

Township Will File Lawsuit Against State On Boundaries

By EMORY DANIELS

Farmington Township has decided to file a lawsuit in Oakland County Circuit Court against the State Boundary Commission and Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

The lawsuit asks Circuit Court to overturn the decision of the State Boundary Commission when it rejected a petition asking for an election to incorporate the township and villages of Wood Creek and Quakertown.

The action also asks Circuit

Court to place a restraining order on the Oakland County Board of Supervisors preventing the supervisors from taking any action on the annexation petition until a court ruling is made on the state's actions.

LAST THURSDAY, (Jan. 8), the board of supervisors received the annexation petitions and referred them to its local affairs committee. Conceivably, the board of supervisors could set an annexation election at its Jan. 23

meeting.

The annexation petitions, filed by Dick Tupper, a city resident, seeks an election on the question of annexing the southern half of the township to the City of Farmington.

On Dec. 17, the boundary commission in Lansing rejected the incorporation petitions filed by Robert McConnell. The commission ruled that the only proper method to combine two villages with a township was through consolidation.

If the township challenges

that decision in court, it must file suit within 30 days of the boundary commission's decision, or by Jan. 17.

"We believe the boundary commission is wrong and the courts may overturn its decision," said Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan Monday night.

BRENNAN TOLD the Farmington Enterprise & Observer he expected to have the suit filed by noon on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The City of Farmington will be notified by Brennan when the suit is filed but the city will not be a party to the suit. The law suit will be between the township, State boundary commission, and Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

Brennan will argue in Circuit Court that incorporation is a proper vehicle to combine two villages and a township and will ask the court to rule

the boundary commission erred in rejecting McConnell's incorporation request.

MEANWHILE, McConnell has taken separate action on the boundary matter.

On Dec. 17, when the state rejected the incorporation petition, McConnell filed a petition asking that the state substitute the word "consolidation" for

incorporation and set a consolidation election.

The boundary commission is expected to make a ruling on the substitute petition on Jan. 21. After rejecting McConnell's petition, the boundary commission sent a formal explanation to McConnell explaining why the decision was made.

McConnell's attorney, David Greenspan, sent a telegram to the boundary commission Monday morning asking for a legal explanation for the rejection. Greenspan claims the ex-

planation did not include proper legal substantiation and he is asking the commission to provide legal reasons for its rejection.

If legal explanations cannot be provided, Greenspan claims, then the commission's rejection on Dec. 17 is not valid.

RUMORS HAVE IT that a fresh petition is now being circulated asking the boundary commission to set a consolidation election.

In his lawsuit, Brennan will also argue that there are discrepancies in the annexation petition and will ask the court to rule the annexation request invalid.

The Township Board Monday night gave Brennan approval to file the lawsuit by a 6-0 vote. The motion was made by Tom Nolan and seconded by Fred Lichtman.

today's hot line

what's inside

Can You Help?

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Boron Told 'No'

After a prolonged hour's debate, Farmington Township trustees gave a firm "no" to the Boron Oil Co., which has been seeking permission to build a gas station at the southwest corner of 14 Mile and Farmington Rd.

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Seek Best Teacher

The Farmington Jaycees are busy as Jaycee Week draws near. The club is seeking an "outstanding young educator" who will be announced at the Jaycees annual prayer breakfast featuring Detroit Councilman David Eberhard as guest speaker.

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Educator With Ideas

The principal of Ladywood High School has some definite thoughts about the value of the kind of education her school dispenses. She tells them in Margaret Miller's Women on the Go.

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Keep 'Em Rolling

No matter how stormy the morning, the lady bus drivers in Observerland are on the job. Their story is in the Women's Section.

Page 1C

Hey There!

Do you have Walter Mitty type dreams? Even if you don't, the Wayne Civic Players Cabaret production of an evening of theater—including a large dose of Thurber will make you laugh. The performance place and time along with ticket information is provided on the Amusements Pages.

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Get 'Evasions And Hokum' Trustees Chide Road Commission

by WYLIE GERDES

The Farmington School Board vented its wrath on the Oakland County Road Commission (OCRC) Monday night at a regular meeting for what one school trustee termed the OCRC's "evasions and hokum."

The burst came after a request from a parent in the district that the speed limit be lowered on Power Rd. between 10 and 11 mile near Alameda Elementary School at 32400 Alameda.

A MOTHER complained in a letter that children walking to the elementary school are forced to walk in the road because there are no sidewalks. The present 45 miles per hour speed limit is too fast when the hills in the road might obscure a walking child, she said.

After the chairman of the board's safety committee, Mrs. Patricia Smith, introduced the subject, Trustee Richard Frankel spoke out against the OCRC. The three member commission controls speed limits, repairs and almost all other factors concerning roads in the unincorporated area of Oakland County.

"The county road commission has tremendous power and never has to account to anyone," Frankel said. "All we get is evasions and hokum."

The district trustee com-

mented in several cases in the area of Farmington Township the road commission failed to take safety measures until public outcry forced action upon them.

Other communities get blinking yellow traffic signals near schools, he said, but none has been placed in Farmington Township.

"I think it is the right of a community to determine the way the roads in that community are used," Frankel added.

THE TRUSTEES voted to send a request for a lower speed limit than the present 45 miles per hour on Power Rd., and to approach the Oakland County Board of Supervisors if the attempt fails.

Later in the meeting, however, another request concerning roads brought the matter up for discussion again.

The board had requested a one-way traffic pattern near Beechview Elementary School at 26840 Westmeath to alleviate automobile traffic.

The road commission's reply was that the problem had been reduced by road construction in the area and a one-way pattern probably couldn't be enforced.

"The main problem was not pedestrian traffic but automobile traffic which they seem to disregard entirely," Mrs. Smith said of the reply.

Trustee Gary Lichtman said

the reply was typical of the kinds of letters the district has received. He said the commission only assumed the new construction had solved the problem and that the pattern wouldn't be enforced.

Trustees approved Lichtman's motion to forward materials concerning the Beechview matter to Christian Powell, county supervisor for the area.

THE TOPIC touched off a short discussion of the subject of intergovernmental cooperation concerning walking paths to and from school.

In answer to a question from the audience, President Richard Peters said the school board doesn't try to provide sidewalks beyond school property.

Lichtman said more cooperation from the city and township planning commissions might result in more consideration of school needs for sidewalks. The township, he said, doesn't require sidewalks be placed in a subdivision by the developer.

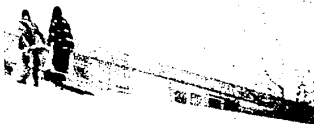
Besides, residents of Farmington might have moved here from the country atmosphere and aren't interested in sidewalks and street lights.

Frankel agreed, saying: "What you have now is what people really want." He pointed out any portion of road can be improved if the property owners should pay for it.



THREE ON A HILL -- Flying saucers collide on the hill at the Farmington Board of Education office. From left Donna Summers, 9; Paul Feiten, 10; and Suzanne Theisen, 9.

(Evert photo)



WITH TOBOGGAN -- Mark Young (front), 10, and Martin King, 9, have fun with their toboggan testing the big hill at the Farmington Board of Education office.

(Evert photo)



WITHOUT ASSISTANCE -- Ann Roelle doesn't need a sled or other assistance as she slides down the hill on her feet.

(Evert photo)

UNUSUAL SKIS -- David Ness shows his form by going down the hill at the Farmington Board of Education office on ice skates.

(Evert photo)

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