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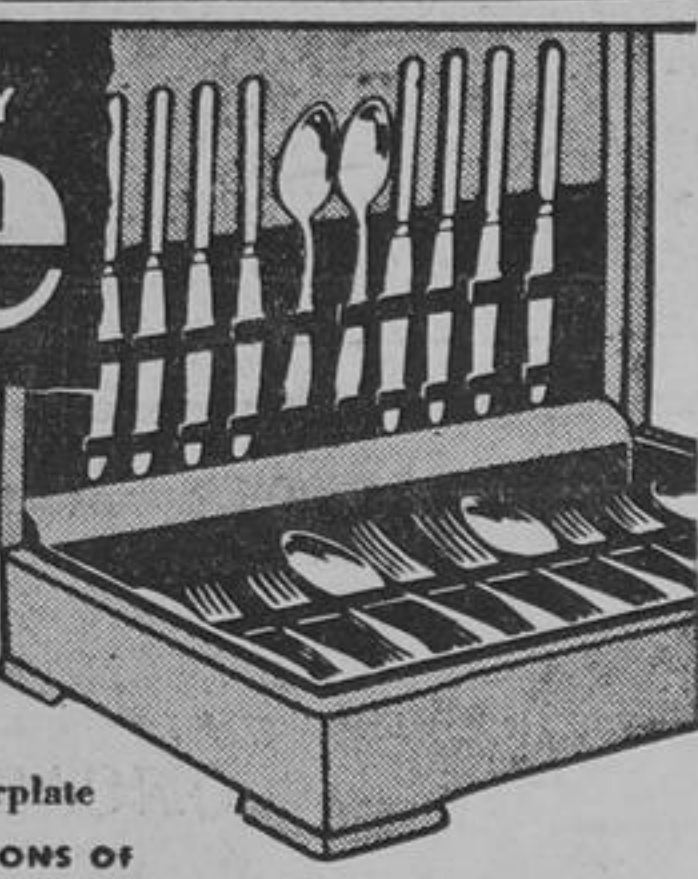
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Markham Reeve Asks Access To School Area 1 Files - Board Sets Policy

A meeting planned by the Trustees of the Board of School Area No. 1 Markham and Vaughan at which the Board planned to discuss various matters pertaining to the operation of the School Area with Reeve Alfred LeMasurier took a sudden reversal last Tuesday evening when Reeve LeMasurier requested that the entire books and files of the School Board be made available to the Clerk of Markham Township. When asked for what purpose the figures were required, Reeve LeMasurier said that they would be used for general publication.

The Reeve said that the Council has received numerous requests from School Boards regarding school areas and said that the township clerk was preparing a schedule of comparative costs of education per pupil in school areas and union school sections. Chairman Keith Richan comment-

ed later that council should direct such groups seeking information to the School Board where they could get an idea of the working of the area in conjunction with the costs. Mr. Richan said that he felt that there were many factors entering into the value of the education dollar in a school area and in a school section and added that he felt that a straight comparison of actual costs per pupil was not a true picture. "All I'm interested in is that the township may have all the figures available", replied the Reeve.

The Board concurred that they would be willing to make their files and costs available to any school sections or ratepayers groups in the townships but at the same time reserved the right to explain the financing of the area which is growing all the time.

Only One Question
Both Chairman Richan and Trustee Stewart Calvert emphasized that the intention of inviting the Reeve to meet with them was to discuss various matters of financing and other problems of the School Area and added their regret that Mr. LeMasurier reiterated only one question, that regarding the Clerk's access to the files. Said Reeve LeMasurier, "As Reeve of Markham Township, I'd rather not answer what Council might think of your increased accommodation problems. I'm not on the School Board."

Extends Invitation
Referring to a meeting held in Markham Township on Monday evening to discuss School Area versus the Union School Section, Chairman Richan said that the committee set up to investigate the pros and cons had been invited by the School Board to avail themselves of figures on school area operation. Trustee Jackson Taylor commented that this meeting brought out the fact that rural school sections were having a difficult time keeping teachers who felt there was little future in rural schools.

Set Policy
Setting their policy, the Trustees unanimously agreed that any groups would be perfectly welcome to contact the Board to arrange for information but reserved the right to deal directly with interested parties in order that correct information would be supplied. Giving their reason for such policy, the Trustees expressed the feeling that information of this sort can be very easily misinterpreted and used for purposes other than originally intended.

In the belief that such a reply indicated a negative answer and lack of co-operation, the Reeve declined to discuss any other matters with the Board and left the meeting.

Comparison
Maynard Hallman, Inspector of Public Schools, who was present at the meeting remarked to the Board that there was no fair comparison between education costs in a rapidly expanding school area and a union school section which has possibly remained stationary for the past half-century.

