

★★ 3rd ED.

THE HARTFORD COURANT, Wednesday, February 25, 1976

Agency Tackles Transit, Housing Woes

By LESLIE WENDEL
BROOKLYN — Initial steps to attempt solutions to two of the northeast area's major problems—lack of public transportation and a severe shortage of affordable housing—were taken by the Northeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (NECRPA) Monday.

Agency members unanimously voted to authorize NECRPA Chairman John Harris to apply for three dif-

ferent federal grants for transportation planning and public transit, and to examine what NECRPA Executive Director Charles Foster described as a housing "crisis" in the 10-town northeast area.

In what Foster said was "preliminary draft information," a survey of advertising in the region showed there were only 11 houses

available in the 10 towns for less than \$25,000. This was based on a check of houses advertised in two local papers in the last week of Jan. 21, Foster said. These 11 houses represented 7 per cent of the houses advertised for sale, he said.

The 1970 median family income for the 10-town area was \$10,000 per year and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development calculated the median income for

1973 was \$13,600, Foster said. In the context, the only affordable housing would be less than \$5,000, "or only 10 per cent of the houses for half the families in the region," he said.

"Kitt Towns"

NECRPA member Leslie Foster of Canterbury said that despite the apparent need for lower priced housing, "You're going to kill some of the smaller towns in northeastern Connecticut if you build all the low-income

housing you need.

"It's not a solution to build low-income housing. It's a

transit to solve the problem

we need," he said.

"Aren't you inviting wel-

fare families to come in,"

agency member Raymond

Holen of Sterling said.

Foster said he was not

suggesting solutions to the

problem at this point, but

was "asking for a work-

shop seminar on housing to

find out what we should do."

Foster said he would like

to see a breakdown of what

different types of occupan-

cies, such as a one-bedroom

apartment or a two-or

three-bedroom tract house,

cost the towns in terms of

roads, schools and other

services.

"Protecting Tax Base"

If such information were

available, then zoning could

be key to "protecting the

tax base of the town," he

said.

Along with applying for

federal transportation

grants, the agency is plan-

ning a transportation survey

of households in the 10-town

region.

The survey will include

"censusing" by telephone

to highway locations and is

designed to find out where

area residents work and

shop, NECRPA Transpor-

tation Planner Karen Olson

said.

One of the grants to be

applied for is for a demon-

stration project which would

involve a combination of fixed

and flexible transit, possibly

along Rt. 12, and a "dial-

ride" service, using

the agency's own bus

service, Ms. Olson said.

Other grants the agency

will be applying for are for

rural transportation plan-

ning and for writing a transit

development plan.

Panel Reviews Landfill Bidding Steps

Eastford

By ELOIS McLEROY
EASTFORD — The Competitive Bidding Committee met Monday night with Philip Cheney of CME Associates, Inc. of Putnam to discuss specifications for putting the town's sanitary landfill operation to bid.

CME Associates is the

firm contracted by the

Northeastern Connecticut

Regional Planning Agency

(NECRPA) to prepare a de-

tailored plan for solid waste management in Northeastern Connecticut.

An ordinance passed in the

November election requires

town expenditures of more

than \$1,000 to be put out to

bid.

Cheney said Monday night

he will talk to members of

the solid waste management

department of the state De-

partment of Environmental

Protection (DEP) about

Eastford's situation at the end

of each operating day, Cheney said.

With proper compaction,

Eastford's landfill should be

usable four to five more years, he said.

The landfill is open two to

three days a week. Each

compaction and covering

operation, conducted several

times last year, cost about

\$700, according to Edwin V.

Cooper, clerk to selectmen

and the bidding committee.

The committee, it con-

cerned that specifications

meet DEP requirements at a

cost which the town can af-

ford.

Other business

In other business, the com-

mittee decided to ask Joseph

D'Aquila, district engineer

for the state Department of

Transportation, to meet with

the committee to discuss the

effect of competitive bidding

on state and funds to town

roads.

State Road Inspector Earl

Borman was invited to meet

with the committee for the

same purpose, but said he

could not attend because of

other commitments, ac-

cording to Cooper.

The next committee meet-

ing will be Friday at 7:30

p.m. in the Town Office

Building.

Pops Concert To Include 4 Pupils

Eastford

EASTFORD — Four pupils in Grades 7 and 8 will join Woodstock Academy musicians in portions of the academy's pops concert to be given at the Amherst Cultural Center March 5, starting at 7:30 p.m.

