

Tax Will Only Balance Budget

By EMORY DANIELS
(In a series)

The additional millage Farmington School District is asking is intended to balance the operating budget in 1971-72 and restore part of the programs cut during this past year.

Even if approved, the

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background

millage would not restore all the cuts in 1970-71, and there would still have to be some trimming done in the proposed operating budget for the next school year.

THE FARMINGTON Board of Education is asking voter approval of 4.5 new operating mills (\$4.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) to raise \$1.4 million needed to avoid a deficit budget.

The millage, to be levied for four years, would cost \$4 a year for the taxpayer owning a home with a market value of \$20,000 and assessed at \$10,000.

The board's proposed budget of \$17 million is an increase of \$2 million over 1970-71. The proposed budget, which includes the \$1.4 million from the 4.5 mills will raise, has as additional expenses \$69,000 from Blue Cross premium increases, additional salary costs because of annual increases plus funds provided for regulated hikes.

The proposed \$17 million

budget also provides for restoration of \$200,000 from the \$400,000 cut from the current budget. The \$400,000 was reduced in December 1970 because of drastic cuts in state aid payments and the requirement to furnish free books and supplies to students, says Business Manager William Prisk.

THE DISTRICT is still trying to reduce a \$105,000 deficit in its current budget. Prisk adds, caused by the reduction in state aid.

Although rising assessments have increased the district's tax base, the new base is not sufficient to raise the needed funds. In 1970-71, the district's total tax base (state equalized valuation) was \$294 million and will be \$323 million for 1971-72.

Since 85 per cent of the budget is committed to salaries and benefits, Prisk was asked: Can the budget be balanced without the additional millage if teachers were not given negotiated pay increases but only increment hikes?

The district's contract with teachers has 15 steps or increments which provides for an automatic pay hike of between \$450 and \$565 for teachers with a bachelor's degree and \$505 to \$595 for those with master's degree and above.

If the district gave only increment increases and not negotiated hikes (raising the increments), the district would have to find between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in additional income.

The problem with giving only increment hikes, Prisk said, is that there are 170 teachers in the district at the top of the scale who would not receive any pay increase.

"The experienced teacher who has been with the district 10 years or more would be penalized by not receiving any pay increase," says Prisk. "Is this fair and can it be justified?"

THE DISTRICT'S faculty this year is 811 compared to 791 in 1969-70. Prisk estimates the faculty, including consultants and counselors, will

be about 790 in 1971-72 even though the district has open a new high school, a new elementary and added on to buildings since 1969-70.

The district has 16,500 students and is increasing its enrollment at about 500 students per year. The students are housed in 19 elementary buildings, four junior highs and three senior highs.

The district transports 6,400 public and parochial students and employs a total of 1,422 persons. It has the 14th largest enrollment of the 112 districts in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and St. Clair counties.

A DISTRICT WHICH is adding new buildings and classrooms, and accepting 500 extra students each year, must absorb increased costs in services to those students, additional staff members, and more heating, electricity, books and supplies, and additional bus mileage.

Because the district is still growing, and because salaries account for 85 per cent of the budget, the defeat of the millage and loss of \$1.4 million next year will force program reductions, Prisk emphasizes.

By reducing some programs this past year, Prisk adds, the board was able to keep the faculty this year at 811 in spite of the opening of two new schools and several classroom additions. If the district is forced to trim its faculty to 790, the level of two years ago, it would mean an elimination of programs and services now being offered.

In May, the board voted to borrow more than \$3 million to meet the payroll costs between now and December. This was done with the approval of the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission and with the commission's advice that it be borrowed in one lump sum instead of \$2 million now and

\$1.5 million in October.

The borrowing was necessary because the district had spent all of its previously accumulated surplus funds, Prisk explains, and because of the reduced state aid and delayed payments of state funds.



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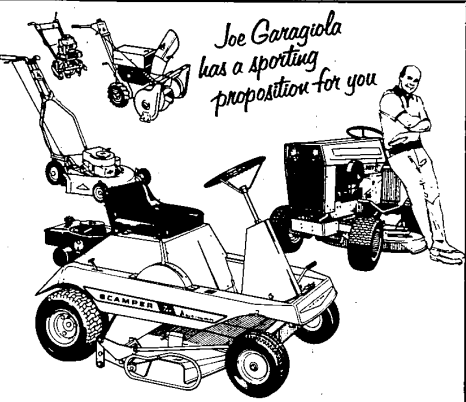
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Continued from Page 2A

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Sundays and Holidays:	
First one-half hour or fraction thereof	30.00
Each additional one-half hour or fraction thereof	40.00
Roll Call: Ayes: Allen, Richardson, Seibert, Yoder	
Nays: None	
Absent: Brotherton	
Motion carried, all ayes.	

CM-548-71 REPORT RELOCATION OF GILL ROAD PAVING AT KLINCKMAN PROPERTY

City Manager Dinan stated that his office and the City Attorney met with Mr. and Mrs. Klincman and their attorney in an effort to develop a settlement on the location of proposed paving of Gill Road in front of the Klincman property.

In arriving at a settlement with the Klincmans, the city engineers developed a new design for the paving, relocating it 7 1/2 ft. west of its previous location placing it on the centerline of the right of way, which in essence moved the curb 7 1/2 ft. west, 4 1/2 ft. from the maple tree that was in question.

