

Declining state aid incurs wrath of city council

By JEAN JONES

Geneva city lawmakers say they are as mad as hell and they are not going to take it anymore.

What's raised their ire?

New York State has cheated Geneva out of \$430,000 in the past three years by cutting back per capita aid, charge City Manager Orville Over and Councilman-at-Large Frank Cecere.

"Our councils and mayors across the state are simply going to have to band together," said Cecere at Wednesday night's city council meeting. "We've got to get our city

legislators to Albany. It's certainly in order for our people to join as a group and go down there and pound the table."

Added Over: "That's what it's going to take."

Councilman Robert Oddi questioned the priorities of the people running the government, noting that \$471,000 in the state's supplemental budget will benefit Canandaigua in the form of park improvements, a performing arts center and restoration of Sonnenberg Gardens.

For the second time in a month,

council members drafted a message that will be sent to state lawmakers. This time they urged legislators to restore per capita aid cuts made in the 1980-81 budget.

The resolution asks the governor and state legislators to again give Geneva 18 percent of state income tax paid on a per capita basis. The state two years ago revised this amount.

Last month, council members wrote state officials, demanding help for cities like Geneva whose tax base is shrinking because of tax-exempt property. Geneva has 45.41 percent of all property wholly tax exempt. Some

properties have partial tax exemptions.

City lawmakers weren't satisfied with the replies they received from state officials.

Wrote state Assembly Minority Leader James Emery: "Thank you for notifying me of the resolution adopted by council regarding tax-exempt properties. I appreciate being advised of this action and will certainly keep council's position in mind..."

Wrote Robert Morgado, secretary to Gov. Carey: "On behalf of Gov. Carey, I acknowledge your recent letter transmitting a copy of Resolu-

tion No. 7 adopted Nov. 5 by Geneva City Council."

The letters annoyed Councilman Asa Brooks. "I move they both be accepted and filed," he said, "because this is the last we'll ever hear about this."

Concerning per capita aid, Reynolds said the state Conference of Mayors is working on the problem. He said Assemblyman-elect Frank Talamie, R-129, will get a copy of the city's request for an increase in per capita aid.

Talamie said when he gets to

Albany he will investigate rumors of a \$300 million surplus in the state budget.

He said: "I feel we've been shortchanged in the distribution of state money when it comes to Upstate. Certainly we can't raise anymore through property tax. So the only alternative is to reduce services or try to get more money out of Albany. I'm sure other cities have contacted their legislators so, as a new legislator, I'm not going to be out there all alone trying to get state aid restored to our cities."

Help shortage one reason leaf pickup's late, council told

By JEAN JONES

Here it is, winter 16 days away. The snow is falling, and the city hasn't yet caught up with its fall housekeeping chores.

At least it hasn't in the minds of city council members.

"Could you explain why we're tardy again this year with our leaf pickup?" asked 5th ward legislator Bob Oddi at council's Wednesday night meeting.

"Several reasons," replied City Manager Orville Over. "One, the leaves were late in coming down this year. Secondly, we don't have the manpower anymore that we did have. And thirdly, it's snowed twice so far."

Oddi agreed that maybe the leaves fell late this year "but the majority were down and laying around for probably a good two and a half weeks in good weather."

"They weren't picked up," complained Oddi. "Boy! my phone's

been ringing. There's been havoc in the Genesee, John and Folger Streets area. People there bagged their leaves or paid to have them raked and then they weren't picked up. This is the third year in a row. I think we better do better another year."

Other council members jumped into the discussion that turned out to be one of the more lengthy ones during the meeting.

"I think the leaf baler stinks," declared 4th ward councilwoman Elinor Bryan. She said she doesn't like the city's new method of baling leaves with a machine that works much the same as the hay baler farmers use. "It leaves the streets a mess," said Mrs. Bryan.

"What's wrong with our vacuum and how come we can't use that? I think we ought to sell that baler and go back to the vacuum method of collecting leaves."

Over explained the city collects

leaves in several ways. A backhoe picks up some and loads them on trucks to be hauled away. What Over called a "sucker" (the vacuum-like sweeper) is used at times. But mostly, the city now gathers leaves by a machine that bales them.

The bales are sometimes left on the curb for people who want them for mulch, said Over. Still others, he said, are taken away by truck to the Shuron Park area on the city's western fringe.

Over defended the city's baling method, calling it faster and more economical than other ways.

One truck, for example, said Over, can carry far more baled leaves than loose ones. And this saves money, he explained, because the city can get more bales on trucks that have to travel a distance. The Avon office of the state Department of Environmental Conservation has ordered the city's former dump off Hamilton Street closed, said Over.

"What you've got to realize," the city manager told council, "is that we're going through a different cycle and we have to find a way to pick up leaves with minimum labor and make them the fastest, most economical way."

"I don't think it's so fast," declared Mrs. Bryan. "I've checked them (the men using the baler) going around the block. The vacuum cleaner method's a lot faster and it leaves the street clean."

Councilman Frank Cecere pointed out that when the leaves are wet the baler doesn't do a good job. "But when it's dry the baler does a terrific job and a fast one," he said.

"Well, we'd appreciate it if you'd send somebody up to Shuron Park where you're dumping them and take them away from there," said 3rd ward councilman Anthony Valentino. He asked why the leaves have to be dumped in his ward, when farmers and others want leaves for compost or mulch. Over promised the baler would go to Shuron and haul the

leaves from there.

Geneva decided last year to copy the City of Batavia, and start baling leaves. Not too many communities are using the method yet, but Geneva officials believe they'll follow. Batavia recently made news headlines for developing the baling method. An Associated Press news writer told of the system's success.

Geneva officials looked at the Batavia system a few years ago and liked what they saw. Geneva ordered a hay baler and had it converted for leaf collection. "But that one didn't work too good, so we got another one," said Bert Anderson, acting public works chief.

The baler the city bought this year cost \$4,700, according to the 1981 budget. Anderson said the Castle Harvester firm in Seneca Castle converted it for leaf pickup. Anderson said farmers and gardeners like the baled leaves for compost, while citizens also want them for bedding. The leaves substitute for straw.

Anderson said Canandaigua city officials came to Geneva last year to see the baling work. Both Anderson and William McDonald, city street foreman, admit the baling method doesn't do as neat a job as the vacuum collection. "But it's still a good system," claimed Anderson.

Over told council last month at budget time that "once the leaves are on the truck, they must be covered or they blow all over as the truck moves. Most landfills don't want them because they take up so much room and when covered, there's lots of settling."

"There're very few places that will accept leaves and many sites are not feasible because of hauling distance." Another problem, he said, is "our trucks get stuck in dump sites."

Anderson said, "We make the bales reasonably small because we want people to pick them up. They weigh between 35 and 50 pounds. But when they run 75 to 100 pounds. Therefore, he said, the bales is usually taken out only in dry weather."

What's Doing

TODAY

Geneva Single Adults, Chamber of Commerce building, 7:30 p.m.

Seneca Rebekah Lodge, Odd Fellows' Hall, 8 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Stephen's School, 8:30 p.m.

Election of officers, Geneva Bocce Association, Exchange Street, 8 p.m.

Jim Alexander and "The Country Special" with Ken Pearce and "The Original People," Geneva Theatre, 8 p.m.

TOMORROW

Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Peter's Church, noon.

International Gift Shop, North Presbyterian Church, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Stephen's School, 8:30 p.m.

Wassail Bowl Sale, sponsored by the Women's Council of the Geneva Historical Society, Red Room of Prouty-Chew Museum, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

"I Do! I Do!", based on the Broadway musical, Geneva Theatre, 8 p.m.

Christmas film program, Children's Room of Geneva Free Library, 1 p.m.

Dinner-dance, sponsored by Las Diamantes Latinas, Moon's Lounge on Exchange Street, 6:30-8 p.m.

Christmas party, Ladies Auxiliary of the White Springs Fire Association, social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.

Christmas Ball, presented by Geneva General Hospital Auxiliary Guild No. 7, Geneva Country Club, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

CCFL chorale plans concerts

The Finger Lakes Chorale of CCFL will present "Une Cantate de Noel" by Arthur Honegger and "Christmas Day" by Gustav Holst at 8:15 Dec. 12 at the Geneva Methodist Church on Main Street, and at 8:15 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Victor Presbyterian Church on Main Street Victor.

Soloists for the performances are: Marjorie Olson, Soprano; Gene Scheer, Bass; Dr. A. John Walker, conductor; James Cochran, organist; Tyler Tom, pianist, also the Red Jacket Elementary school choristers will perform under the direction of Susan Dorschied.

There is no admission charged.

Bridge Winners

Winners of the duplicate bridge 2 were:

North and South — Mrs. Herbert Reitmann and Mr. Frank Pullano, first; Mrs. Thomas L. Brown and Mrs. Tena Achilles, second; and Mrs. Warren Herrick and Mrs. Richard Mack, third.

East and West — Mrs. William Allen and Mrs. Harold Neild tied with Mrs. Harry Bolton and Mrs. Coleman Murphy, first and second; Mrs. Marsden Baker and Miss Mary Debott, third.

Children's recreation, Grades 1, 2 and 3, North Street School gym, 2:30 to 3:30, Grades 4, 5 and 6, West Street School gym, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Junior High recreation, Junior High gym, 7 to 9 p.m., boys.

Swim instruction, Geneva High School pool, 7:45-7:45 and 7:45-8:30 p.m.

Teen swim, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Recreation Schedule

Here is the schedule for the city school recreation program for the week beginning Dec. 8.

MONDAY

Family swim, Geneva High School pool, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Teen swim, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Women's volleyball playoffs, Junior High School, gym, 6:30, 7:15 and 8:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Hospital recreation, North Street School gym, 7 to 9 p.m.

Children's recreation, Grades 1, 2 and 3, North Street School gym, 2:30 to 3:30, Grades 4, 5 and 6, West Street School gym, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Junior High recreation, Junior High gym, 7 to 9 p.m., boys.

Swim instruction, Geneva High School pool, 7:45-7:45 and 7:45-8:30 p.m.

Teen swim, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Children's recreation, grades 4, 5 and 6, North Street School gym, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Spanish recreation, North Street School gym, 7 to 9 p.m.

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Electricity No Bargain

The Board of Estimate yesterday approved a huge rate hike over the last two years for gas and electricity. For most of the recent hearings, the board was evenly divided. The issue, and it wasn't until late last night that a decision was made.

Ray Todd, who cast the deciding vote, replied, "I looked at the numbers, and we was just no way

we could do better." The new rates will go into effect Jan. 1.

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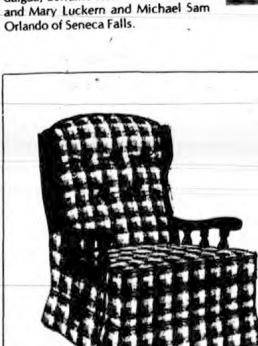
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