Ely Denies Resignation Was Due To Criticism; Harmony on Council
Retiring Official Says Heavy Business Responsibility Prompted Act; Calls Petitions Counterfeit

In a brief and significant note, Mr. Walter Ely, at the Township Council meeting held on Dec. 20, presented his resignation as a member of the council, to be effective Dec. 31, 1932. Although Mr. Ely had stated as long ago as last June, in the presence of other councilmen and some of the other township officials that under no circumstances would he retain his office after the end of 1932, nevertheless his resignation involved an element of surprise, since he had made no advance statement as to the date when his resignation would be presented.

Accompanying the formal letter of resignation, Mr. Ely submitted a letter of explanation addressed to the other members of the Council, and reading as follows:

"In submitting my resignation as a member of this body, I wish to publicly record the circumstances that have brought about this decision.

Old Photographs Given To Town By Morrison

Mr. Frank A. Morrison, of Morrison, Lloyd & Morrison, who resides at 7 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, has long been interested in the history of the Township and in the course of years has made a collection of relics and pictures showing the Teaneck that was in earlier times.

In this collection Mr. Morrison recently selected and had framed—all attractively arranged—in one frame—seven pictures which show the old Phelps residences, and the ruins of the oldest, which stood for about thirty-seven years on the site where the Town Hall now stands.

This set of pictures, already of great historical interest, and which will be of still greater interest as the years roll by, was given by Mr. Morrison a short time ago to

Fleishman Elected Garden Club Head

The Garden Club of Teaneck, not yet eight months old, is going along splendidly. It has attained a membership of one hundred and fifty and now ranks high among the civic organizations of Teaneck. Each monthly meeting of the club sees its rolls increasing, also its enthusiasm.

The club plans to have a speaker or lecturer of some kind at each meeting. This helps the gardeners with their problems, of which there are many. At the November meeting the club had the pleasure of Mr. Frank Fleischman of Peterson & Company giving a lecture upon spring flowering bulbs, illustrated with excellent slides, which he took on his travels through Holland on a recent visit. There was a large attendance and many important matters were disposed of.

At its December meeting Mr. Eisenbrook of Peterson & Company from Arcola told the club about the propagation and preservation of roses and peonies.

The question of securing lumber for tables came up and a committee was appointed to look into this matter and report at the January meeting. The club voted to donate a substantial sum to the relief of the poor in Teaneck.

Officers for 1933 were elected, nominations being made from the floor. Those chosen were Mr. Carl Fleischman as president, Dr. Victor H. Palmer as Vice President, Mr. Ralph Halsted as Secretary, Mrs. Martin as treasurer, and two recording secretaries, Mrs. William Senn and Mrs. R. Halsted.

Another question discussed was the problem of what to do about dogs in the town that are destroying the taxpayers gardens. The club thought it best to get in touch with the township officials, to see what could be done along this line.

All meetings of the Garden Club of Teaneck are open to the public and all citizens are cordially invited to attend, whether members of the club or not, and get the benefit of the club's program of

State Sets Up $26,300 For Share in Paving West Englewood Ave.

From Township and Borough Aid Funds at its disposal, available for construction of county and municipal roads, the State Highway Commission has appropriated $26,300 as the state's seventy-five per cent of the cost of paving West Englewood Avenue from Windsor Road west to River Road.

Whether this improvement, which is badly needed, will be made in 1933, now depends upon the action of the Board of Freeholders of Bergen County, which must appropriate the remaining twenty-five percent if the work is to be done. There seems to be little doubt that this will be done, since the amount required from the county is less than $9,000.

While no official action has been taken by the Freeholders, it has been stated unofficially that Teaneck's for this improvement, which has been long pending, will be given.

Sums Up The Evils And Cures of Town Finance

(Note—The following article by Irwin G. Ross, whose experience as banker and investment expert makes this article an excellent, highly valuable to the Township, is commended to the careful attention of all readers of the Town Manager. (Editor))

By IRWIN G. ROSS
Chairman of Advisory Board on Finance

About four years ago, practically every town, regardless of size or financial stability could go into the municipal money market and borrow funds on advantageous terms.

At the close of 1929 the sunlight of prosperity faded; evening came. One by one the lights of factories and stores flickered out. It was the awakening for all.

Today, we stand at the dawning of a new era and I believe that all budgets not only will be balanced but balanced as to the conditions as they exist today. Let us hope that in Teaneck take a moment in retrospect.

The fundamental factors of government...
To Our Depositors

At the close of 1932 we again say... "Thank You!"

At this holiday season when all the world is thinking of others, our thoughts turn naturally to our depositors. Your confidence, cooperation and goodwill during the past year have been for us a constant source of encouragement and inspiration...

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your friendship and your patronage, and to wish you and yours a full measure of health, happiness and increasing prosperity during nineteen thirty-three?

West Englewood National Bank
West Englewood - New Jersey

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS ARE PRESENTED TO TOWN
BY F. A. MORRISON
(Continued)

Township Manager Volcker, who in turn has presented them to the Township with the idea that they are to be placed either in the Town Hall or in the library.

Mr. Morrison's letter of transmission addressed to Mr. Volcker, is as follows:

"It gives me a great deal of pleasure to send to you the photographs of the Phelps' Ruins and of the later home of the Honorable William Walter Phelps, known as The Grange.

"To those of us who have lived in and about Teaneck for many years, the Phelps Estate and particularly the Phelps' Ruins recall many happy memories.
"With the development of the tract which at one time extended from the Hackensack River to and beyond the Overpeck Creek, there has passed an estate comparable with the finest of which this country can boast, and at the same time there passes a monument to the life work and character of a man.

"And yet it is still true that the good that men do lives after them. There are many of us who have received a very definite imprint upon our character and upon our tastes, because of the effort and the treasure expended by Mr. Phelps in the esthetic development of his estate, and his generous

public spiritedness, which made of this estate a place open to the people for their enjoyment.

"The 'Phelps Estate' and the Phelps Ruins symbolize to me the real purpose of a man interested in all things for the public good, and, beyond the mere purpose, real accomplishment. I do not intend to flatter you, but in my frequent contacts with you since the cessation of my official position in the Township, I sincerely feel that you, too, exemplify the real purpose of a man interested in all things for the public good and, beyond the mere purpose, have shown real accomplishment.

"It is therefore gratifying to me to have you accept the group of views, and since you desire to do so, I gladly consent to your placing the pictures in any public building of the Township, where I hope they may remain some years as a slight token of my appreciation of the public spiritedness of one man whom I never knew, and of another man of like spirit whose acquaintance and regard I shall always prize.

Sincerely,

"Frank A. Morrison."

Mr. Morrison, who was the first appointee of the present administration as Township Counsel, resigned that position because of lack of time to attend to its requirements.

Pending a decision as to where they shall be placed permanently, the framed photographs of the Phelps Estate mansions and ruins are in Mr. Volcker's office at Town Hall. A visit to Town Hall to see them is well worth while for anyone interested in the history of Teaneck.

As we enter the new year with renewed hopes for better things we extend to our many friends and customers our sincere wishes for a bright and happy future.
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CHIEF MURRAY SURVEYS
STATUS AND NEEDS OF
FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued)
times, and I will do everything in my power to operate the department with minimum cost. However, I feel that it is my duty to call your attention to the condition that exists in the department, and to make the proper recommendations to remedy same.

