

City Must Make Up Unpaid Taxes Of 1925, Report

Inadequate Descriptions Of Property, Assessed Rejected By State

That the City of Farmington must make good to the State for unpaid taxes for 1925, amounting to approximately \$1,200, was revealed Monday evening at the meeting of the City Commission, when the matter of assessment descriptions was brought up. Although no definite date was available, it is believed that the City cannot avoid payment, the difficulty being due to faulty descriptions of land assessed.

It is said that the owners of the land may not be required to pay the taxes, inasmuch as the time elapsed since the assessment may prove that, unless the properties have been re-assessed since 1925.

The State, it was pointed out, formerly was lenient in accepting descriptions of property on the tax rolls, but recently has become very strict in this regard and demands full and accurate description. George Gildemeister, former city treasurer, when asked about the descriptions, said he believed that "three-quarters of the city tax rolls" contain descriptions which were wrong or inadequate. It was pointed out that the assessor can do little to correct the situation.

Mayor Butterfield, who two years ago proposed employing an engineer to work out a city plan, again offered the suggestion Monday evening, saying that he believed it would save the city from a recurrence of the trouble over descriptions of property in assessing, and that it would be in the interest of economy. No action was taken on the suggestion.

Addition of new street lights on the dark stretch of Shiawassee avenue between Warner avenue and Power avenues, and possible discontinuance of the overhead lights on Grand River avenue in the business section was discussed by the Farmington City Commission Monday evening.

Two lights of 100 candle-power were ordered for Shiawassee street, there being 1200 feet on that thoroughfare entirely without illumination. No decision was made on Grand River avenue lighting, the special committee consisting of Commissioner Clarence Bickling and Fred Stierman being continued to consider that situation.

A move for better business administration of city affairs was reported on, all city employees now being required to file time cards, showing the amount of time put on each job. The cards are to be checked over by the City Commission. The Commission voted to continue the present wage scale of 55 cents an hour for city employes.

Employment of a man to be on duty regularly at the pumps at the Water Works was recommended by Superintendent Geo. Grant as an economy measure, it being planned to employ only three other men on city work. The proposal was agreed upon. The budget for the coming year will be considered at a special meeting of the Commission for that purpose next Friday evening.

The Commission voted Assessor Arthur Lamb and Commissioner Russell authority to purchase an adding machine for the city.

P. T. ASSOCIATION TO HAVE "FATHERS' NIGHT"

"Fathers' Night" will be celebrated by the Farmington Parent-Teacher Association on Thursday evening, April 26. A program of unusual interest has been arranged.

The quartet of the Evangelical Church will sing, and H. M. Ritchey of Detroit, general manager of the Motion Picture Theatre, and members of Michigan Association, will speak.

Following the program there will be refreshments and a social hour.

DANCE IS SUCCESS

The Good fellowship dance held in the Town Hall last Friday evening was a decided success as the large crowd in attendance showed. Another dance will be given by the same club, and the same orchestra will furnish music, in the near future. Everyone is invited.

Dr. M. S. Rice of Detroit Metropolitan M. L. Church to Speak in Farmington



M. S. RICE

New Fire Hall, Jail, Suggested

Condition Of Fire Fighting Facilities, Cell-Blocks, Causes Discussions Of Change

The condition of Farmington's fire department and the situation in regard to the cells for detention of city prisoners has resulted in suggestions that the city construct either a new fire hall and cell-block on the city property on Division street, or a new jail in the rear of the police booth on Grand River avenue.

The suggestion of a new building followed a report to the effect that the proposed moving of the cells in the city hall, to another part of the building, would be more expensive than was anticipated. It is considered that it is possible to continue the cells, in their present location, because of the danger of fire, in which case prisoners would be trapped. There is no one on duty continuously at night in the building.

The distance of the city hall from the police headquarters also makes it inconvenient for the police to keep watch of the prisoners and care for their needs. Mayor Butterfield, who suggested that a cement-block building in the rear of the police booth would afford a solution, appointed Commissioner Gildemeister and John Stierman to confer with the township board in his regard.

Commissioner Olin Russell pointed out, however, that the city has only permission to use the land on which the police booth is located, and that if a cement-block building was erected there, it might have to be moved or torn down at any time. He said he understood the Warner Brothers, owners of the property, had recently received an attractive offer for the land.

For a New Fire Hall Police Commissioner Leo Gildemeister asserted he believed the best plan would be to erect a building on the city property which would accommodate both fire equipment and cells, if the township would agree to aid in financing the building. Acting Chief of Police Stokes declared that he and his men had arrested in Farmington over 300 men with in a year, and that taking these men to the city new apparatus occupied a large portion of the officers' time, besides the expense involved, whereas if there were suitable quarters here, the men could be detained in Farmington.

