

Study Will "Cloud" Incorporation

The odds appear dim that local governmental units will put up \$1,500 for a Michigan State University study of Farmington's future governmental needs.

Township officials are visibly cool to the idea of an immediate MSU analysis.

The developments occurred Tuesday night at a meeting between an MSU staff member and representatives of the city, the township and the two villages.

The meeting was called by the Future Farmington Area Study Committee, a citizens group which sought help from the MSU Institute for Community Development.

The MSU analysis of local data already gathered by the study committee would take until mid-August to complete.

But township officials objected that the mid-August release date might affect and "confuse" township voters, who will go to the polls Oct. 23 to vote on incorporation of most of the township as a home-rule city.

Ironically, the study committee has hoped that the report would clarify the alternatives in this fast-growing suburban area.

Said township trustee Thomas Nolan: "Putting this (the proposed MSU analysis) before the people may confuse the issue on how people would vote. Frankly, I think people will end up not knowing what they are voting on."

"I am in favor of a study about the eventual consolidation of the area," Nolan said, "but I am not in favor of the timing."

We in the township have to protect ourselves before we can talk about consolidation and that's what the incorporation move is."

Township Supervisor Curtis Hall argued that "if consolidation is good between a city and a township then it is just as good between two cities. I don't see that time is of great essence. I think that a report issued in mid-August will cloud the issue and muddy the waters and if people will accept it now then they will accept it later," he added.

Nolan asserted that "my vote is more inclined to spend the money after the incorporation vote, and I would propose that the group continue immediately after the Oct. 23 incorporation election."

Hall and Nolan both expressed support of the idea of the study as did the city representatives and councilmen from both villages.

City officials present at the session were: Mayor Wilbur V. Brotherton; Councilmen John Allen and Ralph Yoder, along

with City Manager John Dinan who has served on the study committee.

Councilman Bill Cogswill represented the Village of Quakerstown, and Councilman Albertson was present from the Village of Wood Creek Farms.

The proposed analysis would be prepared by the Michigan State University Institute for Community Development and Services. The final report would summarize data and examine the implications to government organization and co-

operation between city, township and the two villages.

MSU staff member Vincent Marando emphasized that "the report would not provide answers, but to what the citizens of the Farmington area should do concerning government organization. It would provide a basis for discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of selecting one alternative as compared to another."

If conducted, the study would outline the various alternatives and examine the advantages and disadvantages of each from the viewpoint of a township, city or village resident.

"The final report will not tell the community what it should do or have any answers," Marando warned.

Township Supervisor Hall noted that the Township Board would have to obtain an opinion from Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan on whether or not it could spend the funds to help finance the study.

He pointed to the Oakland County Circuit Court decision prohibiting the Township from "Please Turn To Page Two

Farmington

ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

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County Prepares For Redistricting

Presenting their plans for the new apportionment of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, the five-man redistricting board charged with drawing the next set of districts seems ready to adopt the legally-required "one man, one vote," 27-member plan that had earlier been declared unconstitutional by a State Supreme Court advisory opinion.

Speaking for the board in a public hearing Wednesday in Southfield, County Democratic leader George Googasian noted that, despite the ruling of the state court, the board plans to submit its plan pending the outcome of "current litigation with the United States Supreme Court concerning the apportionment of county boards."

Under the "one man, one vote" plan, the current 67-man Board of Supervisors would be reduced to the recommended 27-man limit under Public Act 261 of the 1966 legislative session, which requires county boards to become popularly-elected bodies consisting of 25 to 35 members. The districts, if necessary, would cross boundary lines of local governmental units. Currently, the larger board is an appointive body, each unit allotted a certain number of supervisors, these delegates being appointed by the various city and township councils and commissions.

FARMINGTON and Farmington Township have one representative each, Delos Hamlin, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, represents the city, and Township Supervisor Curt Hall is the delegate of that locality.

Republican County Chairman Joseph R. Farnham is the only GOP member of the five-man apportionment board. The four Democrats are Googasian, County Clerk John P. Murphy, State Representative Joseph Steerlin and Prosecutor S. Jerome Bronson.

Each of the board members holds his seat by virtue of the Act's provision for membership on any county reorganization body. Under the Act, all similar boards throughout the state consist of the county's clerk, treasurer, prosecuting attorney, and the chairmen of the local political parties.