"I do not believe it just at this time to make any improvement that would occasion a raise in taxes, but believe everything should be done to reduce them. If it is decided by the Township Manager that not one recommendation can be carried out this year, I assure you I will do everything I can to operate the department with its present force and equipment to the best of my ability."

In this connection it is emphasized that the value to citizens of improvement in fire protection service cannot be measured by saving in insurance costs alone, but to even greater degree in the saving of lives and avoidance of the mental and financial stress and distress incident to the tragedy of being "burned out", which at best arises all too often in any community.

Addressed to Mr. Volcker as Township Manager and Fire Commissioner, the report reads in part as follows:

I herewith respectfully submit a tentative proposal covering requirements for the Fire Department, some of which I recommend be provided for in the 1933 budget, and others to be taken over a period of three years.

Water Supply—As far as I am able to determine, we have a very adequate water supply in the territory covered by the Hackensack Water Co. The district covered by the Bogota Water Company can be improved on. The water pressure at some points in this district is quite low, especially on the higher elevations.

This is a problem which we cannot control, but can only recommend be remedied.

The Hackensack Water Co. is gradually replacing all small barrelled hydrants having 2½" openings with larger hydrants and with steamer connections, and I believe the coming year will see the change completed.

I recommend that an additional appropriation be made in 1933 to cover the installation of fifty new hydrants. These at a yearly rental cost of $12.00 per hydrant would mean an increase of $600.00.

Apparatus—The Schedule Rating Association has penalized us about 80 points deficiency on apparatus, 45 points for not having an aerial ladder truck, and 40 points for being deficient in available pumping equipment.

Our population of 20,000 calls for 1.6 ladder trucks based on the formula 1 plus 0.08 P, where P represents the population in thousands. This is now very close to two trucks.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters require an aerial truck where five buildings are four stories or higher. I quote from their manual for rating Towns and Cities, section 9, page 38, under Fire Department. "An aerial ladder must be provided in a district where five buildings are four stories or higher."

We have at this time ten buildings that are four stories or higher. Therefore, not having an aerial truck, we suffer 45 points deficiency.

In addition to the credits we would secure we have a moral obligation in this matter, as we now have several building that are beyond the reach of our longest ladder which is 50 feet. In the event of a fire in the top floor of some of these buildings we would be seriously handicapped in reaching the fire or in saving life. The advantages of an aerial ladder over the ground ladders are—

1st—Ease of operation. One man can operate a seventy-five foot aerial ladder, and maneuver it from one window to the other. This compared with eight men usually necessary to put up a fifty foot ground ladder.

2nd—It can be used as a water tower, making possible streams in operation with good penetration on floors above the third floor.

3rd—It can be handled on turns and in narrow streets more easily, owing to its flexibility of operation, due to rear tiller steering and tractor type drive.

I therefore recommend that an aerial truck be purchased in 1933, at an approximate cost of $16,000.

Pumping Engines—We are now charged with 40 points deficiency for lack of pumping apparatus. We require 500 gallons per minute more capacity. I recommend we overcome this deficiency in the following manner:

We are now dispatching to about fifty per cent of all brush and grass fires a 1,000 gal. per minute, 150 horsepowered engine, costing $10,000.00. This is not an economical procedure. I therefore recommend that we purchase a combination 500 gallon per minute pumping engine and squad car. This piece of apparatus could be equipped to carry a booster tank of 200 gallons capacity, 1,000 feet hose body, thirty brush brooms, first aid equipment and other emergency tools. It would be a very efficient piece of apparatus, and would eliminate sending the larger pumping engine to these numerous brush fires.

I therefore recommend that this type of engine be purchased in 1933 at a cost of about $7,500.00.

Both hose wagons now in service at Station No. 3 and 4 are unfit for fire service. They are very old, heavily overloaded and in a dangerous condition for men to ride on. They should be replaced with modern equipment. The above mentioned 500 gallon per minute combination pumping engine and squad wagon would replace one of these trucks. I recommend that the other one be replaced immediately.

(Continued on Page 5)
Prescriptions

CHIEF MURRAY SURVEYS

STATUS AND NEEDS OF

FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued)  

ately with the purchase of a 1½ ton truck chassis costing about $1,000.00.  

We would remove all old equipment taken from old hose wagons, and would assemble the equipment with men in the department.  

The total cost of this apparatus should not exceed $1,200.00. This apparatus would immediately be placed in service at Hose No. 4, where the present Reo is continually giving us trouble.  

It is at present in a dangerous condition, and owing to its age I would not recommend spending any money on repairs other than enough to keep it in service until it can be replaced.  

The above plan would give the Township:

1- Aerial Ladder Truck.
1- City Service Ladder Truck.
1- 1,000 G. P. M. Pumping Engine.
1- Type 75 Junior Pump 350 G. P. M. Pumping Engine.
1- 500 G. P. M. Combination Pump and Squad Engine.
1- Combination Booster and Hose Wagon.

This equipment would eliminate all the deficiencies charged against us, meeting all requirements of the Schedule Rating Bureau.

The estimated cost of new apparatus is:

1- Aerial Truck . . . $16,000.00
1- 500 gal. pump . . 7,500.00
1- hose wagon . . . 1,200.00

Total . . . $24,700.00

Training—During the past year there has been conducted a Fire College course of training and two Drill School courses, where for the paid force and one for the Volunteers, and a great benefit has been derived from this schooling.  

However, I have been handicapped in giving the men a complete school, owing to lack of equipment, which I did not request this year, as I felt this work could be put off until 1933.

In order to conduct some of the outside drills on ladders and ropes, it is absolutely essential to safeguard the lives of the men by having a large net spread under them.  

This we have not obtained, but would recommend that one be purchased in 1933 at a cost of $375.00.

We have a very fine drill tower with the exception that there are no landings at the different floors, therefore not more than 25% efficiency can be had from this tower.  

If the landings were on each floor we could get the full benefit from this tower and many drill school evolutions now impossible to teach could be included in our curriculum.

I therefore recommend that provision be made in the 1933 budget covering cost of installing landings on all floors of the tower. Estimated cost $250.00.

I also recommend that we purchase four pumper ladders at a cost of $75.00 each, total of $300.  

These ladders are of the scaling type and used to reach floors or roof when the regular ladders cannot be used. They are also extensively used in the drill school to teach men how to scale the outside of a building. The use of these ladders in the drill school gives the men confidence in themselves while climbing ladders.

Cost of Drill School equipment, and repairs to tower—

Landings in tower . . . $250.00
Large Rope Life Net . . 275.00
Four Pumper Ladders 250.00

Total . . . $955.00

Fire Alarms—We have started a modern fire alarm system, but in order to get classification above class D (We are now Class E) we must install fire alarm boxes.  

I believe we will start soon running a fire alarm circuit line from fire headquarters to all the other fire stations, and as this wire will pass through considerable of our business section and also pass Holy Name Hospital and several of our schools, it would be very easy for us to install fire alarm boxes and connect to our present system.

With these installed we could receive immediately over the system, and have recorded in all stations at the same time, any fire that might be discovered on our streets and not within reach of a telephone. Any fire in the hospital or schools could be immediately transmitted over the box circuit.  

I believe we could get the hospital officials and school board to install their own boxes, and we would install same and connect to our system.

I therefore recommend purchasing twenty fire alarm boxes, at a cost of about $2,000.00.

