

Clifton News 25 Years Ago: February 1989

The Herald News February 9, 1989:

Clifton board OKs property tax jump of \$140

CLIFTON – Property taxes would rise an average of \$140 under the proposed \$43.9 million budget approved by the Clifton Board of Education Wednesday night and forwarded to the county Superintendent of Schools.

The school board also voted to place referendums to construct two new school buildings and to renovate other schools in the district on the April ballot.

The budget proposal is about \$5 million more than last year's, but leaves most educational programs at a virtual standstill for the sake of increased salaries and insurance costs, board President David Stein said.

The proposed operating budget does not include \$16.9 million in construction costs to replace Schools 11 and 12, or the cost of renovations to other schools. Those projects will be paid for through bonds, if they are approved by voters.

"It's absolutely frustrating," said Stein of the budget, warning that educational programs will suffer if demands unrelated to curriculum continue to soar.

Applying state aid to the projected budget, Stein said the board will need to collect \$35 million in taxes. That's an increase of 40 tax points, or \$4.8 million over last year.

For the average Clifton homeowner, whose house is assessed at \$35,000 according to the 1972 figures till in effect, it will mean spending an additional \$140 to support the city's school district this year. Together with projected county and municipal budgets, the city's tax rate is expected to rise about 80 tax points his year, or \$280.

That would bring the total bill for 1989 to \$2,474.50.

State aid accounts for about 20 per cent of Clifton's schools budget. Board members say programs mandated in Trenton cost more than that, leaving them few options as to which programs will be cut or what projects will be delayed.

This year, for the first time, residents will have the opportunity to vote on the school budget. They are expected to reject the proposal.

The anticipated rejection, coupled with financial restructuring forced by the voters' November decision to change the district's organization, has sent the school board scrambling for a cash base independent of tax revenues.

The board has resolved to sell Latteri Park, its only asset unrelated to school programs, to infuse as much as \$3 million into a surplus fund. The plan has met opposition from the City Council and the community.

In defense of the proposed sale of the park, Commissioner Lambert Atsma said the sale "will produce tax ratables to be used by this city for as long as there is a Clifton."

In the first step of the public hearing process, Wednesday night's vote forwarded the school budget to the county superintendent's office for review. From there, it will be discussed and revised by the board and finally presented for a public hearing on March 15 before being voted on in the April 4 election.

Clifton News 50 Years Ago: February 1964

The Herald News February 1, 1964:

Clifton's Water Commission

The Clifton council majority is fully justified in appealing the court decision which held on the Passaic Valley Water Commission that authority to appoint the city's representative did not belong to the council but to the city manager.

The council-manager law under which Clifton operates is silent on the appointment of Passaic Valley Water commissioners. Superior Court Judge Kolovsky indicated that the statutes are fuzzy with his comment that new legislation would be helpful.

The appeal is desirable because it means the State Supreme Court will probably hand down the last word on the issue. However, it would be even more desirable to have the legislature settle the issue by giving the power to the city manager or the council.

Such legislation ought not to be based on the present political situation in Clifton, which will change. The deciding factor should be in which hands, over the long run, it would be wiser to place the responsibility for naming the city's representative on the water board.

Inasmuch as the council is entrusted with the duty of establishing municipal policy and as the water commissioner should follow municipal policy – a point made by City Counsel Monchak in his argument – it would seem preferable for the council to have the appointing power. There is another consideration which is also important. It is the undesirability of putting too much power in the hands of a city manager and thereby encouraging involvement in politics. That's a council's prerogative.

The Herald News February 1, 1964:

Weiss President of Clifton Board

Mrs. Friedman Is Vice President; Vote of School Trustees Unanimous

CLIFTON – The Board of Education this morning elected Stanton Weiss, vice president of Protective Coatings Corp., as its new president by unanimous vote at the annual reorganization meeting.

WEISS, in turn, nominated Mrs. Louise Friedman, for vice president. She was also elected by unanimous vote. Seymour Rudd was the only member absent.

Although the reorganization meeting was short – only 15 minutes – one member, the outgoing president, Joseph Seader, issued a statement which led to the deletion of the Clifton Independent Prospector from the list of the board's official newspapers for publication of legal advertisements...

