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Council takes no action-- Patrolman Coy not rehired

The Carlisle City Council, after a lengthy discussion in closed session, chose to take no action concerning the possible reinstatement of Patrolman James W. Coy who was fired without reason by Mayor William Power last month.

The Council went into closed session to discuss the impending litigation threatened by Coy and his attorney, Jim LeMaster, if Coy is not reinstated to his position on the police force. City Attorney Stockton Wood said, following the regular session Council meeting Monday night, that Coy will not be reinstated.

Wood said further, that according to statute the Mayor has full responsibility in such matters, and as such, the "Council chose not to rescind the dismissal. They took no action on the matter."

According to Wood, the Mayor would have a "strong case" if the threatened lawsuit was filed. "It appears, in the statutes," he said, "that the Mayor has the power (to fire policemen)". He added that there would be no hearing for Coy in the future, since Coy apparently waived his right to hearing at the May 29 emergency Council meeting.

Before the Council went into closed session, Councilman Clarence Cord voiced his objection to an incident where he said he saw Councilman Bob Barnett engaged in a conversation with Coy's attorney. Cord said he was under the impression that Council was not to be involved in the case.

Barnett replied, "I don't see anything wrong with me talking to him."

In other business, the Council granted an across-the-board pay raise to all city employees of 15 percent. The raise is to be effective July 1. The Council also raised the amount paid to firemen for making a call from $7 to $10.

The Council also adopted a sick leave policy for city employees which would grant all full-time workers 12 sick days per year. These days may be accumulated from year to year, and the accumulation may be maintained if an employee enters military service and then returns to the city payroll within one year of release from the military.

Councilmen Cord and Hughes both voted against the policy because of a clause which would pay the widow or widower of a city employee the amount of sick leave that had been accumulated by the deceased spouse. Both felt that too many complications could arise in the policy. Cord stated further that he felt the city should not be worried about providing its own extra insurance.

A controversy also arose over whether or not the city was committed to furnish sewage to a proposed subdivision on Upper Jackstown Road. The Council ordered a search of the appropriate ordinance, and chose to check their past committments before rendering a decision on the matter.

In other action the Council:

— Discussed the possibility of work on the alley that runs from Chestnut to Main behind the library, in order to prevent unnecessary water drainage into residential lawns.

— Accepted a check for $278.68 from the Paris/Bourbon County Chamber of Commerce for use of the Community Action bus in transporting special education children.

— Read a letter from Civil Defense Director Russ Bell encouraging attendance at an upcoming disaster preparation exercise.

— Read a letter from the Kentucky Department of Tourism indicating the possibility of more matching funds for the Nicholas County Historical Society's restoration project at the old L&N Depot.

— Discussed the possibility of placing a storm sewer behind the property of Eugene Neal to eliminate excessive water run off. However, Council decided that if such a sewer were installed, it could back up and create an even larger problem.

— Approved the creation of another downtown parking space reserved for the handicapped to be located near the corner of Locust and Main.

— Approved the purchase of a

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News briefly

20-year-old killed in crash

A 20-year-old Carlisle woman was fatally injured in an automobile accident in Mason County last week. According to the Mason County Sheriff's Office, a single vehicle accident on Mill Creek Road (KY 11) two miles south of Lewisburg claimed the life of Karen Sue Sallee, of 461 Sycamore Hill.

The accident apparently occurred late Wednesday evening, but was not discovered until around 8:30 Thursday morning. Miss Sallee reportedly lost control and went over a small bridge and then over an embankment.

Smoke damage reported

Arthur Buzzard, Carlisle Fire Chief, reported that a fire broke out at 107 High Street Sunday afternoon in a house owned by Bobby Campbell and occupied by Alvin Campbell. Fire crews arrived on the scene at 12:25 p.m. and extinguished the blaze, but not before the house suffered considerable smoke damage.

Buzzard said the fire was apparently ignited by a burning cigarette. There were no injuries.