I recommend that a fire alarm circuit line be run between headquarters and all other stations, and connected into Police headquarters, and that a punch register be installed in all the above mentioned places. This would eliminate entirely the use of the telephone between these points for the dispatching of companies to fires, and would greatly speed up the response of apparatus, also the notification of the police of a fire.

The cost of four punch registers would be about $500.00.

I recommend that your honorable board consider investigating the cost of installing a modern fire alarm system complete, starting as soon as is convenient; that a complete survey of the Township be made, and that estimates be received. This work should be completed in three years.

Hazards—I recommend that the new building code be adopted as soon as possible, as the Schedule Rating Association has partially held up giving us a new rate pending the adoption of the new code.

I also recommend that an ordinance be adopted regulating the installation of Oil Heating and Storage equipment; also mechanical refrigerating devices other than those in private homes; also the adoption of an ordinance regulating the installation of bulk gasoline and oil storage plants; also an ordinance for smoke abatement.  

(Continued on Page 6)
THE TOWN MANAGER

January, 1933.

CHIEF MURRAY SURVEYS
STATUS AND NEEDS OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued)

Personnel—Personnel of the Department for 1933.

I recommend that Volunteer Hose Co., No. 3 and No. 1 be disbanded, giv­
ing the following reasons:

Hose Co. No. 3 has only seven

active members. The others are all exempt firemen not obliged to do fire duty. Nearly all of this company are business men and quite a few commute and are not available for fire duty. At the last two house fires, both of them seri­ous fires, not one volunteer fire­
man responded from this company, and one of the fires was in their district and they were first due in. Both fires were at night, when you would expect these men to respond. At a fire on Catalpa Avenue, the siren on Hose 3 quarters sounded for twenty minutes, and not one fireman answered the call. Several firemen from Hose 4 at Glenwood Park hearing the continuous sound­
ing of the siren drove the appara­
tus to the fire. This was a serious fire and I needed men badly.

Now let us take a more recent fire. On December 9th, at 3:36 a.m. a fire was discovered by a passerby at 641 Johnson Avenue, corner of Palisade Avenue. Hose 3 was first due, as this fire was in their district. Fireman White of the paid force ran from Park Ave­

due to the fire station and drove the apparatus to the fire, but not one fireman answered the call. This was a serious fire as there was a life hazard involved when we arrived. One man had jumped from the second floor and two women, one 74 years of age, were trapped on the second floor and had to be brought down ladders.

I have attended several of their meetings trying to instill new life into the members, but I find it cannot be done. The personnel of this company is such that they cannot be depended on for fire ser­vice. Some of their members have never attended a fire since I have taken care of the department. I therefore recommend that this company be disbanded.

I recommend that Volunteer Hose Co., No. 1 be disbanded, giv­
ing the following reasons:

"They are located at headquarters, where there are paid men who have full charge of the building and apparatus. When these con­di­tions exist there is usually very little interest taken in fire matters. This company has had only one meeting since May 24th. This shows an utter lack of interest, and it de­prives me of the opportunity of attending meetings and talking over matters of interest and ex­plain­ing any general orders that may be issued. There are only about six active members in this company. These men attended nearly all fires, and are men I would appoint as call men. With these men appointed call men, there would be no volunteers left in this company who could be de­pended on to do fire duty. I can see no reason why this company could not be disbanded. I therefore recommend that this be done.

Personnel of Department for 1933

I recommend that the personnel of the Department for 1933 be made up of 1 Chief, 2 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 19 firemen, 3 fire alarm operators and 15 call men, to be distributed as follows:

Days Headquarters

Engine No. 1

1—Captain

2—Firemen

3—Firemen

Engine No. 2

1—Captain

2—Firemen

Hose Co. No. 3

1—Lieutenant

2—Firemen

Total

20

This would make an ideal work­
ing force for this department. We now have a working force of 1 chief, 9 regular paid men and 2 temporary men, a total of 12 men. In addition we have had an average of two or three firemen work­ing on food tickets. If it were not for these I would not have enough men to man the switch­board and get the apparatus to the fire.

It requires seven men to man switchboard and drive apparatus to the fire, and for two shifts, four­
ten men. I now have only twelve including myself. The proposed layout for 1933 would require an additional fifteen men. Two of these must be paid. I believe it is pos­si­ble for us, after creating a list, to engage substitute or temporary firemen. The item 15 fourth grade firemen, could be worded 15 substit­ute firemen at say $25.00 per week, or any rate decided on by the Commissioner. This would reduce this item from $33,600.00 to $18,000.00 and would reduce the in­crease in payroll from $33,000.00 to $18,000.00.

I have recommended what in my estima­tion would be necessary to bring the fire department up close to standard strength as is requir­ed by the Schedule Rating Associa­tion, and which would most likely result in us getting a rating of Class C. This rating would ma­terially reduce the insurance rates, and I believe the sav­
cost to the taxpayers caused by the change, not taking into considera­tion the additional protection we would receive.

The changes I have recom­mended have all been recommended by the Schedule Rating Assoca­tion, with the exception that they advise having more men than my plan calls for, and recommended a more complete fire alarm system.

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Gun Smoke

No. 5—Frontier Peace Officer

By Capt. Walter C. Mayer

The frontier peace officer who had to rely on the revolver as the weapon of last resort worked out his problems alone. The modern police department is a huge laboratory with all sorts of ballistic experts and microscopic instruments to be called upon, as well as systematized schools of firearms. Both the old-time and modern schools seem to have arrived at the same conclusions; that nine-tenths of the value of the revolver as a peace instrument is psychological; and that, in case of emergency, good marksmanship is not only essential but a swift and sure "draw."

Down in Texas, in Hale Center, lives Sheriff J. Frank Norfleet, who has achieved a notable record in the single-handed capture of criminals. He has used a gun on hundreds of men with that revolver at his waistband.

"I suppose you've shot a lot of men with that gun," someone remarked. The wily little white-haired man smiled, "Never shot a one," he said, "when I left home to trail down the Furey gang, my wife said 'Bring 'em in alive, Frank; any fool can bring 'em in dead.' I've always kept that in mind, and I've never had to shoot. A tap on the head with a revolver barrel was enough in most cases."

"I remember once," went on Norfleet, "when I had taken some cattle to Wyoming, Texas was burning up. If I was going to save my cattle it was necessary to shift them on the range. I found a place in Wyoming and loaded my stock on railroad cars. At one where there was a windmill, where there was a windmill."

"Some tough-looking hombres who were lying out along the railroad used to come over to drink, and they'd leave the water running. Now, there wasn't any too much water for the cattle, and when I asked these fellows not to leave the water running, their leader laughed at me—and started for me."

"He had to jump across a considerable puddle that had been made when they left the water running. I caught him across the head with the gun barrel when he was still in the air. When he hit the ground he didn't know what had happened, and I never had any more trouble with that gang." Norfleet did not turn man-hunter until late in life. He was a Texas ranchman, and became "riled" when he was swindled out of $40,000 by a confidence gang. Not getting any trace of the men through the authorities, he started on the trail alone. He followed the swindlers all over the country and on into Canada. One by one he caught them, put on the handcuffs and took them back to Texas. He had plenty of physical encounters and more than one attempt was made upon his life.

