

Calif. Firm To Provide Hospital's Emergency Services

Effective Feb. 3, Canton-Potsdam Hospital will team with a California firm, National Emergency Services (NES), to provide 24-hour per day staffing of the hospital's emergency services department, hospital officials have announced.

Canton-Potsdam will be the only hospital in St. Lawrence County providing full-time emergency services coverage by physicians.

Under the present system, the emergency services department is staffed by Dr. Robert Harryman, by two physician assistants, and by residents who work during the weekends.

Dr. Harryman is leaving Canton-Potsdam Hospital at the end of this month to take a position with the House of the Good Samaritan in Watertown. One of the current physician assistants serving the emergency room is taking a position at another North Country hospital, while a second PA will be leaving to pursue further academic training, according to hospital officials.

Cost of the new system will be about \$300,000-\$400,000 annually, a small increase over current costs, according to hospital spokesman Clifford Westerling.

Westerling said that the physicians provided by NES will work full time for the emergency services department at the hospital. They will not have private practices, he said.

And Westerling noted that the residents, who have come to the hospital from Syracuse and Montreal, will no longer be used under the new system.

Hospital officials discussed emergency services staffing "in the latter half of 1985," Westerling said, with the decision made in November to look at firms providing this service, and the decision made in December to go with NES.

Advance Level Of Service
"We are constantly striving to advance our level of medical service," said William Sloan, chair-

man of the hospital's board of directors.

"Emergency care is a major concern for the residents of the community," Sloan said. "We think, with our new emergency care center to be built soon and this advance in staffing, that emergency care is an area of excellence for Canton-Potsdam Hospital."

In 1981, the hospital became the first in the county to provide full-time emergency coverage with physicians or physicians assistants.

The upgrading to all-physician coverage will include staffing by a medical director, two staff physicians, and additional physicians provided as needed by NES, hospital officials said.

According to officials, there will be no change in patient billing procedures and patients will not receive separate bills from NES or NES physicians.

Initially, NES will provide a start-up team of physicians, experienced with initiating service at

other hospitals.

NES staffs emergency departments in more than 150 hospitals in 25 states. This includes large hospitals such as the 493-bed Southside Hospital on Long Island and the 310-bed Palms of Pasadena Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla.

NES also serves such community hospitals as Valley Regional of Claremont, N.H., Mohawk Valley in Ilion, N.Y., and Jamestown, N.Y., General Hospital.

After the start-up period, three physicians will locate here on an ongoing basis, and will reside in the community. All physicians must meet NES standards and must also meet the credential standards of the Canton-Potsdam Hospital board of directors and medical staff.

In addition to emergency services physicians, registered nurses certified in coronary care and other support staff are always on duty in the emergency services department.

Canton-Potsdam Hospital

medical staff specializing in obstetrics, general medicine, pediatrics and surgery are on call to assist.

Based in California with five regional offices, NES has a pool of more than 1,500 affiliated physicians. In addition to being licensed in New York, NES requires that the physicians be board-eligible or board-certified in family practice, internal medicine, general surgery or emergency medicine or possess appropriate emergency department experience.

In addition, each NES physician must be qualified in advance cardiac life support, advanced trauma life support, ability to direct pre-hospital emergency care and ability to stabilize psychiatric emergencies.

NES will also work with the hospital on managing the department and support added programs in quality assurance and continuing education.

A special concern of NES is developing the best possible rela-

tionships with area emergency services and working with them to ensure ongoing training.

People are strongly encouraged to contact their family physicians with minor or routine health problems, hospital officials said. An emergency service has to be geared to taking care of emergency cases first, noted hospital President C. Edward Stevens.

Minor cases must often wait while emergency cases are handled and emergency services charges are likely to be higher than the cost of a visit to a doctor's office.

Approximately 17,000 patients each year are treated in the emergency room. To meet needs for expanded space, a 9,000 square-foot emergency and ambulatory care center will be built, with groundbreaking set for June.

Cost of the center will be approximately \$3.2 million, funded in part by a \$1.1 million capital campaign. A \$530,000 Urban Development Action Grant has also been provided, administered through the Village of Potsdam to support the project.

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER

Date	Hi	Lo	Pop
Tues.	41	31	0
Wed.	6	-13	0
Thurs.	25	-6	0
Fri.	47	1	tr.r
Sat.	44	37	0
Sun.	40	31	.24r
Mon.	37	33	1.7r,ls

Courier Freeman

A PARK NEWSPAPER

Local development corp. approved. See story this week.

VOL. 133 NO. 44

COURIER & FREEMAN, (USPS 1354-0000) POTSDAM, N.Y. - TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1986

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Residents Question Mobile Homes

BY BETSY BAKER

Town of Potsdam residents opposed to mobile homes in single and two-family dwelling zones asked town officials last week to reconsider proposed changes to zoning regulations that would allow the mobile homes.

At a public hearing Thursday on the town's newly revised zoning code, several residents asked town board and town planning board members for more stringent rules governing mobile homes.

Others at the hearing asked for more protection from commercial or other development, and some questioned the new Highway Development (H-D) zone, which would encourage development along the Potsdam-Canton Road.

And one May Road resident, Delores Johnson, presented the town board and town planning board members with an 85-signature petition - a petition that she said was signed by property owners who are opposed to allowing mobile homes in R-2 zones.

The town planning board, which has been working with county planner Margo Fenn for two years on revisions to the town zoning code, will look into the issues raised by residents and report back to the town board, according to Town Clerk Mary Frost.

The town board will then schedule a second public hearing

on the matter, Frost said.

Under the proposed regulations, three classes of mobile homes would be allowed. Class A mobile homes, double-wide units meeting state and federal codes and placed on permanent foundations, would be allowed by special permit in R-1 and R-2 zones, and would be a standard use in all other zones. Class B homes, post-1974 single-wide units meeting state or federal codes, would be allowed as a standard use in Residential-Agricultural (R-A), Community Center (C-C) and Highway Development (H-D) zones and by special permit in R-2. Class C, other mobile homes, would be allowed by special permit in R-A and H-D.

Town officials said that the double-wide units, placed on a foundation and having a pitched roof and standard siding, look like constructed homes.

One speaker at the public hearing, Jerry Thomas, said he had been in the mobile home sales business some years ago. He told the boards that some pre-1974 mobile homes, which he described as "Gold Seal" homes, were of higher quality than some manufactured under the new minimum standards.

"I really feel you're doing a lot of people who own older homes a real injustice," he said.

But other speakers, including James Baxter, objected to mobile homes in the R-1 zone. Baxter, who complimented the planning board on the changes in the code, saying "overall I think they're super," also said he would like to see a buffer zone of R-1 all around the village of Potsdam.

Harold Demick of the Back Hanawa Road said that the present R-2 zone on the west side of that road should be retained. The new code would change that zone to R-A, but Demick said the less restrictive designation might mean developers of housing could come into the area.

Helen Brouwer, a member of the village of Potsdam's planning board, said she is concerned with the H-D zone created by the revised code.

"If it's done prudently," Juravich said, "then it could be a risk-taker. That's what it's for."

Brouwer said of the new zone, which would run along Rt. 11, the Potsdam-Canton Road, to the Canton town line and along Route 56 to the Adams Road.

Commercial and industrial development would be encouraged along the main highways.

Brouwer said that the open views along the highway should be preserved and development clustered, perhaps at crossroads.

Town planning board member Richard Duryea questioned: "Where else in the town can someone go to operate a business that has some traffic?"

And others noted that too many restrictions drive businesses and residents away from the township.

County planner Margo Fenn noted that the county planning board, which reviewed the proposed code changes, suggested limiting the H-D zone, creating instead a C-C zone from the Eben's Corners Road to the New York State Police barracks on Rt. 11.

Town Supervisor Leslie Cook said that the town is not bound by the county planning board's recommendations, but to override them the town needs a majority plus one vote.

Fenn also noted that the revised code contains provision for use variances. Under the present code, only area variances are allowed, which, Fenn said, is illegal.

Other revisions to the code include a change in lot size requirements, from two acres to 1.5 acres for one family dwellings; creation of a revised zoning map; and addition of a table of contents and definitions.



EERIE MIST - A dark fog rises from the West Branch of the St. Regis River upstream from Parishville as a sharp hike in temperature this weekend caused thick mists to form throughout the area. (Ron Robertson photo)

Trustees Approve Local Development Corporation

BY RON ROBERTSON

The Potsdam village board voted Monday night to form a local development corporation (LDC) that could help spur economic development in the community.

"It's not the first time (the proposal) has been before this board," said Trustee Jeffrey Belodoff referring to at least two previous attempts by Community Development (CD) Director Robert Juravich to present the idea of an LDC to previous village boards.

An LDC, Belodoff said, "is another mechanism by which we can get a bigger piece of the community development pie."