BEFORE THE vote, Seader read the following statement:

“... I feel it is my duty as a member of the board to point out that any recognition of this publication is only to condone the wholly irresponsible and shameful journalistic practices which have disgusted the decent citizenry of Clifton.

"Petitions are presently being circulated within the city to rid the community of its evil.

"As a school official responsible for the education of our city's youth, I cannot be party to this board recognizing any part of a paper that has engaged in spiteful and wholly unwarranted attacks on our school personnel and pupils.

"The repeated flouting of ordinary decency in his paper by a publisher already under indictment by the grand jury is despicable and revolting to the good people of Clifton.

"MY MOTION is to strike from our list of official newspapers the Clifton Independent Prospector and approve the remaining newspapers on the list, which observed the ethics of responsible journalism in reporting news faithfully and honestly without personal bias..."

The Herald News February 3, 1964: Clifton Board Opposes Cut

Holster Urges \$96,900 Reduction In School Costs at Joint Meeting

CLIFTON – The newly reorganized Board of Education, under the helm of Stanton Weiss, decided Saturday, after a three-hour meeting with the City Council, to reject a recommendation by City Manager William Holster to cut the \$6,125,000 school budget by \$96,900. Most of the proposed reduction would have been in substitute teachers' salary appropriations.

THE VOTE against the cut was 4 to 3. Two school board members, Mrs. Ana Latteri and Seymour Rudd, were absent.

With the exception of Stanley Zweir, city officials met with Holster between 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday to go over the school budget before presenting the proposed reduction to school officials in the cafeteria of Christopher Columbus Junior High School.

The councilmen appeared to agree with Holster's analysis of the budget as none offered an alternate plan.

Weiss convinced a majority of his colleagues to present the proposed budget as is to the Board of School Estimate... On the board are Weiss, Mayor Ira Schoem, Councilmen Arthur Sullivan and Joseph Vanecek and a member of the school body, Seymour Rudd.

VOTING against Weiss' motion to submit the budget as is were Robert Griffith, Peter Chabora and Christian Faltings.

Faltings, a new member, said he felt the board should accept the manager's recommendations. Weiss, however, insisted that the councilmen wanted to analyze further the budget with the intention of lopping off more than \$96,900.

Councilman Arthur Sullivan Jr., thought that more time should have been given to discussing the budget before the governing body met with the school board. Sullivan said he received a copy of the budget last Wednesday and he could not properly appraise it in less than four days. A majority of the board and council agreed with him.

Weiss informed both his school board colleagues and the councilmen that in the future the budget will be prepared by January 1, with sessions, getting underway next September for the 1965 – 1966 budget.

IN HIS office, Holster pointed out the following increases to councilmen: \$102,383 in reduced balances, \$195,135 in teachers' salaries, \$130,000 in regular teachers' increments, \$37,000 in maintenance of school plants, \$24,000 in custodial salaries, \$28,000 in teaching supplies, \$17,500 in administrative and clerks' salaries, and \$9,400 in principals' salaries.

These increases accounted for \$544,576 of the \$576,125 jump in the amount to be raised by local taxation. The actual increase in the amount to operate schools, Holster pointed out, was \$498,041.

The manager questioned the board's use of one term "increments" which, he asserted, was also used to represent adjustments and salary raises. He said school officials' should differentiate between a raise, an increment, and an adjustment.

On the subject of teachers' salaries, Holster remained silent.

AT THE outset of the joint conference, Weiss announced that he thought the budget was "free of frills" and that every increase could be appropriately defended by both the board and school administrators. School Superintendent William F. Shershin answered most of the questions posed by Holster and the councilmen.

Councilman Zweir wanted to know why only three members of a board could adopt a tentative budget. John Koribanics, school board attorney, explained that a board with a quorum of only five members could legally act on any school business. At the time the board voted on the budget, only three members were in accord. Four of the nine members were absent...

The Herald News February 5, 1964: Council Introduces \$17.4 Million Budget

Ratable Jump to Keep Clifton Rate Stable; Token Pay Boost Voted

CLIFTON – A stabilized tax rate of about \$2.11 was forecast last night as the City Council introduced a \$17.4 million budget. City Manager William Holster said that although the budget is up about \$1.3 million over last year the increase is offset by a jump of about \$125 million in new ratables.