Some of the swindlers were gunned, but the little man from Texas beat them all to the "draw," and then disarmed them. Sometimes he "taaped" them on the head, but he never fired a shot. After he had rounded up the last of the swindlers who had "riled" him—several of whom later died in prison—Norfleet was in demand as a sleuth, but he never took up a case which did not offer some real problem in detective work.

In practically every police department in the United States the men are required to become proficient in the use of firearms. They are compelled to fire a required number of shots each year. They are required to go through patient and exacting practice with unloaded revolvers to perfect themselves in the "draw."

These measures are necessary when one realizes that the criminal ranks today are filled with many cold-blooded assassins.

Next "Gun Smoke" article—"The Modern Peace Officer and the Modern Gunman."

REQUEST FREEHOLDERS TO PAY ELECTION BILLS

At the request of President Allen of the Democratic organization of the Township, which was promptly seconded by many individuals, the Township Council on Dec. 29 adopted a resolution respectfully requesting the Board of Freeholders of Bergen County to pay as promptly as possible, to all Teaneck citizens who served in 1932 as election officials, the amounts due them for such services, said to aggregate for the fifteen election districts in the township about $4,500. In the resolution it was set forth that many of the individuals concerned, due to present business conditions, are sorely in need of the amounts owed to them by the county. The Freeholders also were requested, in deciding what action to take regarding the resolution to give consideration to the fact that Teaneck is one of the municipalities that have paid in full their county tax for 1932, although many others have paid only the first half and some have defaulted entirely.

In view of these conditions, the Township officials were hopeful that bringing the matter to the attention of the Freeholders in this way would accomplish beneficial results for the Teaneck citizens concerned.
STATE SETS UP $26,300 FOR SHARE IN PAVING WEST ENGLEWOOD AVE.  

(Continued)  

in first consideration in allocating any road-building appropriation the Freeholders may include in the 1933 county budget.

Plans under consideration contemplate having the work done not by contract, but by utilizing unem­ployed labor under direction and supervision of the township's Engineering Department. It is pointed out that this plan would be a definite source of the employment of work, whereas contractors are not bound to employ any local labor.

The project calls for concrete paving and curbing of West Englewood Avenue throughout the limits mentioned. This would reduce to a negligible amount the cost of keeping the road in repair for a good many years to come, and this would mean a definite economy, since this street in recent years has been one of the most expensive in Teaneck. In annual cost of maintenance, paid for out of general taxation. In spite of the close attention given it, and expensive repairs, complaints of the bad condition of its roadway have been more frequent than of any other street in Teaneck, since West Englewood Avenue carries constantly heavy traffic.

Owners of vacant lots fronting on West Englewood Avenue, where no sewer connections have been laid to the lot lines, will be called upon to defray the cost of making such connections before the paving is done, or confronted in the future with the necessity of meeting the tax liens. This is the plan of having the city pay for opening the pavement to make the connections and then restoring the pavement to good condition. It is evident that a situation that would have been of great benefit to the city, would have been made worse by such barrier.

In view of this situation, a few property owners have protested against having the improvement made at this time, when business conditions make it burdensome to keep up payment of taxes and assessments on vacant lots that produce no revenue, and when the real estate market and the mortgage loan market are not in a condition that encourages building. Representing those who take that view, Mrs. Edythe Whipple, en­trusted to the State High­way Commission withheld its ap­proval for the improvement at this time. In this she was not successful, as shown by the fact that the appropriation has been definitely made by the state body.

It is apparent, however, that owners of a very large majority of the frontage affected on West Englewood Avenue do not take this view. Petitions now in circulation asking the Council to proceed with the work have already been signed by owners of more than half the frontage, and those circulating the petitions have encountered so few refusals to sign as to indicate that opponents of the plan constitute a very small percentage.

Meanwhile Township Manager Volker has been in communication with officials of the Hackensack Water Company and the Public Service Company regarding the running of water and gas connections from the street mains to lot lines before the paving is laid. It now seems probable that both companies will do this work promptly and without cost to taxpayers in general, or to the individual property owners concerned. If this is done it will manifest commendable public spirit and co­operation on the part of those companies, since the outlook is that they will have to wait several years before any considerable number of the connections will be utilized and thus contribute to their revenues.

LETTERS PRAISE POLICE FOR FINE SUPERVISION

Three evidences of public appreci­ation of the work of Teaneck's Police Department were received by the Council at its first meeting in December.

In the first, Mr. Floyd B. Farr­andi in a letter to Council com­plimented the police on their vig­or in watching his house during his absence from town. Coun­cil directed that a copy of this letter be sent to the Police De­partment.

In the second, Mr. Conrad Klem­mer in a letter to Police Chief O. J. Spangruth for his recent de­tective work in tracing and se­curing the return of most of the goods stolen from the Spencer's, Coun­cil directed that a copy of this letter be placed in Spangruth's personal record file in the department.

In the third, both the Police and Fire Departments came in for praise. This communication was from Mr. James B. Birch, repre­senting the Allied Societies of St. Anastasia's Church, and expressed appreciation for the "splendid co­operation" given by both de­partments during the annual bazaar at the church in the handling of traffic and safeguarding against fire risks.

PROTEST RATE JUMP

At the request of the Bergen County Commuters League, sec­onded by a number of Teaneck residents, the Township Council in common with the governing bodies of many other affected munici­palities, ordered resolution drawn protest­ing against the 15% increase in commutation rates charged by the Erie Railroad.
SPEND LESS FOR FUEL
WITH A
GEN-OH-CO OIL BURNER
INSTALLATION

General Oil Heating Corp.
3812 HUDSON BOULEVARD
UNION CITY, N. J.

Palisade 6-4839
6-6346
SUGGESTS INSPECTION OF FIREPLACE BUILDING TO REDUCE HAZARDS

When either praise or adverse criticism comes from a recognized expert in any field, it is both customary and reasonable to give it more careful attention than is given to comment on the same subject from a less competent source.

In a letter addressed under date of December 19 to Mayor Van Wagner, Mr. Herbert J. Stack, member of the Educational Division of the National Safety Council, who resides at 483 Wyndham Road, compliments the care and skill shown by the Teaneck Fire Department in handling a recent fire in a residence, and at the same time points out a defect in construction that exists apparently in a number of houses in the Township. The letter in full follows: 

"Dear Mayor Van Wagner:

"I want to commend particularly the highly efficient work done by our Fire Department in the fire on Wyndham Road during the last week. I happened to be a close observer, living near the house that was on fire, and especially noted the care, skill and cooperation shown by the Department in extinguishing the blaze.

"It happens that this is the third fire that I know of on this street alone, that was caused by defective fire-place construction. If such a condition is true on one street, I can imagine our Fire Department must be kept pretty busy fighting this type of fire. This is particularly unfortunate, because it is not the fault of the owner or tenant of the home, but wholly the fault of the builder. Wouldn't it be possible to make some arrangement whereby, just as electrical wiring is inspected as a house is built, we could have a similar faulty construction of fireplaces and chimneys?

"I have no doubt that a close examination of many of the homes in our community would show a similar faulty construction of fireplaces and chimneys.

"In reply the Mayor assured Mr. Stack that Teaneck's building code includes the necessary provisions to assure good fireplace construction, and that under the regime of the present building inspector the code is being enforced. He added that Chief Murray has recently volunteered to make separate inspections of all fireplaces under construction, as a double check against their becoming causes of fires.

THE NOVELTY CURTAIN SHOP

223 Main St.
Hackensack

We are having our annual STOCK TAKING SALE throughout the month of January.