Commenting on the entire situation, Chairman Keith Richan concluded, "We are certainly not ashamed of our figures, but we're not going to let them be misused for possible political purposes without proper explanations."

New Schools
The Board has received tentative approval from the Ontario Municipal Board regarding the proposed new \$100,000 school on Bayview near No. 7 Highway and the \$75,000 addition to the Henderson Ave. School. This tentative approval permits the Board to complete final plans and specifications and to call for tenders.

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Baby Dies As House Burns

A seven-months-old baby died in her crib when flames devoured a five-room frame home in Vaughan township Monday night. The child was alone in the house at the time. Her mother, Mrs. Mary Goddard, 21, had left the house scant minutes before to meet her husband at work.

Dead is Deborah Goddard, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Goddard of Crestwood Rd. She was their only child.

Funeral service took place on Wednesday at 4 in the Wright and Taylor funeral home, Richmond Hill. The infant was buried in the Westminster Memorial Park with Rev. Fred A. Vaughan conducting the service.

Two neighbours attempted to rescue the baby when they sighted the fire, but could not enter the house because of the heat and smoke. One of the men, Roy Jarvie, 19, had his hand singed in a vain attempt to save the youngster.

Jarvie and another neighbor, Bruce Smith, broke windows in the house and tried to dive through them head first, so they could reach the baby's crib. Firey hot smoke filled both men's nostrils, forcing them to retreat gasping for breath.

Firemen from Richmond Hill and North York also attempted to enter the burning home but were beaten back time and again by the flames and smoke. Deborah's crib was in a rear bedroom of the partially completed bungalow.

Mrs. Goddard put the supper on the stove, then walked about a half mile to the gasoline station on Yonge St. where her husband worked with his father. She intended to return home with him, but he was not ready and she began to walk by herself.

Jarvie said he was cleaning his car across the street from the Goddard home when the blaze broke out. He noticed billows of smoke coming from it. He could see no flames.

Smith joined him, and the two, suspecting the baby was inside, smashed the two front windows. Jarvie attempted to dive through the broken window to get the baby, but was thrown back by clouds of thick smoke which filled the entire house.

Education Costs

(Continued from page 1)

Board and among their suggestions were that each person wishing to split lots in registered plans be charged a possible \$300.

Mr. Keffer protested strongly against the proposal and expressed the feeling that Council would be hindered in their efforts. Mr. Marshall McMurchy pointed out that there were certain times in the growth of a municipality when rapid residential development would not pay for the added schools and police and fire protection that were required, and therefore became a liability to the municipality. Mr. Keffer suggested making them an asset by increasing the taxes. Deputy Reeve Albert Rutherford questioned the fairness in overtaxing present residents to bring in additional housing before industrial development. Reeve McMurchy added that, although there had been no new subdivisions permitted during the past year, there had been a 15 per cent increase in population.

Street Signs
Prompted by recent requests for street signs in the Richvale area, Council approved Councillor Doyle's motion that nine street signs be erected on Yonge Street at the nine township street intersections between Elgin Mills. Other streets in the area are already suitably marked. The estimated cost of the signs is \$11, each.

Council gave formal approval of the new Police Radio system. It will cost an estimated \$5,000 and will enable the police to answer calls without returning to the Maple headquarters. Confirmation of township tax levy at 17 mills was also given but the matter of the County levy will be held over until Reeve McMurchy has an opportunity to discuss the matter with other County officials.

Clerk James McDonald was instructed to advertise for two men for the positions of township police officers also for one man for the post of Weed Inspector.

Auditor's Report

Auditor N. L. Morton presented his report of the township's finances to Council and complimented the successful year of financing, especially mentioning the tax arrears. The 1953 tax arrears stand at \$54,000 but only \$970 worth of taxes more than a year old are outstanding. The debenture debt for '53 stood at \$279,018, while the operating surplus was \$267. He cautioned, however, that in times of rising costs, a township the size of Vaughan should have a bigger surplus than \$10,000.

Mr. Morton has been auditor for Vaughan for the past 2 years. Council passed a by-law appointing Deputy Reeve Albert Rutherford and Councillor James Reid as representatives on the Maple Community Centre Board. Road accounts for March totaled \$6,289 while Relief costs amounted to \$1,019.

Markham Twp.

Ward Committee Will Plan For 3 Wards And Five Member Council

On the strength of a resolution moved and seconded by Deputy Reeve W. Clark and Councillor K. James and carried by Council, Markham township Council Monday formally instructed its Ward Committee (Councillors A. Lennie and A. Little) to plan for the division of the township into three wards and the introduction of a five member Council for election purposes.

This was the final move in a lengthy debate precipitated by a report tabled by the Ward Committee in which it suggested that the township be divided into four wards, and that Council be composed of either five or six members. Councillor Lennie suggested with four wards and a five member council each ward could elect a Councillor, the Reeve would be elected from over the whole township, while the Council itself would elect the Deputy Reeve from among its own members.