Board grants pay boost

The Nicholas County Board of Education granted a 7 percent across-the-board pay increase to all classified personnel at the regular session Board meeting Monday night. Included in the category of classified personnel are all non-certified contractually employed positions such as bus drivers, cooks, aides, etc.

In other action the Board:

— Employed Annette Davis as LD-EMH teacher for the 1981-82 school year.

— Employed substitute teachers for the 1981-82 school year.

— Voted to hold a called Board meeting June 22 at 8 p.m. to take care of any and all business.

Girls overboard

Sunday's break from our recent rainy weather gave Heather and Andrea Hall a perfect opportunity to abandon ship on Lake Carnico as their father, John Hall, appeared to make a move toward them. — Mercury photo.

Fiscal court grants Mockingbird Lane new speed bumps

Traffic on Mockingbird Lane may soon be moving a lot slower as motorists will have to contend with several speed bumps on that street. The Nicholas County Fiscal Court voted unanimously last Wednesday night to have the speed bumps installed, provided such an installation is allowed by the State Highway Department.

The Court took the action after approximately 15 residents of Mockingbird appeared before the Court and presented a petition signed by all but three households on that street. The petition called for the installation of a minimum of four speed bumps.

Mrs. Cynthia Bryant presented the petition to the Court and voiced her concerns about the safety of the children in that area. Mrs. Bryant said that 65 children live on Mockingbird Lane, and she complained of the problem residents in that area have been experiencing with speeding cars all hours of the day and night.

County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot said that there is nothing in the highway manual about speed bumps, but that he and County Attorney Joseph H. Conley will check with the state to see if speed bumps are a legal form of traffic control on a public highway. Provided the state gives a clear signal, the speed bumps will be installed soon.

At the regular session meeting Wednesday night, the Court also closed out the Hospital Construction Fund with a final payment of $3,000 to Hartz-Kirkpatrick Construction Company. The remaining $426 in the fund were authorized to be used by James T. Vaughn in finishing some minor construction-related work at the facility.

The Court also granted permission to the Nicholas County Senior Citizen's Center to negotiate a lease on a different building than the one they are presently occupying.

The lease on the present site of the Center at 222 Locust Street expires July 1, and Judge Smoot said he has been informed that the Center has been offered a lease at 102 W. Main for $75 less than the current lease calls for.

Judge Smoot said, in addition, that the facility on W. Main was more accessible to elderly persons with limited mobility. The Court authorized the Center to negotiate, and stated a preference for a lease that would grant the Center priviledge to renew for three to five years.

The Court also opened bids on the scheduled repairs to the courthouse bell tower. Bids ranged from $11,247 for labor alone, to nearly $27,000 with all materials included. The Court tabled all bids for further discussion. A decision on the bids is expected to be made at a called meeting sometime this week.

Additionally, the Court discussed and defined the policy of the county in relation to its obligations to the Nicholas County Hospital for treatment of indigent county residents. The current position of the Court is that it will stand good for the admitting cost of any county resident. That cost, said Judge Smoot, is $100. The Court will not be responsible for the entire bill.

In other action the Court:

— Authorized the purchase of various sized culverts for the county road department.

— Authorized the purchase of two new tires for an International loader owned by the county. The tires are estimated to cost around $1400 each.

— Moved the date of the next regular Court meeting to June 24 at 7 p.m.

— Discussed the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. That budget is published inside this week's Mercury.

— Voiced overwhelming disapproval for a request that all employees of the courthouse be furnished with a reserved parking space.

'Mr. Andy' trapped

A 'Catch 22' tragedy

The piles and piles of bureaucratic paperwork that now epitomize the health care industry in this nation are creating a tragic no-win situation for one local man. That man is an 84-year-old lifelong resident of Nicholas County, a former farmer, and a four-year resident of Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home. But that man may be forced to spend his final years outside the county, away from family and friends.

