

Times Chronicle

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left Megan
and Janelle Gee

Cleaning costs for town buildings rise \$14,000

By OWEN MACDONALD

READING - Cleaning the four town buildings under the supervision of the School Department will cost roughly \$14,000 more than was budgeted this year after the School Committee unanimously approved a three year contract with a new cleaning company last night.

A memo from Director of Maintenance Richard Barrett to Superintendent of Schools Dr.

Harry Harutunian, included as part of the School Committee's informational packet, noted that the current cleaning company, Systems Management, Inc., has given a termination notice to the town, effective as of December 31, 2000.

In an attempt to find and secure a new contract that reflected a cost that the town has paid in the past, Harutunian informed the School Committee that there were two bidding

periods for a new contract, the first of which produced two bidders, and the second only one. All of the bids came in over what the town has paid in the past.

Harutunian attributed the price increase in part to the new police station, which he estimated to cost around \$25,000 a year to clean seven days a week.

Harutunian recommended that the School Committee

Continued on Page 2A

Reading to receive \$5K in municipal recycling grant

BOSTON - The Cellucci-Swift Administration announced today that it is awarding 189 Massachusetts towns, cities and solid waste districts a combined \$1.45 million in equipment, materials and technical assistance to operate and expand their recycling programs. Many of the

- Burlington - 25 recycled plastic traffic cones and technical assistance, \$9,704

- Reading - CRT recycling grant and 9,454 consumer education mailers, \$5,036

- Stoneham - 9,862 consumer education mailers, 100 Don't Trash Grass brochures, 100

200 home composting brochures, \$3,231

- Wilmington - 7,954 consumer education mailers (50 Don't Trash Grass brochures, 50 hoe composting brochures and 251 set-out containers), \$3,412.

- Wakefield - CRT recycling

Reading

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Costs...

Continued from Page 1

approve the only bid that was received during the second bidding period on October 31, 2000, which came in at \$56,544 for three years. While Harutunian admitted that it was an increase in cost, he felt that the contract would still be better than doing the cleaning with existing town staff, especially given the proposed three year life of the contract.

"Be aware that there is a \$14,544 difference between what we've budgeted and what we will pay," said Harutunian. "It just seemed that at the end of three years, this contract was a better deal."

Harutunian said that the town Accountant had reviewed the possibility of using in-house staff to meet the demands of the contract, but found that the con-

tract came in at \$2,500 to \$3,000 less, and the difference grew even more over the contract's three year life.

The problem with using town staff, said Harutunian, who was backed up by Town Manager Peter Hechenbleikner, was that town employees would receive health benefits, salary increases, holidays, and would be given vacation time that the town would have to cover out of its own pocket. Hechenbleikner indicated that it did not seem to make sense considering the contract would provide for 16 hours of cleaning a week regardless of holidays, and with no concerns about cost increases.

"It seemed to work out better financially," said Hechenbleikner.

The School Committee only wrestled with one sticking point, as they wondered aloud why a

contractor would bid a three year contract with no price increase over those years.

"I don't consider it good business to give a three year, fixed contract," said School Committee member Jim Keigley.

Harutunian indicated that there was probably money in the front end of the contract to buoy the back end. Harutunian also indicated that there was language in the contract that would allow the town to terminate the contract under certain conditions, and that the contract will be built into budgets for upcoming years.

The School Committee approved the cleaning contract 6-0-0, and discussed seeking the additional \$14,000 that is not in the budget as a transfer at spring Town Meeting.

Family...

Continued from Page 1

went to Winchester Hospital for help.

Syska said Bardascino was seen by Elkerm and Catarau, who ordered a morphine pump for the pain. By 6 p.m. that day, her "sedation score" was high, but the morphine was not stopped, Syska said.

By 9:30 p.m. Hennessey noted Bardascino was not responding to physical or verbal stimuli. Catarau told her to stop the morphine pump.

Ruvedo took over at 11 p.m., and by 2 a.m. Bardascino's skin had become cool and clammy. At that point she contacted Elkerm at home, Syska said. Bardascino was not seen by a doctor that night.

By 6 a.m., Bardascino's body had become weak and oxygen deprived, and her heart stopped, Syska said. She was transferred to Massachusetts

General Hospital, where attempts to revive her were unsuccessful.

The Department of Public Health issued a report critical of the care at Winchester Hospital. The report said Bardascino should have been evaluated by a doctor after Ruvedo telephoned Elkerm at home.

Elkerm told investigators after he received the call he contacted a doctor in the intensive care unit and asked her to check on Bardascino. But the ICU physician, Dr. Stephanie Frye, told investigators she never received a call from Elkerm, according to the report.

The report also criticized the nursing care, saying there was inaccurate and incomplete documentation of the amount of morphine administered to Bardascino.

- Chronicled -

•Officer Moreschi filed a complaint against a motorist for driving after suspension Monday at approximately 10:52 a.m.

•An Arbor Way resident reported Monday at approximately 1:10 p.m. that an illegal account was opened with Bellsouth in Florida without his authorization. The account currently has a balance of \$103.20.

•A motor vehicle accident with injuries was investigated Monday at approximately 3:15 p.m. at Main St. and Franklin St.

•A woman reported a road rage incident at the Rt. 129 rotary after she was followed by a 70 year old man in a dark blue Toyota Corolla Monday at approximately 3:45 p.m. The man was flashing his headlights, blowing his horn and tailgating her.

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THE SAW MILL Eaton, son of "Jo Lowell Street is r bridge on route 1 across the road adult may remen owned by F. Ho photography left his home.



SNOWBLOWER TUNE-UPS