We are offering our entire stock at remarkably low prices.

Pinch pleated rayon silk curtain from 89c.
Cottage set and bathrom curtain from 59c.
Damask Drapes P-P lined full length from $1.69.
Fine quality Taffeta Spreads. Reg. $3.29 for $1.98.
Fine wool blanket at 50% reduction.

We carry better merchandise but we sell for less.

Phone Hack. 2-5197

Riker's malt products

Largest malt store in Bergen County

Malt, liquid malt, hops, sugar, grain, bottles, kegs, dried fruit, flavors, cordials, etc.

Everything in the line at lowest prices

101 MAIN STREET
HACKENSACK

Phone Hackensack 2-9143

THE TOWN MANAGER

January, 1933.

UNEMPLOYED RELIEF WORK SHOWS PROGRESS

Under direction of Township Manager Volcker the work done in payment for food tickets and rent tickets furnished by the township to relieve the unemployed is being handled as largely as possible in such a way as to reduce the amounts that otherwise would have to be expended out of public works and street department appropriations.

The emergency relief work the township is doing is not all waste, or mere outlay with no return," said Mr. Volcker in making his report to Council on the second half of the month of November. The report showed that in that period the township received payment in labor of 388 food orders and 17 rent tickets.

"Some real work is being done for the township by the unemployed," said Mr. Volcker, and in the near future I shall ask the Council to inspect the township disposal plants, to see the improvement that has been made. We are getting some return for our expenditures in the way of needed work, and this will be felt in the form of some reduction both in this year's outlay and in next year's appropriation for the Public Works Department.

TOWNSHIP BUYS TWO NEW FORD TRUCKS

On advertisement for bids for two one-and-a-half-ton dump trucks required by the Public Works Department, the township received only two bids. The Shear Chevrolet Company of Teaneck offered to furnish two Chevrolet trucks for $1,820 and the Ridgefield Park Auto Company, whose owners and salesmen are residents of Teaneck, offered to supply two Ford trucks for $1,475.

Council referred the matter to the Township Manager for report and recommendation and later in the meeting he reported that both trucks were needed and he recommended acceptance of the lower bid. Accordingly the Council voted to award the contract for the two trucks to the Ridgefield Park Auto Co.

The trucks are of a type that will be most useful in road work and other public works, and that can be equipped with snow plows for use in clearing streets and roads of snow when necessary.

FLEISCHMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF GARDEN CLUB; SHOW PROGRESS

(Continued)

education in solving gardening problems. The proceedings are thoroughly informal, the club in all its activities being actuated by the spirit of mutual interest and neighborliness.

The January meeting of the club will be held in the Council Chamber at Town Hall on Thursday evening, January 26.
January, 1933.

THE TOWN MANAGER

Councilman Warner Sees Method Of "Open" Dealing, Bearing Fruit

By Frederick T. Warner
Township Councilman

Under the Municipal Manager form of government here in Teaneck we have had in effect for the last two years all the conditions requisite to enable the public not only to keep informed of all official acts of the governing body, but also to know the thoughts and purposes that prompt those acts.

In the preparatory conferences of the Council which are always open to the public, citizens have access to all the information that comes to the Council itself as the basis for its discussions and decisions. These preparatory meetings are held the evening prior to each regular Council session.

At both preparatory and regular meetings, comments and criticisms of citizens are invited and considered, and in many instances information and suggestions from citizens prove of great value to the Council in arriving at correct solutions of important problems.

While it is necessary in these preparatory sessions to restrict public discussion to reasonable time limits, in order that all essential matters shall be disposed of before the session ends, this restriction has never been imposed to the extent of denying any citizen from being heard. After all, the public has a right to express its opinions and have them considered, for it is the public's business.

Here in Teaneck we have no "executive sessions," no meeting of the "Committee of the Whole," no "open covenants operated at behind closed doors." To every preparatory or regular session both public and press are invited and welcomed. If there are not enough seats to go around in the clerk's office, the preparatory session moves into the Council Chamber.

These meetings are purely informal family gatherings, but under our Mayor as presiding officer they have never gotten out of hand.

By way of contrast, consider the "executive session" plan that is still in vogue in many nearby municipalities, including Hackensack and Englewood, as well as the Board of Freeholders of Bergen County, but now out-moded in Teaneck. Under this "executive session" plan the regular meetings open to the public, become simply a time for recording votes on matters regarding which each and every member has already made up his mind, definitely and finally.

Even if citizens attend they are not in a position to discuss matters, plans or decisions with members of the governing body, because they have had no chance to gather data upon which to base any discussion, or even to know what matters are to come up for decision.

Is it any wonder that under such circumstances citizens do not show their interest in public affairs by attending meetings? They have to form an estimate of their honesty and capacity or fairness of their elected officials until, as time goes on, they can measure them by their results.

The open meeting seems a more efficient method, for it gives the citizen an immediate and constant close-up of those he has chosen at the polls.

Viewed from the other side, isn't it true that a governing body that maintains the "open meeting" plan places a very definite obligation on itself to show full truth of its advantages? There are undoubtedly other diversions for an evening more entertaining than attending a Council preparatory session, but I for one contend that it is quite unSportsmanship and unfair for any citizen to criticize or form adverse judgment of the acts of Council if he has made no effort to inform himself of the premises on which those acts are based.

I have in mind one instance in which the Council took up for final action at a regular meeting a matter which it had discussed at length in several preparatory sessions. Concerning which the Township Manager, by request of Council, had compiled an exhaustive report showing methods and costs in several other towns.

When the matter came up for final action in regular session, a citizen who had attended none of the preparatory meetings at which the matter was discussed, and who knew nothing of the careful investigation that had been made or of the facts revealed, opposed his views to the views of Council, and became highly indignant because the Council would not immediately agree that he and he alone knew exactly what ought to be done.

Now that, of course, was an extreme case, but cases like it, although in lesser degree, are not uncommon.

There are bound to be mistakes in judgment as long as human nature is not infallible; but please Mr. and Mrs. Citizen, make at least reasonable efforts to be fair to your elected officials, by sharing with them the information and letting them know what you think about matters they have to consider in your interest.

We have a comfortable meeting place, ample parking area, and everything necessary for your convenience. We devote our time to the work of governing Teaneck, with very inclination to be helpful to you, and we ask your cooperation for the good of the Township.

Your Patronage Assures Its Continuation — Mention "The Town Manager" When You Buy.

VALUE OF ANTITOXINS AND THEIR SOURCES REVEALED BY REYNOLDS

By W. F. Reynolds
Township Health Officer

When a toxin is injected into the tissues, it causes the cells to produce an antibody called an antitoxin. The composition of antitoxins is unknown. The effect of antitoxin is to combine with the toxin, if any is present in the body, and render it inert.

The poison unit in bringing about recovery in diphtheria or tetanus is the antitoxin which is produced in the body. There is also a production of substances which kill and destroy the bacteria themselves, as in other diseases.

The antitoxins for diphtheria and for tetanus may be produced in animals and then may be used for the prevention and cure of these diseases in mankind.

When an animal receives an injection of toxin, it produces an antitoxin in excess of that required to neutralize the toxin. When an injection is repeated several times, increasing quantities of antitoxin are produced and are contained in the blood.

