

# Ti town board begins steps for town-wide park district

## Press-Republican

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TICONDEROGA — A request that the Ticonderoga Town Board begin legal steps required in creation of a town-wide park district met with delay here Thursday night, the board opting for further study and a joint meeting with the Ticonderoga Village Board.

The Village Board Tuesday night had granted Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce Parks and Recreation Committee representative Edwin Henry's request that it endorse the concept of a town-wide park district.

Henry brought that move to the town board's attention in requesting initiation of the legal steps. But Town Justice William Robinson's suggestion that the request be tabled pending further study met with board acquiescence.

Town Justice Fred Provoncha indicated he'd like to hear village board members' thoughts "face to face," rather than evaluate the village position through news reports. Supervisor Melvin Porter agreed to contact village Mayor John C. Dreimiller for joint meeting arrangements.

The board also:

—Renewed its annual contract with the Ticonderoga Youth Commission.

—Directed town attorney Gerald Lawson to commence legal proceedings against Albany area resident Constantine A. Belkavich, who has placed a mobile home in the town near Eagle Lake without obtaining a permit.

The unit has been in place for months, and discussion on it a regular feature on the board's agenda during that period. Neighbors have objected, in part because it's in violation of the zoning ordinance and is a potential fire hazard to a structure on adjoining property.

A disabled veteran of the World War II Normandy Invasion, Belkavich agreed after a public hearing months ago on a permit request to meet the ordinances sewer and water requirements and work toward compromise with objecting neighbors on placement of the unit. The board feels he hasn't met the terms of that

agreement.

He will be allowed to store the mobile home near the town garage if he so requests. In acting on the situation, the board found unsatisfactory a letter from Belkavich promising to move the unit as soon as it is sold.

—Approved the suggestion that town building inspector William Grinnell and Lawson draw up proposed regulations regarding leach fields in the town. Grinnell told the board that, without restrictions, drainage problems have been recurrent.

The building inspector suggested adoption of regulations in effect within the Lake George Park District. As is, Provoncha indicated, the town regulates such facilities for mobile homes, but not for conventional housing.

—Accepted Richard Lamb's high bid of \$310 for a used town police cruiser. The board authorized Porter to make the sale upon receipt of that amount.

—Authorized town highway department improvements to the Old Chilson Road. Funds for the project are provided in this year's budget, Highway Superintendent Fred Dudley told the board. The project has County Highway Department Commissioner Edward Currier's approval.

—Followed Lawson's suggestion that it inform Ticonderoga attorney Patrick Carney, representing former Ticonderoga resident Mrs. Norma Atchinson's estate, that the town is not interested in taking title of the Montcalm Street property now in the hands of the estate.

Carney had written to ask if the town might take title in lieu of payment of property taxes owed on the property. The abandoned building, located at the corner of Montcalm and Champlain Avenue, probably will revert to Essex County as a result of property tax non-payment, Porter said.

—Referred a letter and

questionnaire from the League for Adirondack Citizen's Rights, a group that has been critical of the Adirondack Park Agency, to Lawson.

—Authorized Porter to sign a contract for payment of the town's 50 per cent share of the cost of operating the community's emergency answering service. The town and village split the cost, which totals \$1,000 more this year at \$18,000.

The authorization is contingent on Lawson's determination that that contract is in legal order.

—Agreed to secure \$23,500 in five-year bond anticipation notes while selling bonds to finance purchase of a heavy dump truck and plow. The town is buying the vehicle from Latham Motors at the \$29,140 bid price, the remainder of that figure being taken from the town's machinery fund.

Discussing the park district proposal, Lawson explained that the town, not the village, has the power to set up such a unit. But much of the property envisioned as part of the district falls within village bounds, and Lawson pointed out that village attorney James R. Murdock has indicated village board approval would be required before the land in the village could be included.

Henry had observed earlier that the district could start out as a small-scale operation, but suggested the district be based on a "broad concept" to avoid restrictions in the event of later expansion. Provoncha echoed feelings village board members expressed earlier this week, indicating creation of a park district seems "logical."

The major piece of property envisioned as a part of the district is the former International Paper Co. (IP) mill site in the village. The village board has grant requests totalling more than \$600,000 in to fund creation of a bicentennial park there.

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