From the graduating class

of the local school will be

Jeffrey Wilson and

Yule, while David Campbell

and Peter Eschholz will represent Grade 7.

The program will include

a wide variety of numbers

and music styles. The cast

will include the academy's

Glee Club, the Freshmen

Chorus, the Hill Singers and

band members, besides the

Eastford group.

Spaghetti Dinner

Tickets for the spaghetti

dinner to be given by the

Pilgrim Fellowship of Eastford

Congregational Church Fri-

day beginning at 4 p.m. may

be secured from members of

the fellowship today.

Tickets are \$2 for adults

and \$1.25 for those in the

six- to 12-year-old group.

Those five years and under

will be admitted free.

The dinner will be contin-

uous until 8 p.m., fellowship

officers said.

Pastor's Hours

The Rev. Robert R.

Branch, Congregational

Church pastor, has estab-

lished daily office hours at the

church from Monday

through Friday each week.

He will be in the minis-

try's study each morning

from 9 a.m. until noon for

consultations.

School Events

School Supt. Francis C.

Stevens said Tuesday two

special events have been

scheduled for the elemen-

tary school during the coming

weeks.

A group of players from

the Rectory School in Pom-

fret will present a play

entitled "The Boy Who

Started at 10 a.m. The pro-

duction will be for students

from Kindergarten through

Grade 4, and will be directed

by Mr. Lillian White of the

Rectory School faculty.

The Woodstock musical

program will be duplicated

for members of all the

classes of the Eastford

School March 9, beginning at

10:45 a.m.

Voters To Act on Fund Pleas; May Hike Taxes 5 to 8 Mills

Columbia

COLUMBIA — Voters will be asked March 6 to approve appropriations of \$10,000, which would mean a 5-to-8 mill tax rate increase.

The majority of these

millage rates, or about

\$115,000—is being requested

for this fiscal year to ease

the financial burden when

the town converts to the uni-

form fiscal year.

The combined budget of

the selectmen and the Board

of Education approved last

October was \$1,386,000. All

the increases being requested

would raise it to \$1,546,169—about a 12 per cent

increase.

Recommendations

With all Board of Finance

members present Monday

night, selectmen recommended that \$18,544 be taken from the surplus to cover the cost of the newly installed fire alarm system in the school.

Another clause will be for a \$15,000 appropriation for the Board of Finance.

A separate clause in the

warning, which will have no

effect on the mill rate, was

to appropriate a sum not to

exceed \$50,000 from the re-

serve fund for capital and

non-recurring expenses to

purchase a new gasoline en-

gine truck for the road de-

partment, or a sum not to

exceed \$10,000 for a direct

truck.

The finance board is

scheduled to meet Monday

at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall.

The reason for the new figure

was not disclosed.

Alarm System

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recommended that \$18,544 be taken from the surplus to cover the cost of the newly installed fire alarm system in the school.

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Teachers Attend Meeting, Await Pact

Columbia

By ADEL URBAN
COLUMBIA — Most Porter School teachers attended a Board of Education meeting Monday night as efforts continued to hammer out a contract for this year.

Bazel Smith, Columbia Teachers

Association (CTA) president and

CTA negotiating team spokes-

man, said the teachers attended

to "display our unity and dissatis-

faction" with the negotiations.

The teachers have been conduct-

ing job actions, such as entering

and leaving school on time each

day, and have curtailed all extracur-

ricular activities.

A dozen students from the junior

high grades also were at the

meeting, as were a few parents in support

of Edith Prague, in interim adminis-

trative assistant, whose job ends

on March 1.

On March 1 the new principal, Le-

opold Neckermann III, will assume

his duties with Joseph Markoff as

assistant principal.

Mrs. Prague, who has a degree in

social work, was praised by the stu-

dents and parents.

Marge Martin of Rt. 66 said that

Mrs. Prague is someone in the

school "not only for the kids but the teachers and the parents."

She said that the lines of commu-

nication have been opened by Mrs.

Prague and "I pray God they stay

open."

After an executive session lasting

until after midnight, no action was

forthcoming on retention of Mrs.

Prague. The board did, however,

adopt a resolution complimenting

Mrs. Prague on her work.

Statement Read

Albert Hadjian, board member,

made a lengthy statement concern-

ing negotiations and the rationale for

the stand.

When board member John Sullivan