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Paving Problems Appear; Citizen Offers Solution

Northville Deficit Reported; Vacant Property Owner Offers Excess Cost In Cash

Difficulties which appeared likely to delay the proposed paving program for Farmington came up Monday evening at the meeting of the City Commission, but seemed to disappear in the light of a closer examination of the reports discussed at that meeting.

According to first rumors, Northville, where a paving program was recently completed, faces a deficit of \$65,000 which must be made up by the village, because the State law prevents special assessment for more than 25 per cent of its assessed value on the last previous tax roll. It was thought this would be sufficiently serious to cause Farmington to stop and consider such a possibility before embarking on a paving program.

It was later declared, however, that the report regarding Northville was inaccurate and Howard Warner, one of the largest owners of property on the two streets discussed by the City Commission, has offered to make up to the City in cash the difference between the amount assessable against the property, and the cost of paving in front of his land, if Oakland avenue and Wilmarth streets are paved.

Charter Cited

At the commission meeting Monday night, Commissioners Carl Hogle, chairman of the committee to investigate paving possibilities, reported that he believed a paving ordinance unnecessary, inasmuch as the provisions in the charter in Chapter 19. Mr. Hogle cited the clause, taken from the State law, which prevents assessing a lot for more than 25 per cent of its assessed value. Mr. Hogle cited the case of lots with 140 feet on one street and 90 feet on another, a total of 190 feet frontage, which at a paving cost of \$5 per lineal foot, would cost \$945.00. In order to comply with the charter, such a lot would have to be assessed \$4,560. If \$1,200.00 could be assessed only \$300.00 for paving, leaving \$840.00 of an improved lot across the street, would pay his entire assessment and at the same time help pay in front of the vacant lot. Mr. Hogle then said he had "heard" Northville is \$65,000 in the hole because of this oversight.

City Clerk N. H. Power remarked that he believed the owners of vacant lots on Oakland avenue would pay the entire cost in order to get the pavement. Commissioner Clarence Bicking suggested, in stead of paving, the putting in of curbs and gutters, and graveling to the top of the gutters, but Commissioner Hogle declared this "would cost half as much as a paved street."

DECLARES 'FRILLS' IN EDUCATION ARE NECESSARY TODAY

Mayor Butterfield declared "there is quite a sentiment in many quarters for paving, and he believed some action should be taken. Commissioner Bicking asked, "Do the people realize the cost?" Commissioner Harrison Johnson declared he believed the only way to proceed was to "put up a bond issue and let the people vote on it."

Commissioner Hogle said that the charter provision on special assessments stated that such could be considered only twice a year. Mayor Butterfield declared that "we should lay out a program now and be ready if petitions come in."

Howard Warner, part owner of about 1100 feet of frontage on Oakland and Wilmarth, declared Wednesday that regarding their vacant property, they would not only refrain from protesting against the assessment of more than 25 per cent, but would pay the city at once in cash, the difference between that figure and the total cost. Mr. Warner said he believed other property owners would do likewise, and that many pieces of vacant frontage were owned by occupants of adjoining houses, who would probably do likewise.

Mr. Warner stated that he had talked with former Mayor Elmer Smith of Northville, and that the report of a "\$65,000 deficit" was untrue. Mr. Smith told me, said (Continued on Page Five)

RECENT GRADUATE



Miss Jean Hamblton, a popular resident of Farmington, was graduated recently from the High Land Park General Hospital as a nurse. Miss Hamblton was a member of the Farmington High School class of 1924.

Mother-Daughter Dinners Planned

Churches of Farmington and Vicinity To Hold Annual Affairs Soon

Mother and Daughter banquets are being planned by the churches of Farmington and vicinity. The Mother and Daughter banquet of Salem Evangelical church will be held at the church hall, Wednesday, May 16, beginning at 7 o'clock.

There will be vocal and instrumental music, also readings and recitations. One of the banquet features will be a candle service. Mrs. Adolph Eisen will give the address of the evening. Tickets can be procured from the officers of the Ladies' Aid Society.

The women and the girls of the Baptist Church and congregation will have the honor of hearing Mrs. Hazel Leonard who is head of the Department of Religious Education for the Detroit Council of Churches.

The banquet is open to all the women and girls who want to attend. They are asked to phone in their reservations to Mrs. Taggart, 35-54 or Mrs. Palmer, 206. The price of the banquet will be covered by taking an offering at the tables.

The Methodist Church Mother and Daughter banquet will be held on May 25. Miss Emily Butterfield and A. L. Ross are the committee in charge.

The West Point Park Independent Church banquet will be held on Friday evening, May 18. A Mother and Daughter service is also being planned by the church.

Township Asked To Put Price On Town Hall Share

Committee Decides Sale Of Township Interest To City And Masons Best Solution

The first definite step toward resolving the Farmington Town Hall ownership tangle was taken during the past week when three committees appointed by the parties interested met and agreed that a satisfactory solution might be obtained if an agreement could be reached whereby Farmington Township would sell its interest to the City of Farmington and Farmington Masonic Lodge.

