Dave McLaughlin and Art Cooke are getting Co-axial closer to the time when they will be selling co-axial service to television owners in Haileybury. Here the last touches are being put on the big antenna. That is not Mayor Cooke at the top of the pole.

## Cobalt Town Council Sets 1959 Mill Rate

med its 1959 budget at a final mitted Councillor Mathews. finance meeting held on Monday, and held the increase on general payers that such a drastic change taxes to a modest 1 mill increase. in the school pattern could not be

the control of council, lifted the ratepayers had been obtained, the public school rates 15.4 mills over school board had agreed and the last year and the separate school adjoining municipalities promised rates by 24 mills.

Public school commercial rates for 1959 were set at 167.4, resi- pressed his opposition to the plan. dential 153.4; separate school commercial 164; residential 150.

tion to deal with at the special meeting called to give final touches to the budget. About 30 ratepayers turned out disturbed by reports that council planned, among other things, to reduce the High School to the status of a continuation school.

For the benefit of the ratepayers, Councillor Jack Mathews reviewed the brief he had presented to council at the previous meeting.

"We explored every avenue of saving," he said, "while avoiding the cutting of essential services to the town."

Listed on the brief was the cancellation of the contract with the Ontario Provincial Police and substituting a two-man, town controlled police force; a reduction of permanent fire truck drivers by one; and garbage collection by contract.

Enlarging on these matters, Councillor Mathews said that the reduction of the police force, the permanent fire department staff and the work department would save the town close to \$6000 a year, about 10 mills.

"I also drew council's attention to the great jumps being made in education costs," said the finance chairman, "and the report that the public school board had indicated that two additional rooms would be needed by next year."

ducing the High School to a continuation school, and using the extra rooms in the conveniently adjacent high school for the upper grades manufacturing in Canada, in of the Public School."

would not effect this years bud- has increased by 25 per cent.

COBALT-Cobalt council trim- get the matter was dropped," ad-

He also pointed out to the rate-But jumping school costs, out of made before the approval of the to absorb Cobalt students.

Mayor Fulton Purdy again ex-Mayor Purdy also told the gathering that any concern over the Council had an unusual condi- financial position of the town was unfounded. "We are no worse off than most towns and better off than a lot," he said, "but we have been given the job of running the town as economically as pos-

> He also referred to the matter of tax arrears and asked for Townclerk Cyril Vezina's comment.

trying to do."

sible and that is what we are

Mr. Vezina said that a fluctuation in arrears was usual. "Some years ratepayers pay their taxes early. This year the unusual long and cold winter has hit the ratepayers hard and some have delayed making payments, but we expect that in a few weeks the condition will return to normal."

Most of the ratepayers headed for home apparently satisfied, but a few remained to hear a discussion regarding the reduction of the fire force. Councillor George St. Hilaire tabled a motion to kill the idea of reducing the permanent staff, but couldn't get a seconder. Most of council felt that the volunteer force would understand their problem and co-operate to keep the fire department working efficiently.

A delegation of Teenagers asking for use of the Community Hall for their Friday night dances were told that this was the problem of the Community Hall Board, but council promised to bring the "I suggested they consider re- request to the attention of the Board, with a recommendation.

Since 1950 the average wage in terms of purchasing power rather "As these suggested changes than in terms of current dollars,

## **Budget Trimming** On General Rate

of Cobalt Council held last week tax rate with the savings made. members tackled the tough job of cutting a threatening 30 mill in- Council to take a long look at the crease in taxes in half.

in taxes for the Silvertown was the not the end. "Every year there school budget which this year will be salary hikes," he said, reached a record \$24,427.64, a "and present accomodation at the jump of close to \$18,000 in the public school will be inadequate past eight years.

presented a brief outlining pos- meet with board members to dissible economies which would keep cuss the possibility of making the the increase at sixteen mills, High School into a Continuation these included the retirement of a School, and sending Grades 11, 12 works department employee who and 13 to a school in another cenis over 70 years of age, collection tre. Council was interested, but

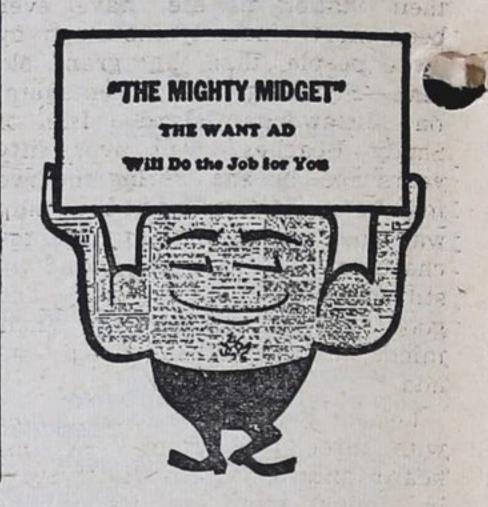
two men, the hiring of a town police force of two men to replace the OPP staff of three.

Council approved all these measures and estimated that 14 COBALT - At a regular meeting mills could be cut from the 1959

Councillor Mathews also asked increasing cost of education, and Chief culprit in a record hike reminded members that this is by next year."

Finance chairman Jack Mathews He suggested that Council should

of town garbage on contract, which | did not give support to the idea. would reduce the work staff by Said Mayor Fulton Purdy, "I am against that plan. Few people will want to settle in Cobalt if we have no High School." The matter was then dropped.





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