "Many counties statewide are taking the same approach we are, Onondaga, Monroe, Erie. Perhaps they're all wrong and their unions are stupider than ours," he said.

"If the union wants to allow you to dilute this," Greco said of the automatic reopening clause, "based on your interpretation, fine. I'll go along with it."

"The union could go to PERB (Public Employees Relations Board) for an automatic reopener," he said.

Legislator Allen Rishe replied, "If that's what Mr. Greco thinks the union will do, we ought to give them the chance."

"We're here for the benefit of the taxpayer, we're not here to represent the unions."

County Lawmakers Okay Judge's Office Rental

BY JOANNE SKOOG

CANTON — Supreme Court Justice Michael W. Duskas' new office space in a former private home was approved by the St. Lawrence County Legislature Monday night.

The board agreed to rent a two family home from Hugh A. McElhearn, Canton, adjacent to the county complex in the village for \$600 a month. But they did not rule out purchasing the building after one, two or three years of the three year lease.

Renovations to the building to turn it into the judge's chambers and law library are expected to cost \$3,000.

According to Administrative Assistant John Krol, the board could buy the building now at a cost of \$45,000 or at the end of one year for \$40,000. The price would remain at \$40,000 at the end of each year of the three year lease, he said.

"The optimum time to buy would be at the end of one year," Krol said.

Local governments would lose about \$90 a month in taxes, he said, if the county bought the property.

Because there is also a barn on the property which the county can use for storage, allowing them to reduce the amount of space they rent in a private warehouse, the rental cost "is more like \$410 a month rather than \$600," Krol said.

Village and town of Canton boards have already gone on record opposing any purchase by the county because of the loss to the tax rolls. The municipalities already have two of the highest

rates of tax exempt property in the state.

Ernie LaBaff (D-Norwood) said he originally wanted to vote against the contract because of the tax loss but said the building was previously owned by St. Lawrence University and was not coming off the tax rolls. "If we don't go any longer than one year, I support this," he said.

McElhearn purchased the building from SLU last August for about \$30,000. It is now on the tax rolls. He says his intention at the time was to turn it into apartments.

The board passed the contract unanimously except for one abstention. William Sheridan (R-Canton) who served as the realtor in the sale between SLU and McElhearn abstained.

McElhearn must get a zoning variance to use the property as office space.

In other board action Monday night:

— The board approved renting 2,718 sq. ft. of storage space in a warehouse in the village for \$555 a month for a maximum of one year. Last month the board approved the building of its own warehouse at a cost of \$45,000 for storage needs.

— Approved 1985 insurance rates, including a 29 percent increase in property, liability and

Permit Now Needed To Install Woodstove

For those considering wood as an additional or alternative heat source for their homes, it should be noted that a new state law is in effect requiring a building permit for woodstove installation.

Potsdam village Building Inspector Herbert Crump noted that a law that went into effect Jan. 1, 1984 requires all woodstove retailers to notify purchasers that they should contact the local building code enforcement officer before installation.

A new law, effective Jan. 1, 1985, specifically requires a building permit before a woodstove can be installed.

The law also requires inspection of the stove and chimney before either are used.

Improper installation of woodstoves is considered a cause of many house fires.

'Bite The Bullet' On Tax Increases, Trustees Told

BY RON ROBERTSON

It's time to bite the tax bullet to pay for some needed repairs to village streets and buildings, Potsdam village trustees said last week.

At a special meeting Jan. 9 to discuss budget priorities for the 1985-86 fiscal year, the village board agreed to begin budgeting funds for needed capital repairs and improvements.

Three village streets — Madrid Avenue, May Road, and upper Bay Street — are badly in need of repairs which have been put off year after year, Mayor Paul Claffey said.

Trustee Girard Mulherin said "it's time to bite the bullet with the taxes and get at least one of the road projects down."

"It's going to be an interesting budget development time," Mulherin said.

"It sure is," agreed Trustee Jeffrey Belodoff, "there's going to be some tough choices."

"There's a tremendous wish list of things we'd all like to do to get our equipment and buildings back into shape," Belodoff said.

Belodoff said the village should "prioritize" those improvements and take care of the most serious in the coming year.

Mulherin said the street with the most traffic should be rebuilt first.

Building Improvements

In addition to the poor condition of some streets, the board pointed out the deteriorating condition of the village-owned Civic Center and fire department buildings.