THE \$2.11 represents a tax rate to be used against 100 per cent valuation of property. The 1963 tax rate was \$6.34 at 40 per cent of true value. The budget was introduced by a split vote after the council approved token salary increases for about 380 of the city's 425 employees and after further cuts amounting to nearly \$75,000 was made. Voting against the budget because of the token \$150 pay boost to the employees and the budget reductions were Mayor Ira Schoem and Councilmen Arthur J. Sullivan Jr. and Joseph J. Vanecek.

Holster had recommended implementation of a job and salary reclassification survey made by the Civil Service. Under the survey, all employees would have received raises although some more than others.

Instead of concurring in Holster's recommendations which would have cost the city \$117,329, the majority members of the council supported an alternate plan offered by Councilman Vernon O. Moorman.

Moorman's proposals:

1. No increase for about 40 top echelon employees with Civil Service ratings of grades 36 through 21. Most of the highest salaried personnel are in those grades.
2. A pay raise of \$150 for all other employees except part-time people who will receive nothing.
3. A 5cents an hour increase for school traffic guards.
4. One more paid holiday for policemen and firemen. They now get four holidays off and are paid for two others.

MOORMAN estimated his plan would cost \$60,000. He admitted the \$150 figure was "fairly arbitrary" and said he would rather give the employees nothing at all rather than drop below the \$3-a-week mark. His proposal would take care of the lower echelon, he said, because they are "out of line."

Vanecek asked **Moorman** how he could justify the "obvious discrimination" in the higher grades. **Sullivan** said he preferred no raise at all over **Moorman's** plan...

Clifton News 75 Years Ago: February 1939

The Herald News February 14, 1939:

Clifton Tax Rate Up 50 Points; \$4.80 New Base

Mounting School Costs and State and County Taxes Blamed for \$247,000 Increase – Relief Burden

Another Factor, Say Manager Miller and Director Franz

City Departments Cut Budgets \$17,149.69

Mounting school costs and State and County taxes, coupled with diminishing revenues, will cause a jump of nearly \$250,000 in Clifton's new budget and add nearly 50 points to the City's tax rate, it was announced today by City Manager William A. Miller and City Treasurer John Franz, Director of finance.

Figures Still Tentative

All figures, they explained, are tentative, because the school budget, which alone shows a jump of more than \$50,000, has not been approved by the Board of School Estimate and because relief costs and State and County taxes have not been finally determined.

The amount to be raised by taxation, according to the tentative figures, is \$2,391,327.29, as compared with \$2,053,983.70 for last year, a jump of \$247,343.50. The present tax rate is \$4.29 per \$100. Based on the tentative figures, the new tax rate would be between \$4.70 and \$4.80, they announced.

Manger Miller and Director Franz announced after a preliminary study of budget figures last week that all City departmental items have been slashed to the bone, bringing them \$17,149.69 under what they were for last year. They predicted then that this saving would be wiped out by mounting relief costs and increasing State and County taxes and school costs.

Another factor in the mounting tax rate is the loss of ratables in both Passaic and Paterson, leaving Clifton to bear a larger share of State and County taxes.

City Departments Economize

Analyzing the budget figures, Mr. Miller and Mr. Franz said that while City departments showed a decrease of \$17,149.69 in operating expenses, relief costs will go up \$27,247.60; joint use of sewers will climb \$13,172.72; soldier's bonus State tax is going up \$971.43; County taxes will increase \$39,926.02; State tax for local schools will go up \$14,564.09; and the local school budget will increase \$50,650.99.

The Clifton Board of Education budget will be submitted to the Board of School Estimates, which controls Clifton school funds, at a meeting at the City Hall tomorrow evening. Mayor Godfrey M. Meyer will preside. Other members are Councilmen Michael Shershin, and John J. Hamil and School Commissioners Erle Graupe and Addison P. Rosenkrans.

Increase Is \$247,343

Total appropriations for all purposes, including State and County taxes and school costs, are up \$129,383.17 and total revenues from all sources are down \$133,091.75. The reserve for uncollected taxes is also down \$15,129.42. The amount to raised by taxation, for all purposes, is up \$247,343.50.