A horse is generally used for producing antitoxin, because it forms a larger amount of antitoxin in proportion to its size, and because the effect of its serum is seldom harmful.

The standard method of manufacturing diphtheria antitoxin is as follows: A horse is given an injection of 1-3 drop of diphtheria toxin, which is about all an untreated horse can endure. The injection is repeated, with increasing doses of toxin, every third day, until one pint of the toxin is given at the end of two months, and the horse contains its maximum amount of antitoxin.

About three gallons of blood are then drawn from the horse and allowed to clot. The serum is taken and sufficient ammonium sulphate is added to make a solution that is 30% of saturation. A precipitate falls, which is discarded. More ammonium sulphate is added up to 50% of saturation. The precipitate which then forms contains the antitoxin.

This precipitate is pressed free from the excess of liquid, and is then placed in a bag of parchment paper and suspended in running water to dilute for several days. The ammonium sulphate passes into the water, and the water enters the bag and dissolves the precipitate.

Then the solution is concentrated and purified antitoxin which is used in human beings.

KRUSE SPECIAL COP

At the request of the Principal of the High School and on recommendation of Mr. Van der Voelcker, the Council voted to appoint Mr. Theodore Kruse, one of the janitors, as a special police- man, and authorized the Mayor to swear him in as such.

Mrs. Tine's School for little folks

By Appointment Teaneck 6-5640

Dr. L. J. Pepin
OSTEOPATH

Foot corrective treatment

941 Palisade Ave. Teaneck

Phone Teaneck 6-9838

ACCUMULATIVE LIVING TRUST PLANS

Plans that are meeting with an enthusiastic reception and are within the reach of all.

We offer to the public a systematic Estate and Income building program providing for investment in a group of sixteen leading and sound common stocks. The funds of our clients are handled directly by a prominent New York City bank.

Write for descriptive circular

National Assured Estates, Inc.
122 East 42nd Street
New York City
ELY DENIES CHARGE
THAT CRITICS PROMPTED
RESIGNATION FROM JOB

(Continued)

position that friction and dissension in the Council is a part of its daily life. Mr. Ely's selection has been both pleasant and enjoyable, our discussions of many difficult problems have been interesting and our decisions have usually been unanimous, which to me will ever be a pleasant memory.

"In the discharge of my duties I have only considered the best interests of the taxpayers of Teaneck, and I know the same spirit has prompted and governed your official acts. The results of the present administration are ample and convincing data.

"I have been criticized for irregular attendance at meetings of the Council. Such criticism would ordi·narily be justified were it not for the fact that many of said absences have been occasioned by conditions over which I have had no control and would therefore seem pardonable.

"In conclusion, please permit me to express my sincere hope that your efforts in the future will continue to receive the deserved endorsement and support of every honest thinking taxpayer of our Township."

"There is no surprise when the resignation and letter were read, near the end of the Council meeting, the other Councilmen voted to receive the communication and defer action thereon until the adjourned session of the meeting, which it had already been voted should be held on Dec. 29. At that time, Mr. Ely being present but not voting, the Council adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS Mr. Walter Ely, due to the pressure of other duties, has been impelled to tender his resignation as a member of this Council, and

WHEREAS Mr. Ely during his two years in office has kept inviolate his pre-election pledges to the people of Teaneck, and insofar as his time would permit has used his best efforts, in co-operation with other members of this Council, to establish and maintain an honest, efficient, economical and non-partisan government in Teaneck; and

WHEREAS throughout his term in office the relations between Mr. Ely and the other members of this Council have been at all times pleasant and agreeable and marked by mutual confidence and respect; therefore,

RESOLVED—That Mr. Ely's resignation as a member of the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck has been accepted with regret, to be effective in accordance with his request, on the 31st day of November, 1932; and be it further

RESOLVED—That Mr. Ely is entitled to be held in the highest regard as one of the citizens of Teaneck for his civic spirit in accepting and holding for so long a time a public office which he did not seek or desire, and which he has filled honorably, and with full regard to the best interests of his fellow-townsmen, and at the sacrifice of his own interest and convenience; and be it further

RESOLVED—that this resolution be included as a part of the official record of this meeting, and that the Township Clerk be directed to forward to Mr. Ely a certified copy thereof.

The resignation of Mr. Ely, leaving its incumbent upon the present Councilmen remaining in office to elect his successor, will leave only one seat to be filled by the Council to be disposed of at a special election, in which case the State Supreme Court decides this month that Township Clerk Dietl should issue a call for such an election as the result of the recall petitions filed in September; for the law provides that any Councilman taking office by election of the Council to fill a vacancy shall hold the office until the next following General Election, and that the office shall then be filled by vote of the people. Whoever is selected by the Council, therefore, will hold office until next November at the earliest—unless then elected by ballot.

Mr. Ely, in common with the four present members of the Council, was elected on Oct. 14, 1930, to four weeks after Teaneck Township was created, in favor of the Municipal Manager form of government. Mr. Ely had been from the beginning an active worker in the ranks of the Teaneck Taxpayers League, which in its platform of principles declared in favor of the Municipal Manager Plan.

When, after the referendum campaign had been carried to a successful conclusion, Mr. Ely's name was brought before the League's nominating committee for consideration as a candidate for Councilman, Mr. Ely stated positively that, while he appreciated the honor, he could not accept the office, as he would not be able to devote as much time to it as he felt the office demanded. He yielded, and consented to become a candidate for the Council, only when convinced that he would be recreant to his duty as a citizen if he failed to obey the mandate of the nominating committee. The records of the League during that period uphold the statement in Mr. Ely's letter explaining his resignation: "I did not seek the office, as you are aware."

Very plainly, these facts were in the minds of the Council when they framed the resolution accepting Mr. Ely's resignation. At the time this issue of The Town Manager went to press, the Council had taken no steps toward selection of Mr. Ely's successor as a member of that body, although several names had been discussed informally, including those of two or three men who already have rendered the township valuable service as members of one or another of the advisory boards appointed by the Council.
ROSS SUMS UP EVILS
AND CURES OF FINANCE
IN TOWN GOVERNMENT

