

School Board Approves 1 Mill Reduction For Debt Service

Farmington School trustees decided by a split vote Monday night to reduce the district's debt retirement levy by one mill (\$1 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) for 1970.

After much debate, the board approved a six mill debt retirement levy for 1971 by a 4-3 vote. Dissenters wanting a seven mill levy were Richard Peters, Kenneth Perrin and John Washburne III.

Voting for the reduced levy were Mrs. Patricia Smith, Aldo Vagnozzi, Gary Lichtman and Richard Frankel.

FOR THE PAST two years, the district has levied seven mills for debt retirement. That millage was levied to collect revenue for the sole purpose of paying off bonded indebtedness for school construction.

As is the practice in Michigan, voters approve bond issues to raise "X" number of dollars for construction. The district must then, each year, levy the number of mills necessary to raise enough revenue to pay off the debts due that year.

Dr. Roderick J. Smith, supt. of schools, explained that the amount due on bonds varies from year to year. To maintain a stable millage levy, he explained, the district has levied the same rate which has maintained a surplus to offset those years when the debt due is greater.

In 1968 and 1969, the district levied seven mills. If it did not, Smith explained, the levy this year for debt retirement probably would have been 10 mills.

PERRIN FIRST ASKED for continuation of the debt retirement millage at seven mills to keep the rate at a uniform level.

But Vagnozzi asked for amendment to provide a six mill levy. At this point, the debate began with trustees choosing sides.

Because of rising assessments, Vagnozzi argued, homeowners are paying substantially more taxes. If additional state aid is not received this year, he said, the district will not be able to reduce its operational millage and the only chance it will have to give homeowners tax relief will be by reducing the debt retirement levy.

With the six mill levy, he continued, the district will still have a balance at the end of 1970 of \$366,000. If assessments remain the same as in 1969, the rate would have to go to seven mills in 1971 and then eight mills in 1972.

ACCORDING TO projections of Business Manager William Prisk, if the levy remained at seven mills for 1970 it would not have to be raised to eight until 1973.

Vagnozzi pointed out projections show an increase to eight mills in 1973 if the rate remains the same. And reduction to six mills in 1970 would mean a possible eight mill levy in 1972, he added, so there is only a difference of one year involved.

"But I don't think assessments will stay at the same level," he continued, "I think the community will grow and valuations increase overall."

"When the time comes to evaluate each year's millage, we may find ourselves in the position of staying at seven mills or maybe lower."

He added that the State Legislature "must recognize at some point that financing of public education through the property tax is a decadent form creating inequities throughout the system and placing an unfair burden on those who own homes."

Vagnozzi described the one-mill reduction as a symbolic step to tell the homeowner the board recognizes his problem.

WASHBURNE SAID he was cautious about the

six mill levy because the district must have the money available each year to pay off that year's debts when the bonds come due.

Lichtman said that the district is estimating its debt retirement levy for 1971-74 on today's state equalized value (SEV).

"We have an obligation to reduce the rate by one mill if we can on debt retirement. Maybe it's a gamble that next year the SEV will go up."

Perrin countered: "In private business, if you

Continued on Page 7A



RIDGE MEMORIAL -- Students attending Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington planted crosses Friday at the campus entrance on Orchard Lake Road. The crosses, symbolizing the trag-

edy of the Kent State deaths, black suppression, and Southeast Asia deaths are to remain up for the duration of the Vietnam War. (Evert photo)

Rally's Peaceful Protest Kent Deaths

By EMORY DANIELS

Local officials anticipated trouble, but the mood was peaceful Friday noon when Orchard Ridge students in Farmington Township held a memorial service for the four students killed at Kent State University.

Last week, some of the more militant students attending Ridge had talked about marching through Farmington Township to the City of Farmington to protest the Kent deaths and escalation of the Vietnam War.

BUT THE STUDENTS, concerned about a violent reaction

if they marched through the community, decided to limit their observance to campus property.

Rumors of a possible march had reached the township and city police who both were at the campus entrance on Orchard Lake Friday to direct traffic.

But police preparedness went beyond traffic control. About two blocks north of the campus entrance, a large paddy wagon from Oakland County Sheriff's Department and a township paddy wagon were conveniently parked within eyesight of the students.