The following table prepared by Director Franz shows how school costs have jumped from \$597,830 in 1934 to \$779,298 since 1934, while the City's share of operating expenses has dropped from \$1,073,528 to \$941,028, during the same period. State school taxes have jumped from \$119,060 to \$145,000; County taxes have jumped from \$319,633 to \$425,000, and the State soldier's bonus tax from \$6,742 to \$11,000.

The following table shows the trend of taxation in the last five years:

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
School Purposes	597,830.84	642,559.70	676,358.06	675,066.23	728,647.75	779,298.74
State School Tax	119,060.82	121,499.35	143,150.54	149,298.03	130,435.91	145,000.00
County Tax	119,633.40	317,239.19	314,396.68	386,478.95	385,073.97	425,000.00
Soldier's Bonus Tax	6,742.27	7,498.11	8,820.81	9,684.77	10,028.57	11,000.00
City Purposes	<u>1,073,528.20</u>	<u>1,042,023.37</u>	<u>923,957.04</u>	<u>910,352.40</u>	<u>799,797.50</u>	<u>941,028.46</u>
	\$2,116,795.53	\$2,130,819.72	\$2,066,683.13	\$2,130,880.38	\$2,053,983.70	\$2,301,327.20

Clifton News 100 Years Ago: February 1914

Passaic Daily News

February 4, 1914

CLIFTON

A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR TOWN HALL

Township Committee Sets March 5 as Day to Vote on Municipal Building

The matter of holding a special election, for the proposed new municipal building, was brought before the members of the Township Committee at their meeting last evening and a resolution to that effect was adopted. The date being set for Thursday, March 5, in the following places: 659 Main Avenue, Clifton; Grange Hall, Athenia; No Eight schoolhouse, Oak Street, Delawanna; No Two Fire House, Botany; No Four Fire House, Main Avenue; and No Six Fire House, South Second Street, Lakeview.

A communication was received from Joseph Jorlett, of South Second Street, Lakeview, asking that his name be put on the list of applicants for a position on the paid fire department when organized. Referred to the fire committee... An application for a position on the police force was received from Marino DeMattia, of Parker Avenue, and referred to the police committee...

A communication was received from the members of the Fourth District Republican Club, stating that Marino DeMattia was capable of filling the position of police officer...

February 6, 1914

CLIFTON

Acquackanonk's Loss

According to a statement made by Mr. Cheston, clerk of the Board of Education, last evening, Acquackanonk Township will lose about \$2,000 through the error made by County Superintendent of Schools E. B. Garrison, in drawing up a warrant for State school appropriations for the county...

February 7, 1914

CLIFTON

ENTERTAINMENT BY SENIORS OF HIGH SCHOOL

Two Farce-Comedies to Be Presented by Young People of Clifton

Now that the Lenten season is approaching there are many dances, receptions and parties in preparation and the younger set of Clifton is mighty busy. If the young people of Clifton will follow the advice given by the members of the High School senior class all will attend the coming entertainment under the AUSPICES OF THE SENIOR CLASS AT THE High School auditorium on the evening of February 13.

The pupils of the school and especially those of the senior class, have a reputation for presenting entertainments of a high order and this one will no doubt prove as delightful as any given heretofore...

Two farce-comedies are to be presented at this entertainment... Both plays are highly entertaining and they should attract a large crowd. There's a laugh in every utterance of these two sketches and, as Alyea Brick, publicity director for the class, says: "Come! Laugh and grow fat, ye thin ones!"

February 9, 1914

CLIFTON

NEW CLUB ORGANIZED IN VILLAGE

Last Wednesday night a number of boys

February 10, 1914

CLIFTON

CLIFTONS WIN OPENING GAME

Weir Leads Them to 54 – 26 Victory Over Paterson YMCA – Juniors Also Victors

The Clifton A. C. defeated the Paterson

February 11, 1914

CLIFTON

MOTOR CYCLES FOR “COPS” OF CLIFTON

The Clifton police are to ride motorcycles. This statement was made yesterday by one who knows. The machines, Harley-Davidson make, are due to arrive in the village within a few weeks. They are twin cylinders and up-to-date in every way.