In its report the Ward Committee stated it based its findings on submissions received from three groups, namely, the Federation of Agriculture, the Joint Ratepayers and the Markham Township Property Owners Association.

Councillor Lennie said that the boundaries for a four ward system had been drawn up at a joint meeting of representatives from the Federation of Agriculture and the Joint Ratepayers. Both the Federation of Agriculture and the Joint Ratepayers submitted proposed boundaries for a ward system.

The actual recommended divisions as contained in the Committee report are as follows: Ward 1 - Lots 26 to 32 in Concession 1 and lots 1 to 8 in Concession 2. Ward 2 - Lots 33 to 60 in Concession 1 and excluding the village of Richmond Hill. Ward 3 - Lots 8 to 15 inclusive in Concession 2. Lots 1 to 15 in Concession 3. Lots 1 to 15 in Concession 4. Lots 1 to 15 in Concession 5. Inclusive in each case.

Ward 4 - Lots 16 to 35 inclusive in Concessions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Lots 1 to 35 inclusive in Concessions 7, 8, 9 and 10, inclusive, excluding the villages of Markham and Stouffville. Lots 1 to 10 in Concession 11.

Referring to the proposed boundaries Councillor Lennie stated that these divisions had received the "unanimous support of the Federation of Agriculture and the Joint Ratepayers".

In the ensuing debate Reeve A. LeMasurier in taking exception with the brief stated, "This report tells me nothing". Reeve LeMasurier contended that the Committee had already been instructed to plan for a five man council, "and that the Committee's only problem lay in the matter of boundaries". "Any suggestion in taking exception with Council's wishes regarding the size of the Council", added Reeve LeMasurier.

Turning to the joint meeting at which the Federation of Agriculture and the joint ratepayers made their submissions regarding boundaries, Councillor James asked, "Why were the Markham Township Property Owners not invited to the March 30th meeting?"

In reply, Councillor Lennie stated that "the Markham Property Owners had been invited to make submissions to the Committee regarding boundaries, but their attitude was they didn't care about the boundaries provided a five-member council. Therefore the only two bodies that had made definite recommendations to the Committee regarding boundaries were invited to the special meeting."

In speaking of the composition of any future council, Township solicitor J. D. Lucas who was present at the meeting, stated that he felt it would not be legally possible to have a four-ward system and only a five member council as suggested by the Committee. A four-ward system would necessitate a six or seven-member council with the number seven being the most satisfactory figure.

If the Provincial Legislature at its present sitting passes several proposed amendments to the Municipal Act, Markham will be able to elect one councillor from each of three wards and the Reeve and Deputy Reeve from over the whole township without having to resort to another plebiscite. Previously, before a municipality could establish a five-member council under a ward system, the ratepayers had to specifically approve such an arrangement. In the plebiscite held last fall the ratepayers were only asked to signify their preference for, or opposition to, a ward system, with no reference being made to boundaries or the size of any future council.

Mr. Lucas stated that under the new provincial legislation in cases where the general question has already been voted on, a municipality will be permitted to proceed with the introduction of a three-ward, five-member council. Once a ward system has been set up, the council can at any time it sees fit increase the number of wards. Before actually coming into operation, Markham's ward system will be subject to review by the Municipal Board.

In speaking to the resolution, Deputy Reeve Clark stated, "I certainly feel that the consensus of opinion throughout the township favours a five-member council." Councillor Lennie stated that "the Committee will certainly carry out the wishes of Council," but at the same time he advocated that the members give the matter careful consideration before deciding whether the township should have three or four wards. Reeve LeMasurier contended that the size of the Council will dictate the number of wards. "I am of the opinion that a five-member council is large enough for a municipality the size of Markham. We haven't yet reached that stage in our development where a seven-member council is warranted."

School Area No. 1

The Municipal Board has granted School Area No. 1 Markham and Vaughan tentative approval to float a 20-year debenture issue to cover the cost of the \$100,000 new four room school to be located in the vicinity of Bayview and No. 7 Highway, and also for the \$75,000, four-room addition to the Henderson Ave. School. The School Board is now in a position to call for firm bids on the proposed construction.

New Truck

The members opened tenders from six different truck dealers, listing bids on the township's proposed purchase of a new five-ton truck. These tenders have been referred to the road committee for further study before any decision is made.

Townlines

The Road Committee has given notice that it wants Council to secure a written agreement with Richmond Hill regarding the maintenance of any boundary roads serving both municipalities. Since annexation, only a verbal agreement has existed between the two municipalities for the handling of any townlines.

Parking

Council has given reading to a by-law designed to prohibit the parking of automobiles for more than one hour at any one time on the east side of Yonge Street between Steele's Ave. and Meadowview Park Road. Before the by-law can officially become law, it is subject to review by the Department of Highways.

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