He stated that he considered the property on Division street near enough to the police booth to be convenient for the officers caring for prisoners.

It is expected that the proposal for the building on Division street will be thoroughly discussed soon, as Mayor Butterfield, alluding to the city's being in "poor shape to fight fire," has called for a joint meeting of the Commission and Township Board.

Some members of the city commission seem to favor purchase of the city new apparatus and charging the township for calls outside the city limits, rather than joint ownership of the equipment.

Mrs. William Baumaster of Hollywood City, daughter of Mrs. S. A. Engel, of Farmington Junction, arrived recently for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Engel. She will remain in Farmington for some time.

Threats Follow Court Verdict; Officer Called

Acquittal Of Defendant Precipitates Row In Farmington Business Section

A disturbance in the city courtroom, accompanied by threats to "get" the defendant and his lawyer, and followed by an altercation in the heart of Farmington's business section, provided residents of the city with considerable excitement Wednesday afternoon.

The climax came when Mrs. Lucille Connelly, of the Owen Apartments, who with her husband, Nase Connelly, had caused the arrest of Byron Lapham, 19, seized young Lapham by the throat, accosted witnesses, and was stopped only by interference of citizens and Deputy Sheriff Clayton Stokes.

The trial grew out of an argument on Wednesday night, April 11, between the Connellys and Lapham, who at the time was removing ashes from the basement of the apartment house in which the complaints live. According to the Connelly's, Lapham threatened indecent language when asked to stop, while the defendant charged that Connelly used profane words. The jury acquitted Lapham after being out but seven minutes.

Mrs. Connelly took exception to a remark of Lapham's attorney, Paul Pare of Detroit, during her cross-examination, and declared she would "get" both Lapham and Pare. As Lapham's father, John Lapham, was leaving the courtroom, he and Connelly became engaged in discussion and were held apart.

Half an hour later, at the entrance to the stairway leading to Judge Schulte's office in the Peoples State Bank building, the controversy broke out again, with Mrs. Connelly, it is said, taking hold of young Lapham, threatening to "get" him.

Deputy Stokes was hurriedly called from the police booth across the street, to prevent further trouble.

The Connellys, their daughter, Mildred, 14, and her brother, Fred Sturtevant were the witnesses for the State. Lapham took the stand in his own defense, and called Harrison Johnson and A. L. Ross as character witnesses. A. C. Wabank, E. W. Fisher, Ed. Edgar Pierce, Bernhard Meyers, George K. Checketts, and Arthur Lamb were the members of the jury, Lamb being foreman. Assistant Prosecutor Charles Wilson represented the State.

WOMAN'S CLUB IS TO VISIT MUSEUM IN DETROIT SOON

"Topics Of The Day" Discussed At Meeting At Home Of Mrs. H. Daines

The regular meeting of the Farmington Woman's Club was held Wednesday, April 11 at the home of Mrs. H. Daines. The subject, "Topics of the Day," was fully covered by the committee in charge, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Dickerson and Mrs. H. A. Schroeder, who presented an outstanding program of recent discoveries and inventions, and matters of present-day interest in various fields of human experience. A short discussion followed.

The next regular meeting will occur, not Wednesday, April 25, as announced in the year book, but Thursday, April 26. The committee in charge, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Heenev, and Mrs. Switzer, have arranged for a visit to the new Art Museum of Detroit, under the guidance of Miss Harvey, of the Museum staff, at 1:45.

Those who wish may have luncheon at 1:00 at the Museum Tea Room, managed by Mrs. Linton. Members desiring to attend this luncheon must make reservations with the committee not later than Friday, April 20. Price of luncheon, 75c. Please note date, Thursday, April 26.

—Helen L. Hard, Cor. Sec'y.

November 18, 1848, the first snow fell and it snowed nearly every day all winter. Great quantities of it came, and in February it was three feet deep on the level. On town meeting day in April, 1849, it was two feet deep in the center of the road, and on the sides it was four feet deep. It crossed the Detroit River to Belle Isle. Cattle and horses starved to death on many farms. Hay and grain could not be had at any price. It was a gloomy winter indeed.

Soundings Are Made For Farmington Drain

The first step toward construction of the Farmington Drain was noted this week when employes of the County Drain Commission came to Farmington to make tests of soil along streets where trunk lines will be laid. The findings are reported to have been generally favorable.

Another important work that was begun this week was laying of concrete on Grand River on the south side of the car tracks, west of Five Points.

Maid Confesses In Fake Robbery

Girl At Home Of Farmington Dentist Admits Tying Self To Chair

A dramatic story told by Alfrida Theuffalt, 17, maid in the home of Dr. G. F. Weaver, Farmington dentist, of a man who entered the house Tuesday morning and bound and gagged her, then rifled the Weaver home, had its ending Thursday morning when the girl confessed that the story she had told and that she had tied herself in an effort to obtain clothing without detection.