The committee met at the home of Rufus Crisman, chairman of the committee for the township, Thursday evening. Representing the township was Mr. Crosman, George Nacker, and George A. Lee. Howard Warner was chairman of the City's committee with Floyd Nichols and George Gildemeister as the other members. James L. Hogle, chairman, A. L. Ross and Will Way represented the Masonic Lodge. The full membership of the committee was present, and elected Floyd Nichols permanent chairman and George Gildemeister secretary.

Discussion showed that the committee were in agreement regarding the most simple solution, and the committee for the township was requested to attend the Township Board meeting Tuesday evening, May 15, to set a price at which the Township "would be willing to sell its interest. It is planned to hold another meeting on the 22nd of the month on Thursday evening, May 17, to receive the township committee's report and determine the next steps.

There appeared to be general agreement that if the township's interest could be terminated, the City and the Masonic Order could use the hall jointly and with satisfaction.

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LEAGUE BASEBALL WILL BE STARTED ON SUNDAY, MAY 13

West Point Park To Meet Lake Orion In First Inter-County League Contest

An event toward which baseball players and fans of this vicinity have been looking forward for a long time will occur next Sunday afternoon, when league baseball is to be inaugurated in this section for the first time. The West Point Park baseball team, comprising a number of players of this section, and recently admitted as a member of the Inter-County League, will meet Lake Orion on the West Point Park grounds at 3 p. m.

The West Point Park team, which last season won nearly all its games, will present an even stronger lineup this season, to meet the faster class of teams on its schedule. The players who are already listed are:

Harry Wolfe, Elmer Hobbins, John Jayska, Russell Catherman, Clinton Treadway, George Rutenber, E. H. Kelly, Howard Johnson, Sam Sakin, Franz Stigman, Roy Wolfson.

Others expected to join the West Point Park team in the near future are:

Harold Catherman, Guy Hinton, Harvey Renua, A. Sterns, R. J. Coy, August Ponti.

West Point Park has played two games thus far this year, winning two. The organization of the Inter-County League and obtaining entry for West Point Park entailed a great deal of work, particularly on the part of Harry Wolfe of West Point Park. The league is under the management of Pontiac, DeHoCo (Northville) Lake Orion, Mt. Clemens, Rochester, and West Point Park. Mt. Clemens will be represented by aviators from Selfridge Field.

are twice as many students as there are at the University of Michigan. We must give our boys all these things that are sometimes called "frills in education" in order that they may have a fair chance when they go out into the world.

Mr. Trout came to the Exchange Club as a guest of F. DeVere Fleming. Michael Haley of the Redford Exchange Club was also a guest and spoke briefly on the work of the council of Exchange Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit.

Wondered Where Fire Was Until Truck Came

Not until the fire engine came up Grand River avenue and stopped in front of her house did Mrs. William Walters know that it was her home that was afire Tuesday morning. Mrs. Walters had gone out to the street to see which way the fire truck went and was astonished to see it stop in front of her home.

Mrs. Reed Metzger, a neighbor, saw smoke coming from the roof of the Webster home and sent in the alarm. The fire started in the attic, and was extinguished with little damage.

Toastmaster For Banquet Chosen

Early Requests For Tickets Indicates Large Attendance; Local Citizens To Speak

Frank N. Steele, principal of the McMillan School of Detroit, and a life-long resident of Farmington, has been chosen as toastmaster for the testimonial banquet to be given in honor of Supt. of Schools Archie G. Leonard on Friday evening, May 18. Selection of the speaker of the evening will be made within a day or two. Requests for tickets, which went on sale Tuesday, were received as early as Monday, and interest in the affair appears keen throughout the school district. Tickets are obtainable at the F. L. Cook and Co. store, the Farmington Bakery, Enterprise office, and from members of the committee in charge. The sale of tickets will be closed next Wednesday evening, in order that the exact number to attend may be determined.

The program will include, in addition to the address by the speaker of the evening, a number of short talks by local men and women, representing various organizations and interests of the community, music and other entertainment. The list is yet to be completed by the program committee, of which F. L. Cook is chairman.

Members of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church will serve the dinner, at 6:30 p. m. in the church dining-room. A. L. Ross, chairman of the banquet committee, states that a splendid menu will be prepared by the Society, and that plans are under way to insure prompt and pleasing service.

The committee requests that tickets, which are \$1.00 each, be purchased as early as possible, in order that preparations may go forward smoothly to accommodate all who attend.

THIRTEEN SCHOOL TEACHERS WILL BE BACK NEXT YEAR

Majority Of Those Now In Farmington Sign New Contracts For 1928-1929

Thirteen teachers now employed in Farmington schools have signed contracts to return next year, a resume of the staff shows. Two grade school positions are open, with one teacher engaged for a grade yet to be determined.

The Kindergarten and the fifth grade positions are still open, but inasmuch as Miss Cecelia Halsted of Farmington has been engaged for a grade position, it is expected that the fifth grade will be assigned to her. Principal A. R. Crawford, who also teaches science, will return next year.