(Continued)
eminent, public administration, tax
systems and fiscal legislation are
reflected ultimately in the munici-
pal market.
Investors are confused as to the
status of municipal entities today,
because of a few defaults here and
time. Defaults have not alone
bad effects, but in some cases
as well, such as drastic re-
forms in budget appropriations
and a new degree of scrutiny,
which in the end should react fav-
orably.
Budgets of cities and states have
expanded enormously while taxable
resources have declined. Twenty-
five reputable cities have increased
their budgets 90% in the past ten
years; twenty-five states 47%.
Too much debt for capital pur-
poes, ever increasing, as shown by
these figures:
1913 2,000,000,000.
1927 10,000,000,000.
1932 (Est.) 12,000,000,000.
The taxpayers will be
paying this debt, created at high cost, with
dollars twice as dear. Bonded
debt in school systems of forty-
five states doubled from 1920 to
1930 and now approximates $114
per pupil. Too many high priced
schools which were erected on bor-
rowed money. Census and other
sources indicate a lessening in the
growth of school population in the
future.
One of the outstanding problems of all political subdivisions is the
collection of the total amount
of taxes levied. The tax burden on
real property has become unbearable
in many places. Collection of
only 60% to 80% of such taxes is
not unusual.
The deplorable real estate situa-
tion has led to much of the finan-
cial distress of cities and states.
Probably one fourth of all farm,
city and urban real estate mort-
gages have failed to meet in full
their payments of principal,
interest and taxes.
Some states’ statutes and con-
stitutions impose a net debt limit of
from five to seven percent of
the assessed valuation of the prop-
erty in a municipality, but this
usually applies to the municipal
government alone, and even this
does not include certain exempt
debts, such as assessments, or
Utilities.
Furthermore, an overlapping of
districts, each with its own debts,
such as county, school, and munici-
pal, covering identical taxable
property, may run the debt as high
as 25% of the value of the under-
lying property.
Valuations are not always a
sound basis for appraising munici-
pal securities. In some states
municipalities assess at full
value; some at half; some
much less.
The per capita tax collections,
per capita expenditures and per
per capita debt should be the guides,
together with the underlying real
values of property and, of course,
the ability of the taxpayer to pay.
Short term financing in these
days is almost at a standstill, and
the operation is not expensive.
This naturally increases the debt
service, and must be put in the
budget together with other bur-
dens of the depression.
Several states, cities and munici-
palities have acute maturity
problems to meet in the next
year or two. Graft, racketeering
and political corruption have sapped
the credit and resources of some
of our cities and municipalities. The
outstanding charges could be
waste, extravagant spending, di-
version of public funds and ineffi-
cient handling of fiscal programs.
Graft and corruption are usually
checked just short of the point of
wrecking the municipal credit.
Two or three large cities are now
good examples of this condition.
Probabilities of the present
and the recent past will be
reflected by municipal economy
either voluntary or forced, perhaps
even mandatory by new statutes.
Actual fiscal reforms are on the
way now.
Planning for the future must
come. One industry towns;
excessive buildings; too many fine
streets and no ratables on them;
finely styled storm drains and
sound sewerage systems running
dry through overdeveloped farm
land that is just another real
estate "bust"—all these, with the
Township credit at stake, will not
be tolerated in the future.
Extremely high income taxes
will create a demand for municipal
securities when, and if the state
takes over the supervision of all
its "political sub-divisions’
financial affairs, and affirms or guarantees
their credit, with the proper statutes
to supervise the operation.
Several states have already done
just this and more are giving it
consideration.
You will hear the old cry of
Home Rule, but the average small
political sub-divisions and even
some larger ones have proven
their lack of vision and capacity
to properly exercise Home Rule.
Let the state apply the tests of
necessity, expediency and legality,
in addition to all other statutory
provisions and limitations.
It is not enough for the munic-
ipality to go into default, and then
have the state set up a State
Board to supervise Finance. This
should be reversed, and the board
set up in advance so there will be
no default.
Some of the things essential for
the cure of the average financially
sick municipality are:
A—State, county and municipal
budgets must be deflated by re-
duced expenditures.
B—Some other form of tax must
be made available besides property
tax; such as sales tax.
C—For the present emergency
municipality, county and state
must adopt a liberal attitude of
foreclosure policy.
D—Overlapping taxing districts
must be curbed.
E—Semi-annual reports should
be made as to the affairs of the
corporation (municipality) to the
stockholders (taxpayers). These
statements should set forth how
much of the tax levied is being
collected that budget items are not
being overspent; that miscellaneous
revenue is coming in as anticipat-
ed, etc.
F—Finally, all taxpayers, invest-
ors and bankers, and all business
and civic leaders, for their own
protection, must root out the or-
ganized political corruption which
has brought many cities to the
brink of disaster.
Although Teaneck Township has
many hurdles yet to jump, it is on
the way to lead the rest. In due
time the sun of prosperity will
reapppear above the business hor-
izon, and the dawn of a new and
saner economic day for municipal-
ities will be born out of the severe
and beneficial lessons of a costly
readjustment period.
After all, nothing quite equals
the tonic effect of the sunrise after
a stormy night.
Presumably the snow, like the rain, falls alike on the just and the unjust—yet it seems as if the Weather Man now and then took a hand on the side of right and decency. Fairness?

Christmas has come and gone, but that doesn’t make it imperative to forget immediately the spirit of “peace on Earth; good will to men,” or that communities in which this spirit is prevalent throughout the year are the places where life is happiest and best. Mix a bit of the spirit with a dash of essence of Golden Rule and a jigger of “Judge not, that ye be not judged,” and you’ll have a grand cocktail for Teaneck to use in toasting the new year.

What a lot there is in mental attitude! Which man contributes more to human progress—the one who enters a controversy with his mind already made up, unwilling to see merit in any fact or argument opposed to his own view; or the man agreeing that there are two sides to every question and as anxious to be shown that he’s wrong, if he is wrong, as he is to establish the fact that he’s right, if he is right? Discussion and controversy, necessary if there is to be any progress, must be fair, disinterested and unprejudiced if progress is to be intelligently guarded. Self-interest and bias have no proper place in the discussion of any question of public welfare.

Frankness and honesty in statements regarding its financial condition never have injured the credit of any corporation or municipality. To the contrary, those who have money to lend—and selling municipal bonds is merely negotiating a loan—are predisposed in favor of the borrower who has been careful to represent conditions exactly as they are. Furthermore, every concern handling municipal bonds makes its own investigation and satisfies itself as to conditions before it buys, and the State Department of Municipal Accounts as a matter of public policy advertises in the press the financial status of every municipality in the state.

The family that is united in purpose and peacable command is greater respect among its neighbors and has higher credit rating than one that is dissension and given to squabbling—and the same principle applies to a community.

Church Notices

PHPELS MANOR M. E. CHURCH
1000 Queen Anne Rd., Teaneck
Charles Waldron, Minister
Sunday Services .......... 9:45 a.m. (Protestant Episcopal)
Preaching .......... 10:15 a.m. (Roman Catholic)
Tuxis .......... 7:15 p. m.
Boy Scouts Fridays.
Girl Scouts Mondays.
Men’s Club, Second Thursday.
Woman’s Guild, First Tuesday.
World Service Fourth Monday.

TEANECK PRESBTERIAN CHURCH
21 Church Street, Teaneck
Rev. Reginald Rowland, Pastor
Sunday Services .......... 11 a.m.
Church School .......... 9:45 a.m.
Harry M. Rice, Supt.
Everybody Welcome.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
405 Cedar Lane, Teaneck
Carl Bergen, Pastor.
Sunday School .......... 9:15 a.m.
Church Worship .......... 10 a.m.
“A Heart Welcome to All”

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
261 Cedar Terrace,
Cedar Park Section, Teaneck
Rev. Richard Baxter, Vicar
Morning Service .......... 9 a.m.

ST. MARK’S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Chadwick Avenue,
Phelps Manor, Teaneck
Rev. Richard Baxter, Vicar
Telephone Teaneck 6-3474
Holy Communion .......... 8 a.m.
Sunday School .......... 9:30 a.m.
Worship with address .......... 10:45 a.m.
Municipal Finance At Pulse Of Government

(FOllowing is the third in a series of articles on the financial condition of municipalities in New Jersey. The analysis will appear in The Town Manager each month until concluded.—Editor.)

By PAUL VOLCKER

Teaneck Township

It was the original intention to discuss the Trust Account in this third article of a series on the Township's Finances. However, because of the timeliness of a year-end survey of the general financial position of Teaneck, it seemed better to devote this article to the survey and take up the Trust Account in a later issue.

