

1: Tonawanda NEWS

Wednesday, March 1, 1995

Town asks LaFalce for help on waste

By Joseph C. Genco
Staff writer

The drive to move radioactive waste out of Tonawanda is pushing to a new level.

Town Supervisor Carl Calabrese announced Monday he has started a petition, signed by the entire Town Board, asking Congressman John LaFalce to become more active in resolving the dispute.

The Department of Energy has pushed for consolidation of waste in Tonawanda. Town officials, and a majority of citizens, want the waste shipped elsewhere.

Mr. Calabrese has written to Rep. LaFalce asking the help of Congress in ordering removal of waste from the town.

The supervisor said he found three other sites housing nuclear waste from the Manhattan Project, in Maywood Lane and Wayne, N.J. and outside of St. Louis that had parallel experiences to Tonawanda's.

All three were Manhattan Project sites. The DOE proposed on site disposal in all three cases as well. Eventually, Congressional pressure led to the removal of waste which was shipped to Envirocare in Clive, Utah, where Tonawanda would like its waste sent.

"In each case, the Congressman essentially declared war on the DOE," Mr. Calabrese said. "It is clear to me that our congressman has not yet taken that role. It's hurting us."

He said he has spoken to other members of Congress as well as representatives of Senators Moynihan and D'Amato. All are reluctant to support the Town's position without support of Congressman LaFalce.

"It is intolerable that the DOE wants to store 350,000 cubic yards of nuclear waste on the shores of the

Niagara River," Mr. Calabrese said.

Mr. Calabrese said he made contact with Envirocare, asking a series of questions aimed at ascertaining if the DOE gave an inflated price tag to removal, with an eye toward eliminating it as an option.

"The questions I think may result in proof that the DOE's numbers are double and even triple in some cases," he said. "The entire system is inefficient. They (the DOE) don't use good business sense."

The Board Monday night approved a special use permit that will make way for more senior housing in the Sheridan-Parkside area.

St. Timothy's Church and the Diocese of Buffalo applied for the permit to allow them to construct 50-adult residence apartments near the Sheridan-Parkside area for senior citizens.

The church will be able to build a facility which is usually allowed in a commercial area, in an area reserved for modest-sized homes and lots.

In other action the Board:

- Approved removal of right turn only designation eastbound on Rochelle Park at Niagara Falls Boulevard.

- Hired Gregory Seifert as a micro-computer technical support specialist to coordinate efforts under director of the comptroller. He was hired at a salary of \$37,500 per year.

- Approved a Community Development Corporation loan to Niagara River World Inc. of \$100,000 to demolish a portion of the former Roblin Steel site on River Road. The move will continue the clean-up of that once heavily industrialized section of the town which is looked at as a possible site of waterfront re-development. Several hazardous waste sites are located nearby in the area, which is in the rough proximity of the Grand Island Bridges.