Other teachers who have signed contracts for next year with their respective classes, are:

Kindergarten, open.

First grade, Margaret Campbell.

Second grade, Mary Moore.

Third grade, Doris Ackland.

Fourth grade, Jean Heaton.

Fifth grade, open.

Sixth grade, Margaret McClelland.

Seventh grade, Eldora Rudberg.

Eighth grade, Curtis Hall.

Music and Art, Lulu Lockwood.

Opportunity Room, Mrs. May Thomas.

Commercial, Charlotte Stenger.

English, Lois McCallan.

History and Coaching, Fernando Brethour.

Science and High School, A. R. Crawford.

Ten-Mile Road Paving Into City Will Be Started Soon

County Road Commissioners Visit Farmington; Decide On Route And Give Assurance That Work Will Be Hastened

Assurance that the Ten-Mile road will be paved into the City of Farmington from the end of the present pavement to Division street, the most advantageous route to the City of Farmington and vicinity, was given by members of the Oakland County Road Commission during a visit to Farmington Wednesday.

According to the county road officials, who came to Farmington to look over the ground and determine the best route, work will be started as soon as possible, with the road-bed and a new bridge at the base of McGee Hill to be put in this season, and the laying of concrete done early next season. Necessity of a fill, which must settle over the winter, will cause the delay in pouring concrete and completing the road.

The route favored by the county officials will follow McGee Hill down as far as the present northward curve, at that point will turn north slightly, and proceed with but slight curve across the fields to the end of the Ten-Mile road and Powers avenue, where the present paving ends. This is the route for which a petition was circulated and the required signatures obtained about 18 months ago, by Supervisor Isaac Bond, and Mayor Wells D. Butterfield, aided by F. DeVere Fleming.

Was Land Buyer? State Tax Man?

Indications Are That Quotation-Seeker Was State Tax Official

That "the real estate 'furry'" of last week, which excited Farmington, and particularly those owning property along Grand River avenue, may have somewhat concerning results a little later on seems possible in view of the experience of property-owners in other suburbs of Detroit. There is some reason to believe that the "interest" of the supposed "buyer" was much more closely connected with something besides real estate.

In the opinion of one man experienced in suburban real estate, the visitor to Farmington was probably a representative of the State. It is said that visits of officials to other suburbs have strongly resembled the Farmington "call."

The visits are said to be a result of the State officials' belief that frontage on important highways is generally assessed far too low, considering the prices asked. The officials, it is said, visit the suburbs and ask what the property-owners will take for their frontage. The State officials believe, it appears, they can frequently locate property assessed for a few thousand dollars, while the owner holds it at several times that much. The State, then orders a higher assessment, and a protest is made. The owner's own quotation of the property's value is cited to him as proof that the higher assessment is justified.

The caller's possession of the chart of Grand River property, his familiarity with it, and his refusal to give his name, are taken as indications that he was probably a State tax official.

FISHING PARTY BACK FROM LAKE CITY TRIP: 'MUSKOKA' AGAIN HEARD

The season's first fishing party from Farmington returned Monday with a report that they had caught "three pretty big ones." The exact size was given as "about a foot and a half long."

The party, which included near Lake City, consisted of Emory Hatton, Clayton Stokes, Judge John J. Schulte, Clarence Bicking, John Fitzpatrick, and Mr. Perry of Redford.

"Muskoka" is said to be a code name for "fishing" was heard mentioned for the first time Wednesday. It is believed a party will be going "Muskoka" early in June.

HUSBAND DIES A WEEK AFTER GOLDEN WEDDING; WIDOW SERIOUSLY ILL

But ten days ago, Mr. and Mrs. George Hedden of Highland celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Miss Leola, like of Farmington, a niece, attended.

One Tuesday friends gathered again at the Hedden home—but for a sad occasion. It was the funeral of Mr. Hedden, and the aged widow, Mrs. Hedden is now seriously ill with pneumonia.

Mr. Glasgow commented that the easiest route from an engineering standpoint would be to extend the Ten-Mile road straight west from Powers avenue, but that "that route would not help the town any."

At the Farmington Exchange Club luncheon, which the county officials attended after their tour, Mr. Glasgow said the bridge and road-bed could be finished this year, and ready for paving next Spring. At the same meeting Chairman Thompson said he believed the extensions Ten-Mile extension "is now merely an engineering problem" and that maps would be ordered drawn at once and work pushed without delay. Commissioner Allen also spoke briefly to the club.

The completion of the Ten-Mile road is viewed by many leading citizens as one of the matters of paramount importance to the development of Farmington, and the encouragement given by the County officials is occasioned a great deal of satisfaction.

HENRY WRIGHT, FORMER RESIDENT, PASSES AWAY; BURIAL AT E. FARMINGTON

Farmington residents will hear with sorrow of the death of Henry Wright of Battle Creek, formerly a resident of this city. Mr. Wright passed away Tuesday, May 8.

The body will be brought to East Farmington Cemetery for burial, interment to be on Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock.