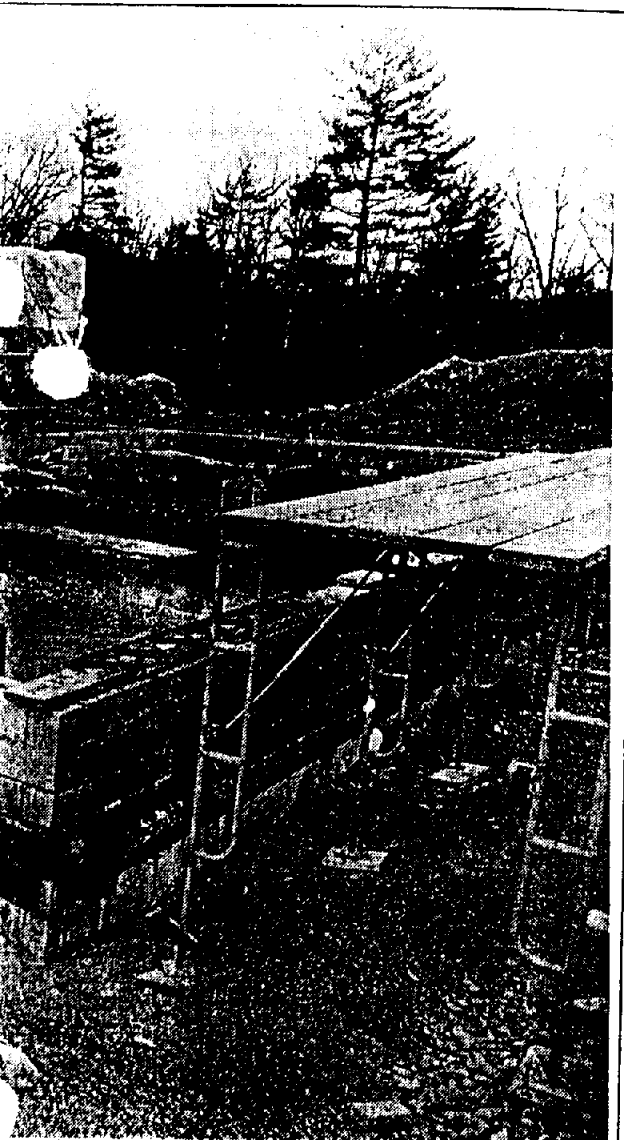


Times Chronicle

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1999

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Construction crews have continued work on the new raised walkway. At left is part of the new raised walkway. (Don Young photo)

Money transfer for land survey approved

By OWEN MACDONALD

READING - The School Committee approved 5-0 to transfer up to \$18,500 for the architectural firm of Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates to conduct a geotechnical survey and a topographical survey at the proposed Dividence Road school site.

The figure is down from an estimated \$21,500 sought by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harry Harutunian in a recent memo because the architect has indicated a previously requested peer review is not absolutely necessary at this time.

In Harutunian's presentation, it was noted that Town Counsel Ted Cohen had indicated that this can not be paid for out of

the money approved by Town Meeting because the Special Election on January 27th has frozen those funds pending an outcome. Cohen did note that the School Committee could transfer that money out of their existing maintenance budget for the purpose of conducting the required surveys. That money will be two thirds reimbursable when the town applies with the state for funding.

The geotech survey would reveal the contour and the content of the land at the site and would cost roughly \$3,500, while the topographical survey will clarify the existing property boundaries, identify and flag wetlands, and any other necessary aspects of the project at a

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Selectmen hear FY'00 budget presentation

By PAUL FEELY

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Marc Guyott

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cost of less than \$15,000.

ERF and A Project Manager Sidney Bowen had indicated in a memo to Harutunian that it would be risky to wait until after the project secured approval on January 27 because designs would have to be based on inadequate information, and may have to be revisited at a later date.

Bower attended last night's meeting to further clarify the matter, indicating that the project can be done without the

Continued from Page 1

One big ticket item in this year's budget is an increase of \$64,000 for rubbish collection, after Town Meeting voted to support funding rubbish pickup at condominiums in town. The budget also reflects about \$10,000 worth of start-up costs involving the new police station, with Hechenbleikner stating that these types of items are associated with moving into any new building.

Hechenbleikner reported to the Selectmen that debt was up 34 percent over the previous fiscal year, due to several projects (Coolidge, elementary schools, high school, and the new police station) that the town is involved in. He also reported that employee benefits are up seven percent, which is 'on track' with the rest of the nation, according to a recent

Money...

information, but it didn't really make sense to do that. Redesign would cost a significant amount of money, and even if the Project fails to pass on January 27th, the two surveys will still have viable information about the site. "These are simple things that have a lasting value," said Bowen.

Russ Graham, Chairman of the School Building Committee, was also in attendance last evening to support the transfer. "These questions are still going

to need to be answered, regardless of the outcome of the election," said Graham.

School Committee members also weighed in to make sure that all of the details will be kept track of. Pete Dahl clarified that the money will still be reimbursable even if the project is delayed for several years. Tom Stohlman also made sure to note that the money won't disappear. "I know it's a small amount of money, but I want it to be kept track of," said Stohlman.

Selectmen...

newspaper article that he read.

The Selectmen then viewed a section-by-section presentation on the budget, which contained the following highlights:

- Accounting Department - up 11.78 percent over FY'99 at \$102,157;
- Community Development - up 3.8 percent, at \$236,099;

- Finance Department - up 3.76 percent, at \$852,796;
- Human Services - up 14.7 percent, at \$443,258;
- Library - up 4.87 percent, at \$758,551.

All numbers discussed at the meeting are preliminary figures, and will likely change before the budget is finalized.

Review...

Continued from Page 1

a Reading family of a Lahey Clinic cancer patient who died after being misdiagnosed;

- 26.2 percent of voters turned out in the state primary;
- New plans to create a community access station in town are discussed;

October

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey results are discussed;
- Historical Commission give go ahead to raze Auburn Street water tower;
- Selectmen reject Sprint's application to place a cellular antenna on a water tower;

November

- Town reaches agreement with MediaOne;
- Drive to keep the Old South Church's clock and bell ticking and ringing is organized by Reading Lions;

December

- Special Town Meeting approves plan to place a new school at Dividence Road;
- Petition drive places school issue on ballot at Special Election in January;

- Sexual assault occurs at Hawkes Field House;
- Reading's MCAS test results are released, are better than state averages;
- Corporex is chosen as developer to negotiate with for land-fill site.

Chronicled

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the Reading Police Station yesterday afternoon.

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