The roof of the Potsdam Public Library, part of the Civic Center, is

leaking and is in need of repairs, trustees said.

A roof, said Trustee Mulherin, is an "integral" part of a building's function.

"Even deferring that for one year," Mulherin said, "would be very, very foolish."

Cost of repairing the library's roof, Mayor Claffey said, is estimated at \$15,000.

Trustees also discussed a floor in the fire department building that's in poor shape, the near-dangerous condition of the Civic Center's electrical wiring, and the insufficient heating system in the village office complex.

The Civic Center boiler heats the museum, library, village offices, and the fire station.

In addition to funding building and street improvements, Trustee Hugh Sprague said, the village should also begin a fund for replacement of equipment.

With much of the village's equipment getting old, Sprague said, it would be a good idea to start a fund for replacement now rather than wait until something breaks down.

First among aging equipment, trustees said, is the village-owned garbage truck used for municipal trash pickup.

While the board did not discuss eliminating the pickup program, it noted that the truck is about 10 years old and has been rebuilt several times. Life expectancy of that type of truck, officials said, is five or six years.

A replacement truck, said Trustee Belodoff, is expected to cost about \$85,000.

Police Seek Missing Man

Potsdam village police have issued an all points bulletin for a 26-year-old Potsdam man who reportedly hasn't been seen since the early morning hours of New Year's Day.

Sgt. Daniel Manor said today (Tuesday) that Potsdam police have not received any confirmed sightings of Gary Lee Osgood since his brother, David, last saw him at the 41 Pierrepont Ave. apartment they share.

David Osgood last saw his brother, Manor said, at about 5 a.m. on Jan. 1.

Manor said police are also searching for a yellow fiberglass canoe that disappeared from behind the 41 Pierrepont Ave. house at about the same time as Osgood.

There is no connection between Osgood and the missing canoe, Manor said, except that they apparently disappeared at about the same time.

The canoe is described as yellow with a white interior and an Indian head painted on the front.

Manor said police conducted an unfruitful aerial search of the Racquette River for the canoe, hoping that it had been cast adrift.

Police have no reason to believe that the missing canoe has anything to do with Osgood's disappearance, Manor stressed.

Manor said there's no reason for police to believe Osgood would take his own life.

"Nobody has indicated he was dependent," Manor said, although Osgood is reported to have told someone he was considering starting all over in a new town with a new name.

Osgood, the son of Gene and Helen Osgood of Sanfordville, was reported missing by his mother Jan. 6.

Manor said police were not immediately concerned because Osgood, who is unemployed, is known to move in with a friend for a few days or to take a trip for a time without telling friends or relatives.

"We had to eliminate all other possibilities of his whereabouts" before police officially listed him as missing, Manor said.

It is unusual, Manor said, for Osgood to be away for more than a few days without contacting family members, particularly since his father's birthday and his own birthday, Jan. 10, have passed since he was last seen.

Osgood, Manor said, is described as five feet, five inches tall with brown hair and brown eyes. At 145 pounds, Osgood also wears a beard and moustache.

When last seen by his brother, Osgood was wearing a gray sweater, blue jeans, and a gray jacket with red and blue stripes on the sleeves, Manor said.

Manor said police are continuing the whereabouts of either Osgood or the canoe, Manor said, is urged to contact the Potsdam Police Department at 265-2121.

Meanwhile, police will continue their search for the canoe along Racquette River and wait for a response to a missing persons bulletin released nationwide.

On The Inside...

Page 5: Norwood Union Free School's history, with photos.
Page 7: MTN vaudeville show coming.
Page 11: Area banks announce staff changes.
Pages 15, 16, 17, 20: High school and college sports, bowling scores.



TRUCK FLIPS — Two Massena residents escaped serious injury Sunday afternoon after the truck in which they were riding left Route 88 just outside Potsdam, struck guard rails on the right hand side of the road, traveled along the guard rails and through the air, coming to rest on its top. Richard P. Jacques,

21, Massena, and his passenger, Carol Reynolds, also 21, were taken to Canton-Potsdam Hospital by Potsdam Rescue Squad, where they were treated and released for minor injuries after the 1:30 p.m. mishap. No summonses were issued, according to county sheriff's deputies. (Betsy Baker photo)