That man is Mr. Andy Holland. Mr. Andy, as everyone calls him, has run across a problem with the way the state and federal agencies classify beds in health care facilities.

Mr. Andy entered the Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home in Carlisle four years ago and until early this year shared a room with his brother John. But on Dec. 30 Mr. Andy had some problems with his heart and had to be admitted to the Nicholas County Hospital. He recovered soon, and was released back to his "personal care" bed on Jan. 6.

That was when his problems began. A representative from the Kentucky Peer Review Organization, a body that establishes various levels of care (primarily for reimbursement purposes), came along and decided that Mr. Andy was receiving more attention than he was entitled to in a "personal care" bed. So he was moved to an "intermediate care" bed.

He continued to improve, and the next time the KPRO representative came around, Mr. Andy was determined to be too well for an "intermediate care" bed. He would have to go back to "personal care," they said. But now there were no "personal care" beds available. He was stuck.

The big problem now lay in the fact that during the four years of nursing home care, Mr. Andy had expended nearly all of his personal assets and was forced to become a state-aid patient. But since he was now in an inappropriately classified bed, the state sent notice to Johnson-Mathers that they would cut off support unless he was moved to a "personal care" bed.

And, May 18th, they did just that. They cut off his financial support. He is now really stuck in limbo. He has a bed, but it isn't the right kind of bed. And if it doesn't become the right kind of bed soon, he'll be forced to move to another nursing home — any one within a 50 mile radius with a "personal care" bed.

"The last I heard," said Mr. Andy last week, "they were trying to move me to Winchester. What business do I have in Winchester?"

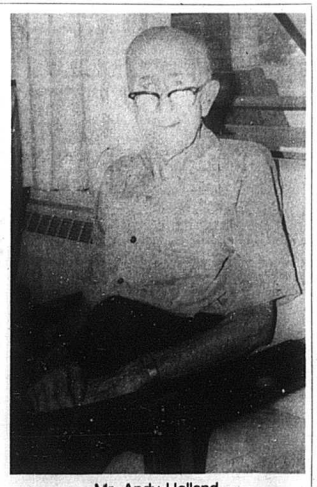
Johns on-Mathers Administrator Robert Hester said that everyone is doing everything possible to keep Mr. Andy in the county, but the nursing home too, is caught in a "Catch-22" situation. "We don't have unlimited wealth," Hester said, "and we're not cold-hearted, so it's really a no-win situation."

Hester said that "Everyone here has been working so hard to keep him here, but when you deal with federal and state agencies you have that (pointing to a stack of regulatory statutes) to contend with." Hester said that there simply is no "personal care" bed to be had in Nicholas County, and the only way to get one would be for the nursing home to undergo a "certificate of need" investigation. That would involve applications and state approvals. Even if it would gain another "personal care" bed for the county, it would take 60 days — 60 days Mr. Andy doesn't have.

When asked how much longer the nursing home can continue to carry Mr. Andy without state aid, Mr. Hester said, "We've been working so hard to keep him here, we haven't even thought about that. First we must exhaust every possibility to keep him here. This is his home."

At least for now, Mr. Andy is still at home in Nicholas County. And as he said over and over again last week, "I don't know what I'm going to do....but I haven't gone yet."

But as Hester admitted, the nursing home too is caught in a bind, and as County Attorney Joseph H. Conley said, "sooner or later push will come to shove" and Mr. Andy may finish his years far away from his home and family.



Mr. Andy Holland

Blackberry festival coming June 29

Live music every night will highlight this year's 33rd version of the annual Blackberry Festival. The festival will run June 29 through July 4 in the courthouse square, with a full block of Main Street blocked off for dancing every night from 8 to 12.

Of particular musical interest are the scheduled fifties show by the Showmasters July 1, and the fiddle playing of Albert Hopkins July 2 through 4.

The festival will get under way with

*See Blackberry, page 12