

Motions to hire firemen, pay chief extra, deferred for debate

Two of three controversial recommendations put forward by Midland Public Safety Committee chairman Robert Jeffery during Monday's meeting of council were referred to a committee of the

entire council. The majority of council was not ready to support either the

recommendation that Fire Chief Hal Belfry be recompensed nearly \$3,500 in consideration

of his being on call an extra 28 days as of last Sunday, or a recommendation that the fire

department complement be returned to its level of 13 fulltime firefighters, from the

present number of nine firefighters.

The council did agree to pay a maximum of \$2,500 towards the cost of parade uniforms for the town's volunteer firefighters. The cost for pants, hats, and tunics is estimated to be \$4,500 to \$6,000. At present, volunteer firefighters borrow uniforms from members of other fire departments, or from policemen, when they participate in parades.

Alderman Miles Blackhurst opposed the granting of extra on call pay to the fire chief, on the grounds that it would set a precedent. Alderman Jeffery said that the chief, who was recently appointed chief after heading the department as deputy-chief for some months, "was more or less promised pay or time off."

Alderman Blackhurst also complained that the recommendations were different than they were when presented at a budget meeting.

The cost of correcting the undermanning of the fire department for the rest of the year would be \$52,573, Alderman

Jeffery said. Alderman Ian Ross said that would mean \$105,000 in 1984, and that \$105,000 was too much for the fire department.

Reeve Bev Day, noting that last year he was the public safety committee chairman, said that in his opinion the fire department is short only one fireman. But hiring more firemen would mean the filling of the vacant posts of deputy treasurer and deputy clerk, he said. The reeve also noted that with the increase in education tax alone, he expects his municipal tax this year to increase from \$800 to \$900.

He would not oppose the hiring of one more fireman, but the hiring of three or four firemen would be "very, very wrong," the reeve said.

A recommendation that the town's treasury department, not the town police, collect parking fines, was referred to the town's parking authority.

The council is meeting today, in private, to discuss the deferred recommendations, and the 1983 budget.

Sulphur to the rescue

by Grace Marcellus

When you cut your seed potatoes for planting, give them a good coating of sulphur, either crude or the dusting type (flowers of sulphur) while the cut side is still moist. You will not be bothered with potato beetles or other chewing insects.

Dick Raymond suggests the sulphur treatment for seed potatoes to help prevent rot, and if it also stops the potato beetles, that's great. Potato cutting can be shaken in a paper bag with the sulphur, as cooks do when cooking chicken with flour.

This seems to work equally well when applied in transplanting holes for tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants, and mixed with the soil. Apparently the sulphur goes from the roots up into the top growth and makes the plant unappetizing to insects. It does not impart any flavour to the fruit. I also find that a light sprinkling of sulphur around plants helps to retard cutworms.

Wyevale Pine Ridge W.I.

by L. Webb

Wyevale's Pine Ridge Institute met on April 20 at the home of Mrs. Ted Hall. 13 members were present. Roll call was answered by the paying of fees.

The Ten Commandments of the W.I. were read by Mrs. Edgar Campbell.

A garage sale was planned for Saturday, June 18. Donations are to be left with Mrs. E. Blow, Mrs. R. Hales or Mrs. G. Webb.

Mrs. Victor Hall took charge of the election and installation of officers.

The W.I. Grace was repeated by Mrs. Walter Marcellus. Lunch was served by Mrs. T. Hall and Mrs. H. Walker and enjoyed by all.

May 18

Euchre party at the Midland Legion at 8 p.m. Lunch, prizes, \$1.50, sponsored by the Branch 80 Ladies Auxiliary.

May 19

May 19 the Midland-Penetang Field Naturalists' Club will meet at 8 p.m. at Wye Marsh Centre. The speaker will be Blair Dowson and the topic Wildlife Glimpses: Sea to Sea. Visitors are welcome.



Canvassers thanked

So far a total of \$13,250 has been raised for the Midland Salvation Army's Red Shield Campaign. More than \$5,000 was raised by canvassers in Midland, Monday night. Well in excess of \$2,800 was raised the same night by members of

Penetanguishene Legion in Penetang and area while still more has come in via the mails. TOP, Lt. Ray Braddock receives Penetanguishene Legion's blitz results while BOTTOM shows Bank of Commerce staff and campaign committee members with Lt. Braddock in Midland, during Monday night's blitz. This month's target is \$25,000.

Need not felt for adult crossing guards

Midland town council is adhering to its policy of not hiring adult crossing guards. Deputations and local principals had approached the town's public safety committee to ask that the town consider hiring adult crossing guards.

Midland council repealed a bylaw on Monday which regulates and prohibits the sale of, and setting off of, fireworks. The bylaw is redundant because federal statutes cover the situation.

The annual auction of unclaimed items by the town police department has been authorized by the council. The auction will be held on May 28 at 10 a.m. at the municipal building.

The public works department has been instructed to work on the job of installing burglar alarms, a recommendation of the Ontario Police Commission.

A complaint that an unnamed Midland business allows its guard dog to run during the day has been referred to Huronia Animal Control.

Approval has been granted to the Midland Fire Fighters' Association to use a fire truck on Aug. 5 in the association's annual Muscular Dystrophy campaign.

The problem of the fire chief's insurance rates increasing if he continues to use his own automobile while working has been deferred by the public safety committee until the town receives information from the town's insurer.

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Blue Cross announces that it is making available to all Ontario residents during the period April 1 to May 15, 1983, a wide range of health benefits not included in the government sponsored Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

Between April 1 and May 15, 1983, any Ontario resident, regardless of age or previous medical history can purchase Blue Cross coverage on a "pay-direct" basis for the major portion of the cost of such benefits as

- prescription drugs
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