The generally difficult financial position in which many municipalities now find themselves is well known to every reader of the daily newspapers. About half of the Towns in our county have been unable to meet their county and state taxes. In the neighboring county of Essex, some of the proudest municipalities are on the delinquent list.

In practically all cases the difficulty arises from the fact that municipalities can no longer borrow money on their credit. The best tax obligations in the manner to which they have been accustomed, and this at a time when the non-payment of the taxes, the necessity for borrowing is more necessary than ever.

In these conditions the cutting of budgets to the bone, while it is an aid and of course should be done, is not an absolute remedy for no matter how small a municipality's budget may be, if it can collect only half of the taxes, and is unable to borrow more, it still will not be able to pay its debts.

About the only way in which a municipality, under present conditions, could be certain of meeting its obligations would be to reduce its budget to a minimum and then, in fixing the tax rate, double this amount, so that when fifty percent of the taxes were collected the amount actually needed to pay bills would be in hand.

The objections to this method are obvious. The resulting high tax rate would be very unjust to those who did pay their taxes, and because of its being so very high would result in a still greater percentage of delinquencies.

Probably each municipality should proceed to build up a cash surplus in a period of say ten years, so that at the end of that time it could be the same percent. This could be done by adding about ten percent a year to the budget, and then actually depositing this sum in a separate fund each year. But under existing conditions, both legal and economic, many municipalities hesitate very much to do this, not only because of the resulting increase in the tax rate, but also because there is nothing in the law to prevent us from using the interest from digging into this fund and using it up, in order to make the borrowing for itself in a low tax rate.

Passing now from these rambling thoughts on the financial difficulty confronting Teaneck in particular, the accounts for 1932 can be reported as having, with all bills paid and some $60,000 in cash on hand with which to start the new year, with perhaps another $20,000 as built surplus, to find its way eventually into the current account, through the complex processes of municipal auditing.

In general, the various revenues anticipated from other sources than taxes were more than realized, while the percentages of the current taxes collected fell behind. This falling off in current taxes, however, was more than compensated for by the collection of delinquent taxes, largely because of the sale of this tax. However, had its darker side, in that it threw still other delinquent taxes into tax title liens held by the State Trust Account.

The $32,000 net by which anticipated revenue other than taxes overran the estimate, came about through over collections of interest on delinquent taxes and in the franchise and gross receipts taxes, the result of partly a reflection of the increased valuations of last year. Other items among the anticipated receipts remaining behind, were Local Licenses and Permits. The items that ran behind, however, were those whose amounts were smallest.

As to budget expenditures, it was found, that when adjustments and transfers had been made that about $15,000 remained. This balance was transferred to the poor account, and was used to pay an outstanding note for emergency relief. This means that the Township has so far carried its emergency practically out of current funds and starts the new year with a clean slate.

This emergency relief is not to be confused with the unemployment relief, funds, of which the athletic field, stadium and tennis courts, among other things, were built. There are some $40,000 of these obligations still outstanding, which are now in the process of being refunded into a permanent bond issue payable during the next eight years, in accordance with law and is also perfectly good finance, for the stadium will last many times eight years and will be enjoyed by taxpayers for a long time to come.

Aside from doing the building in the past, the Planning Board has been occupied with its studies of the needs of our community, and recommends that none of the property be so zoned until such time as there may be a demand for such zoning. It recommended that none of the property fronting the highway that is now in Class A residential zoning shall be changed to a business zoning.

Shorlly thereafter the Planning Board notified Council that its Master Plan for Teaneck as a whole is nearly ready, and invited the Council to meet with it at the earliest possible date, in order that the plan shall come up for adoption. Members of the Council expressed their intention to attend, and decided to defer setting a date for any further public hearings until after that time.

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TOWN MANAGER
A FINE EXAMPLE OF CIVIC USEFULNESS

Since the Township Council appointed the Board of Child Hygiene, Clinical and Social Service, hardly a month has passed without bringing evidence of some definite improvement in the work of the child hygiene stations, which since July 1, 1932, have been conducted entirely at the township’s expense and as a department of the township government.

Almost from the beginning, acting upon the board’s recommendation, provision was made for attendance of physicians at clinics for children of pre-school age once each week at each station. Since then it has been arranged that there shall be dental clinics once each month, where dental examinations and competent advice on dental needs can be had without cost.

One of the board’s latest and finest achievements has been to provide for inoculation against diphtheria, free to children of parents unable to pay for the treatment, of which fifty-three children already have had the benefit and thus gained immunization against one of the most dangerous of all contagious diseases.

In all its work the board has given the Council splendid co-operation in carrying out the purposes for which it was created, and in return the Council has given the board every encouragement, approving practically without change every recommendation the board has made.

Like the Advisory Boards, the members of the Hygiene Board serve without compensation and give a great deal of their time, with utmost interest and enthusiasm, to seeking solutions of various problems and needs of the community. All these groups of citizens are helping to make Teaneck’s government truly a “government of the people, for the people and by the people,” and are affording a fine example of civic usefulness.

GOOD SOIL FOR COMMUNITY GROWTH

Teaneck has good community soil; the kind of soil in which all enterprises that make for a better community life strike root readily, grow rapidly and flourish. While this has never been doubted by those who know Teaneck, it has been strikingly manifested in recent time by the achievements of two organizations that exist solely to promote the things that add beauty to life.

One of these is the Teaneck Community Orchestra, which last season appeared twice in public with first seventeen, then twenty-two members, and which at its first appearance this year had thirty-five members on the stage and gave a concert of which many an older musical organization might well be proud. The other is the Garden Club of Teaneck, only eight months old, which already has a membership of 150 and has to its credit one successful flower show and a consistent program of monthly illustrated lectures and talks on gardening problems, open to the public, and free.

Such activities as these are the best possible advertisements to the outside world of the kind of community Teaneck is. What will be next? Hasn’t Teaneck material for an art club, which might serve to encourage the young who are studying art in the schools? Or a history club, which would stimulate especially research and proper recording of the history of Teaneck? Whoever may take the lead in any move, that aims at the betterment of Teaneck, the columns of The Town Manager are always open to give it publicity and help it along.

MR. WALTER ELY’S RESIGNATION

The resignation of Mr. Walter Ely as Councilman marks the retirement from public office of one of the five men selected by Teaneck Taxpayers League to form the first Township Council under the Municipal Manager Act and to launch the new form of government. Having accepted the office against his own wishes and inclination, for two years Mr. Ely has carried his responsibilities, giving such time as he could devote to it, largely at the sacrifice of his own interests, and has subjected himself to much unjust criticism, which no man in public office can hope to escape. He has some measure of reward in expressions of commendation and high esteem from those who know him best—the organization that sponsored his election and the members of the Council with whom he served—and in his own consciousness that he has been faithful to the interests of the citizens who elected him. That, after all, is the highest reward attainable by those who accept public office solely to make effective their ideals of government.

FIRE PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

To what extent the administration may find it possible or judicious to adopt immediately the recommendations of Chief Murray, for improvements in Teaneck’s fire protection service, remains to be seen. Aware of the township’s financial conditions, the Chief presents his recommendations, not as demands, but rather as a clear outline of what is needed. His exhaustive report to Township Manager Volcker, appearing in this issue, gives ample evidence that he knows his job and that he has made a close study of the needs of his department. He has performed his duty in making those needs known to the Council, properly leaving to them the responsibility of deciding how and when they can be met.