

## Special LOOW lawyer hired

By DONNA COLLINS

Gazette Staff Writer

LEWISTON — In an effort to fortify its stand against the storage of hazardous wastes at the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, the Town Board last night voted to hire a Washington attorney.

Attorney James McElfish, who has worked for the town before, will represent the board in lease negotiations between a storage company and the federal government. He also will represent the town in the drafting of a federal environmental impact statement that will measure the effect of the LOOW site on residents in the area. He will be paid \$15,000 for 200 hours of work.

"It's a band-aid approach but taking on the federal government is not easy," Councilman Joan E. Gipp said.

Supervisor James J. Lombardi suggested that the town ask the county, Town of Porter and state politicians for aid.

In other business, the board authorized that broken concrete in the gallery roof of the town's sewage treatment plant be repaired for \$1,675.

Councilman Alvin C. Ogg said that Krehbiel Associates Inc. of Tonawanda is studying the problem to see why the concrete cracked.

The roof of the gallery, which is a par-

tially submerged room where electrical equipment and pipes are located, has fallen three times since the plant started operating.

In another matter, Lombardi said he wanted Water Superintendent Calvin C. Schultz to evaluate positions in the water department to see what jobs could be cut to avoid a potential cash flow problem. But Gipp charged that there was a "stall" in board action on whether to increase water rates.

The board also:

- Voted to send a letter to state Sen. John B. Daly, R-Lewiston, expressing its disapproval of a bill calling for the creation of a nine-member, state-wide hazardous waste commission.

The board is concerned about a clause in the bill allowing the commission to supercede local laws.

- Scheduled a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. May 19 in the Town Hall for a review of a proposal to locate a residence for 14 mentally retarded adults at 4186 Lower River Road. The operators, Rivershore Inc. of Youngstown, want to move the house from its location at 3881 Lower River Road, Porter.

The hearing was requested by Buffalo attorney Robert Portin on behalf of his client Grace R. Smith, who lives near the proposed Lewiston residence.