

COMMISSIONERS MEET

With the holidays over it was back to work for the Board of Commissioners. The January meeting was well attended because it had been advertised with the announcement that the Village Shopping Center Site Plan would be considered for approval.

Commissioner Johnson, in his report, said that so far in the fiscal year 74% of revenues had been collected and 47% of budgeted expenditures disbursed. By December 31st, 79% of taxes had been collected. He also recommended an amendment to the personnel policy allowing the carry over of a maximum of 10 days of unused vacation time from one year to the next.

Commissioner Libby presented the building inspector's report for December showing two residential starts and two residential certificates of occupancy. He also summarized construction from 1979 to 1986. This report shows 1983 to be the year of most activity, with a gradual decrease since then. This report is available at the Town Hall for those who wish to see it.

Commissioner Shedd reported that street corner repair is now complete. Twenty-one corners were paved at a cost of some \$5,000.

Commissioner Sotir reported ten Rescue calls in December. New members have been in training and have taken on regular duty.

Commissioner White reported 62 traffic violations and 5 arrests by police in December. There was one fire call, a mutual aid call to Indian Beach.

Mayor Hanan reported that the study of the gypsy moth problem is still being carried on by the State. A recent inspection revealed more egg masses but they have not yet determined whether they are fertile or not. If they are found to be, a ground spraying program may take place later in the year. The Town will be informed.

The Mayor also remarked on the growing number of stray cats wandering about the town. Some are obviously abandoned domestic cats. The Humane Society will accept them if a way can be found to capture and transport them.

The Board then passed a resolution protesting the mandated police retirement program enacted by the State Legislature since it was felt that this program is discriminatory and can impose on the towns an expense far in excess of what they are able to meet.

The Village Shopping Center Site Plan was then described by the architect, Jim Lancaster. Whereas the Commissioners were free to act on the plan without a public hearing, Mayor Hanan wished all interested parties to be informed and comments from the floor were accepted.

This is a site plan. Building permits will be requested later. The plan calls for a four-story building flanked by a two-story building on each side of the terrace. The first floor of each building is for retail shops, the second floor will be for offices and finally, the fourth floor is planned for a restaurant. Phase I includes the buildings, the court, paved entrances and parking areas. If approved, they plan to start the grading and landscaping right away, the building in March with a completion date in September.

Speaking for the Community Appearance Commission, Chairman Flo Garrett stated they recommended two conditions: that if construction is not started within six months a site plan must again be submitted; and, after Phase I completion a specific plan for landscaping be submitted.

Clyde Lynn, Chairman of the Planning Board, also recommended conditions suggested by that body requiring a turning lane be provided on Salter Path Road and a by-pass lane on Pine Knoll Boulevard.