Clever detective work on the part of Acting Chief of Police Clayton Stokes resulted in the finding of dresses, clothing, and some jewelry in a cold-air shaft of the Weaver home, a few hours after the reported "robbery." Deputy Stokes took the girl into custody immediately after he had been called by Dr. and Mrs. Weaver, who, returning home Tuesday noon, found the girl tied to a chair in a bedroom.

Confronted with the clothing found in the shaft, the girl still protested ignorance of what happened. Later, however, according to police she confessed and pleaded guilty to simple larceny, before Judge John J. Schulte. She was sentenced, five days, but sentence was suspended as the girl placed on probation for three months. She had been working at the Weaver home a week when the incident occurred. She gave her address as 15076 Lahser road, Brighton.

VALUE OF LANDS AROUND CEMETERY BARS EXTENSION

Committee Finds That Present Administration Of Cemetery Is Effective

That there is little prospect for the extension of Oakwood Cemetery because of the high value of land surrounding it, is indicated in a report filed with the Farmington City Commission Monday night by a special commission appointed some time ago by Mayor Wells D. Butterfield.

The report, signed by Howard M. Warner, Rufus N. Crossman, and James L. Hogle, offered the opinion that the opening of two new memorial parks nearby, one at Five-Mile and Farmington roads, and the other at Twelve-Mile and Walled Lake-Novl roads, might relieve the situation in this community.

In regard to the administration of the cemetery, for which a Cemetery Commission has been suggested, the committee reported that they believe the present administration by the City Commission to be very effective. The report does not favor an attempt to accumulate a working fund by means of a special assessment.

CLARENCEVILLE MAN IS INSTANTLY KILLED IN ACCIDENT IN DETROIT

Emory Walker, 32, of 19444 Derby avenue, Clarenceville, was instantly killed Thursday evening, April 12, in Detroit, when he was run over by a trolley-car. He had been unloading hay, when his team became frightened and bolted, a bale of hay falling on Walker and hurling him in front of an oncoming street car. Walker is survived by his widow, Gertrude, Laderoot Walker, three children, and his mother, Mrs. M. Kreger. Funeral services were held Monday, followed by burial in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Redford.

New Officer To Take Up Duties Friday Evening

Appointment Of Alfred Gagnon Confirmed; Petition For Kreager Reported

Appointed Monday as a new police officer of the city of Farmington, Alfred Gagnon is to take up his duties Friday evening, succeeding Officer Herman Kreager. Gagnon, who is 23 years old and has been a resident of Farmington for two years, was chosen from half a dozen applicants by Acting Chief of Police Clayton Stokes, and his appointment ratified at the meeting of the City Commission Monday evening. He will be on duty nights, working from 9:00 o'clock until 7:00 in the morning.

Petition Out

Just before the Commission voted on ratification of Gagnon's appointment, Commissioner Fred Staman stated that he understood there was a "large petition out, but no one is here" relative to the appointment of an officer. Commissioner Carl Hogle and Acting Chief Stokes stated that the petition had been withdrawn. It is understood that the requested re-appointment of Officer Kreager.

Officer Kreager's employment by the city terminated on March 10, following a decision to that effect and notification of the officer by the City Commission on January 16. Officer Kreager has held over, however, pending decision on the applications for the position.

Officer Gagnon is to start at a salary of \$140 a month. Acting Chief Stokes was requested to report on progress at the first meeting of the Commission in May.

MRS. ELIZABETH KYLE WILL HEAD AUXILIARY

Mrs. Elizabeth Kyle was chosen president of the North Farmington Cemetery Auxiliary at the election held on Tuesday. Other officers chosen were Mrs. Clyde Seeley, first vice-president; Mrs. Clara Wikom, second vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Graham, secretary; Mrs. John Graham, treasurer; and Mrs. Thomas Graham, corresponding secretary.

RESIDENTS URGED TO AID IN "CLEAN-UP" WEEK

Residents of Farmington are urged by city officials to co-operate in the city annual Spring Clean-Up Week, which starts next Monday, April 23, and will continue until the following Saturday.

A special effort is to be made this year to completely clean up the entire city, and city employes will collect whatever is placed outside the sidewalks. There will be no charge for this service.

ORDER FOR MUZZLING OF DOGS IS ISSUED

A warning that all dogs in this section must be kept on the owners' premises or must be muzzled, has been issued by authorities. Starting next Monday, according to Deputy Sheriff Clayton Stokes, a check-up will be made. All dogs found running at large and unmuzzled, may be shot. The edict was caused by spread of rabies among live stock.