And more than this Chief Coughlan is to get a new automobile, it is said. The Chief's present car has seen long service and the township officials believe that he is entitled to a new one. They have not as yet decided just what make of car to purchase.

The police will be able to cover a great deal more ground in much quicker time with the motorcycles and they will come in mighty handy in chasing speeding automobiles...

February 14, 1914

CLIFTON GIRLS ARE WINNERS

The Clifton girls' basketball team

February 14, 1914

CLIFTON

GEORGE HUGHES FOR ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

George Hughes, present assistant chief engineer of the Acquackanonk Township Fire Department, has been nominated for the office of chief engineer to succeed Henry Kaack, the present chief. Mr. Hughes has always been a hard working member of the township fire department and he has proved that he is an able official. All know the excellent work he has done as assistant to Chief Kaack. The firemen of Clifton believe that Mr. Hughes should be made head of the department.

"The Rough Diamond" and "A Matrimonial Venture," two exceedingly funny

The members of the township committee went to Nutley last evening where they had a conference with the members of the Nutley commission, regarding improvements along the boundary of the township.

February 17, 1914

CLIFTON

CLIFTONITES WILL MAKE MERRY FRIDAY

**Ridiculous Dress Dance to Be Given at Fire House on Friday Evening
Great are the activities of the**

February 18, 1914

CLIFTON

ACQUACKANONK COMMITTEE HAS BIG MEETING

Dr. Lawrence Coen Wants to Be Township Physician – Many Petition

Bids for the collection of ashes were opened at the meeting of the Township Committee last evening, the contract being awarded to William Nowrocki, of 22 Milosh Street, at \$6.50 per day.

A contract license was signed with the Barnum & Bailey Circus Company, which circus will show in the Township on May 20, 1914. The contract calls for a \$150 fee...

A communication was received from Dr. Lawrence E. Coen, of 36 Passaic Avenue, Clifton, a new resident of the Township, stating that as the position of township physician formerly held by Committeeman Dr. L. F. Meloney, still remains vacant, he offers his communication as an applicant for the position. Received and placed on file...

February 18, 1914

SCORING 101 POINTS, CLIFTON FIVE MAKES SEASONS RECORD

**BROOKLYN NAVAL RESERVES NO MATCH FOR VILLAGE FIVE – KROLL GETS TOTAL OF FORTY
POINTS HIMSELF – BIG CROWD CHEERS PLAYERS TO CENTURY MARK**

Basketball has been attracting more or less attention

February 19, 1914

ATHENIA REJOICES IN NEW HONORS GAINED ON ALLEYS

Captain Eisenhower Leads His Colts to Three-Time Triumph Over Richfield Bowlers

There is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth in Richfield

February 24, 1914

CLIFTON

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AT REIHLE HOME

An enjoyable Washington's Birthday eve party was tendered Saturday

One of the most enjoyable events of the season

February 25, 1914

CLIFTON

PRINCIPALS ASK BOARD FOR SALARY INCREASE

BOARD OF EDUCATION TURNS DOWN SUFFRAGE REQUEST FOR USE OF AUDITORIUM

A communication signed by the principals of the township schools, asking for a new salary schedule and an increase in their salaries, was brought before the members of the Board of Education last evening. A resolution also regarding the matter was presented to the board by William O. Jackson. After considerable discussion Mr. Godwin moved that the matter be laid over until the meeting in March and that the supervising principal be instructed to obtain data regarding the salaries of teachers and principals in surrounding towns corresponding with the number of rooms and pupils in the township schools and present it at the next meeting...

February 26, 1914

CLIFTON

SUFFRAGISTS WILL HOLD RALLY IN ANOTHER HALL

The Acquackanonk Township Board of Education, it seems, has taken a very decided stand against having Suffrage meetings in the High School auditorium. At the recent meeting of the board an application was received from a Passaic leader asking for the use of the hall for a Suffrage rally. The request met with a flat refusal on the part of the board on the recommendation of Mr. Godwin.

This refusal has greatly excited those Suffragists living in the village and they say that the meeting will be held in some other hall. A big rally is being planned...