As part of the settlement with Mr. and Mrs. Klincman, the city offered to relocate an 18' spruce tree on their property and replace same with a similar type tree if it does not live within a two-year period. The city will also re-locate additional shrubbery as prescribed by the Klincmans and reimburse them \$100.00 for an 8' pine and \$100.00 for a willow tree as part of this settlement. Mr. and Mrs. Klincman will furnish the city of Farmington with necessary roadway easement so that this pavement can be installed within 16 1/2 ft. of the centerline of this right of way.

As part of the relocation of the pavement, it would be necessary for the city to enclose 250 ft. open drainage ditch commencing south of the location of the maple tree and extending north. It was suggested that the city continue the enclosure approximately 750 ft. north which would avoid the necessity of putting a log in the road, eliminate the root of a gaurdial, improve safety conditions and avoid on Gill Road, for a net cost of \$10,000 with the elimination of \$4,000 for the cost of the guardrail. It was pointed out that the city would have to make this enclosure sooner or later and it would be much more economical to do it at this time and avoid additional expenses, cost of guardrail, working in much tighter conditions and causing a log in the road. Therefore it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve the enclosure of the open drainage ditch as prescribed by the Klincmans and to be financed from the City at Large surplus funds from the Freedom Road Drainage Program and that the City Council agree with the terms of settlement with Mr. and Mrs. Klincman for the necessary right of way to allow road pavement 16 1/2 ft. from the centerline of the right of way in accordance with the terms as described above.

Motion by Seibert, supported by Yoder, to approve the enclosure of this open drainage ditch as prescribed by the city engineers to be financed from the City at Large surplus funds from the Freedom Road Drainage Program. Motion carried, all ayes.

CM-548-71

Motion by Seibert, supported by Richardson to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City of Farmington enter into an agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Klincman, 2380 Gill Road, Farmington, Michigan, that the city will relocate an 18' spruce tree and an 8' pine tree, and also relocate additional shrubbery, and will reimburse the Klincmans \$100.00 for the removal of a willow tree as part of this settlement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Mr. and Mrs. Klincman will furnish the City of Farmington necessary roadway easement so that this pavement can be installed within 16 1/2 ft. centerline of the right of way.

Roll Call:
Ayes: Richardson, Seibert, Yoder, Allen
Nays: None
Absent: Brotherton
Resolution declared adopted May 17, 1971.

CM-548-71 REPORT CHANGE IN SWIMMING POOL ORDINANCE

City Manager Dinan submitted a report from the Building Inspector, Jeth Harrison, requesting the City Council to amend the City Ordinance regarding swimming pools by adding a new paragraph (4) to read as follows:
All electrical installations or wiring in connection with swimming pools shall conform to the National Electrical Code and the supplement thereto relative to swimming pools and in addition, all grounding connections that are not readily accessible after the pool is finished shall be welded by brazing. The electrical circuits to the pool and the pool area shall be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter. All pool filter pumps must be connected by Permanent Wiring.

Motion by Seibert, supported by Yoder, that the present ordinance be amended as described above. Motion carried, all ayes.

CM-548-71 REPORT CORRECTION TAX BILLS LOTS 6 THROUGH 9, FARMINGTON HILLCREST SUBDIVISION

City Manager Dinan submitted a report from City Assessor, Dorothy Poston, relative to the actual assessments that were levied against Lots 6 through 9, Farmington Hillcrest Subdivision, in 1968-70. City Manager Dinan stated that the city had come to an agreement with Mr. Clifford and property owners involved giving credit for erroneous assessments in 1968 through 1970 and credits will be given for the 1972 assessment as well as follows:

Lot No. 6	1,830.00
Lot No. 7	2,470.00
Lot No. 8	3,350.00
Lot No. 9	920.00

Motion by Yoder, supported by Richardson, to instruct the City Assessor to give the necessary credits for these assessments on Lots 6 through 9, Farmington Hillcrest Subdivision, as recommended by the City Manager. Motion carried, all ayes.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY MONTHLY REPORT

Motion by Seibert, supported by Yoder, to receive and file. Motion carried, all ayes.

CHIEF DEADMAN REPORTED ON THE FIRE AT THE FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday, May 16, 1971.

CM-548-71 ESTABLISH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MAY 24, 1971 FOR SALE OF BONDS

Motion by Seibert, supported by Yoder, to establish a Special Meeting of the City Council at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 24, 1971, for the sale of Motor Vehicle Highway Bonds. Motion carried, all ayes.

COMMENTS

Councilman Allen expressed his opinion regarding the burning ordinance and suggested perhaps the newspapers could publicize the fact that as of May 1971 the ordinance was back in effect.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS MONTHLY BILLS

Motion by Seibert, supported by Richardson to approve the claims and accounts for May 17, 1971, General Fund \$6,279.84 and Water & Sewer \$2,188.00.
Roll Call:
Ayes: Richardson, Seibert, Yoder, Allen
Nays: None
Absent: Brotherton
Motion carried, all ayes.
Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

WILBUR V. BROTHERTON, Mayor
ELIZABETH BRINES, City Clerk

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