Township police were at the entrance, taking pictures, carrying bullhorns and walkie-talkies, and monitoring information back to the main station.

Chief Robert Deadman from the city and Chief Irving Yakes of the township were at the scene but had little to do except watch and listen to some mild harassment from students who felt presence of police was unnecessary if not humorous.

THE ONLY MARCH which took place Friday was from the amphitheater in the center of the campus to the Orchard Lake entrance. Students stopped at the entrance, and police stayed off the campus.

The program started with a number of speeches at the amphitheater. The key was low and the talks no more inflammatory than what can be heard in Senate committees.

Student orators warned that the young can no longer believe the Nixon administration which continues to "lie" about efforts for peace and withdrawal of troops from Vietnam.

The speakers viewed entry of troops into Cambodia as further evidence that the Vietnam War will continue longer than it should.

A sociology professor acclaimed that Nixon is using the "big lie" tactic much like Hitler did and continued repression from the administration will see America become a fascist state.

A BLACK STUDENT asked that the memorial service for the Kent students also be a memorial for Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and the 22 Black Panthers killed in the past two years.

In front of the podium were three large white crosses with flower arrangements strewn in front. Printed on the middle cross were the names of the four slain Kent students.

The other cross was labeled "Black Suppression" to symbolize deaths of blacks in America. The third cross was labeled "Death, War, Indo-China" as a memorial for all persons killed in Southeast Asia.

After the speeches ended, students formed a procession and marched toward the Orchard Lake entrance. The crosses were planted and a moment of silence observed.

STUDENTS PLAN to leave the crosses standing at the campus entrance for the duration of the Vietnam War.

There was some heckling of police after the ceremony concluded, and then students marched back to the amphitheater to discuss formation of an organization to make known student war views to the community-at-large.

Police left and the paddy wagons were driven away empty.



HISTORICAL DONATION -- A historical donation was made Monday morning when an oil portrait of Nathan Power was presented to Power Junior High school. The school was named after Nathan Power who, along with brother Arthur, was one of Farmington's founders.

Presenting the portrait was Philip H. Power, a great-grandson and publisher of Observer Newspapers, Inc. Shown from left are: Philip H. Power; Robert Brown, principal of Power Junior High; and Robert Power, a grandson. (Evert photo)

today's hot line

Vol. 82, No. 65 48 pages, 4 sections

what's inside

5 Against 3

The filing deadline has passed for the Farmington Board of Education Election. A field of eight candidates will be seeking voter approval for three board seats with three incumbents facing five challengers. Page 3A

Tax For Trash?

Farmington Township trustees have decided to send a matter to township residents to garner public opinion on desirability of levying taxes for garbage collection or continuing the practice of having private firms pick up trash. Page 4A

Duke Objects

School trustees Monday night approved the substance abuse curriculum recommendations made by the Family Life Education committee. Before approval, trustees listened to a minority report filed by FLE Member Bruce E. Duke, whose suggestions are included in today's news story. Page 13A

Surprise Interview

She's known to her co-workers and friends as the original Woman On The Go. This week, her husband writes a profile on Women's Editor Margaret Miller. For the interview that this newspaper woman didn't know she was giving, turn to Page 3C

For Clarenceville

Who's running for the Clarenceville school board? What's featured in the forthcoming swim show? What's going on in the school district? Your hometown paper does the best job of keeping tabs on Clarenceville. Pages 10-12 C

Maturity Laws

A year ago, an Observer "White Paper" proposed that the state re-examine all laws relating to the age of maturity -- not just voting laws, but everything. Gov. Milliken has picked up the idea and will appoint a commission on the "Age of Majority" very soon. Is this the answer to one of the burning social issues of the day? Page 12C

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Amusements | 6-7C |
| Classified Want Ads | Sec. D |
| Deaths and Funerals | 9A |
| Editorial Viewpoints | 8A |
| Home and Garden | 8B |
| Readers' Forum | 9A |
| Regional Affairs | 8C |
| Sports-Prep and Pro | 1-5B |
| World of Women | 1-4C |

HURRY... ONLY 14

RESERVATIONS LEFT FOR OUR JUNE 6 Hawaii Tour

Call for Information 345-8442