The local development corporation would allow use of CD loans as collateral to borrow money for economic development.

Throughout several years, the CD office has loaned long-term, low interest loans to homeowners and businessmen. The money that is owned the CD office can be used as

collateral, Juravich said, as well as the money itself when it is paid back.

The village's corporation "would not in any way compete with private developers," Belodoff said, and would be "a developer of last resort" when private concerns cannot find the capital on their own for economic projects.

There would be no village general fund monies used for the corporation, which would be independent from the village.

Legal papers to form the corporation have not been drawn, Juravich said, but officials should hold an organizational meeting soon to determine who the board of directors will be.

Initially, Juravich said, the corporate board would be made up of the members of the village Board of Trustees. The trustees, he said, would be involved with the corporation as private individuals, not as public officials.

Juravich, said Mayor Paul Claf-

fey, would act as executive director of the corporation.

"It will be a separate corporation, separate from the village government, although the Board of Trustees and the mayor, and possibly others would form the governing board," said Mayor Paul Claffey.

Officials have not yet decided whether other members of the board or directors or who they would be.

"Obviously from time to time as the (village) board changes, so would the membership of the corporation," Juravich said.

"From a technical point of view," he said, "it's being formed by five individuals."

"Its (the corporation's) objective would be to gather up these monies that might be available," Claffey said, "and put these to the best use for the development of the village."

In addition to using loan repayments as capital and collateral, Claffey said, the corporation would be eligible for state and federal funds the village cannot tap such as grants and loans from the Job Development Authority (JDA).

A separate corporation, Juravich said, could take financial risks the

village legally cannot.

"I think it (the LDC idea) is a long time coming," said Trustee Hugh Sprague. "We should have latched onto this when it was first thought up."

Village Treasurer Barbara Lenhart, who opposed the LDC idea when she was a village trustee, expressed concern that "the faith and credit of the village" would be at risk from the efforts of the corporation.

Juravich explained that the village would in no way be responsible for the actions of the LDC.

"If it's done prudently," Juravich said, "then it could be a risk-taker. That's what it's for."

Village Begins Budget Process

BY RON ROBERTSON

The Village of Potsdam's budget process has just gotten underway, according to Administrator Robert Burns, and village trustees should have tentative budget figures by about the first week in March.

Because of the grave economic outlook presented two weeks ago by Village Treasurer Barbara Lenhart, Burns said all department heads were asked to trim 10 percent from their budgets. Only payrolls will be spared from spending cuts, Burns said.

At Monday night's village board meeting, Burns reported that some of the non-elected village officials met last Tuesday to discuss the budget and will meet again today (Tuesday).

Meetings with individual department heads will begin soon, he said. The board will have the opportunity to meet with department heads beginning in March.

For the next several weeks, Burns said, "we will be looking

very, very closely at all of the expenditures" in an effort to bring village costs down.

At the board's Jan. 6 meeting, Lenhart predicted the village would suffer a \$27 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation tax hike if all village spending remains the same.

Lenhart blamed the bulk of the village's predicted woes on insufficient revenues at the hydroelectric plant and the termination this year of federal revenue sharing funds.

Burns said he is trying to formulate a spending plan that would allow the village to repair streets, sidewalks and water and sewer lines on a regular basis.

The streets and areas that need work the most would get priority, Burns said.

In other action, the board:

- Passed a resolution proclaiming Jan. 20, 1986 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, in honor of his historic efforts on behalf of civil rights.

Two Hearings Set

Two sign variance requests will be before the town of Potsdam Zoning Board of Appeals at a public hearing set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the town offices, 35 Market St.

Jim Snell of Snell's TV and Appliance has requested a sign variance for his business on Rt. 56, in a Commercial-Industrial (C-I) zone. The signs Snell has proposed do not conform with the town's land use and development code regulations, according to Elizabeth Fessenden, code enforcement officer.

Joseph Callpari has requested a sign variance for his business, Callpari's Music Store, located on Rt. 56 in a C-I zone. The signs he proposes do not conform to the town's regulations.



INTO THE POOL! - Janette Garvett, left, swimming instructor for Potsdam College's non-credit Parent-Tot swimming course, prepares for the spring semester classes in the newly regulated Merritt Hall pool. Mary Ashley Carroll, right, teaches her son, William, how to have fun and be safe in the water. Classes begin Jan. 27. For registration information call toll-free 1-800-481-0068, ext. 2164.

Stoners At Home Tonight; Hockey Team Faces Massena Saturday; Bears Tackle Hartwick, Albany