Farnham commented that of two current alternative plans that are being considered, he favors the one which would follow governmental boundary lines most closely. The Democrats, meanwhile, support the other plan which, though it cuts four more boundaries than the Farnham plan, is more closely attuned to the "one man, one vote" principle. Farmington Township is cut in both plans.

Murphy, speaking for the latter alternative, noted that "the statute lists, in order, the criteria for districting. The usual standard for judgment is population, and we must follow the law."

Both Bronson and Googasian remarked that the ruling of the state court that declared the statute unconstitutional was purely advisory, and does not have the force of law. "Until a citizen or citizen group files suit after a new plan has been adopted, the court cannot issue a legally binding opinion," Googasian said.

Sources have indicated that such a suit, which could not come until after the May 15 date of effect for the reapportionment, would most likely be postponed from judgment until after the U.S. Court has decided. The decision of that body, currently hearing arguments on a similar case from New York, is expected in early June.

Local Angle- Proposal Will Split Township

The two proposals for redistricting the recommended 27-man county board of supervisors affect Farmington and Farmington Township in the same way.

All of the city and only part of the township are combined to form the Farmington district, while the northern portion of the township is detached and put into the West Bloomfield district.

In the plan proposed by Oakland County Democratic Chairman George Googasian, the Farmington district consists of all of the city, and most of the township except for a weird stippled area of sections connected with West Bloomfield to the north.

That area which would vote with residents of the West Bloomfield district includes all sections north and east of a line that starts at 14 Mile and Drake Roads, goes south to 13 Mile, east to Farmington Rd., south to 12 Mile, east to Orchard Lake Rd. and north to 11 Mile and east to the township limits at Inkster Rd.

In the plan proposed by County Republican Chairman Joseph R. Farnham, that part of the township which would be disjoined from the bulk of the Farmington area would consist of the tier of sections that runs from Drake Rd. east to Inkster Rd., north of 12 Mile. The Googasian plan would put five more sections in the West Bloomfield district.

Township Supervisor Curtis Hall says that the Farnham plan would be more advantageous to Farmington voters, pointing out that more of the Farmington area would be united under this proposal, Hall states that "there is a community of interests between the city and the township and the two should be together."

Under the current board set-up, the city and township each have one representative to the board. Thus, two out of 27 supervisors, or 2.3 per cent of the board's membership, represent the Farmington area. With the proposed 27-member board, the area would have approximately 1.2 representatives with the Farnham plan, and about 1.4 with the Googasian plan.

(Note: The fractional "representation" signifies the portion of Farmington voters that would vote for the West Bloomfield delegate.)

In any case, the new compact board of supervisors would give the Farmington area about 4.5 per cent of the board's representation.

It is expected that the Googasian plan will be approved by the special apportioning board, which has a 4-1 Democratic majority.

The only areas of political concern in the two plans are in the swing districts in the heavily populated southeastern portion of Oakland County.

Petition Deadline Saturday

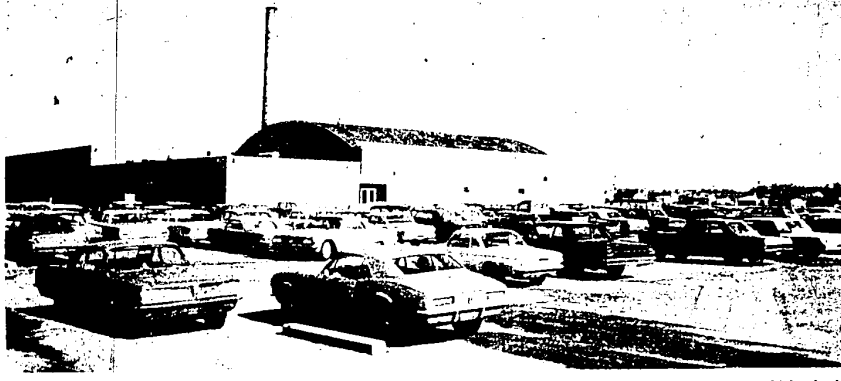
With less than a week to the filing date only one candidate has announced for the vacant spot on the Farmington Board of Education.

School District voters will elect a person to a four-year term on June 12.

Mrs. Barbara Brown, the incumbent, has announced that she will not seek re-election. The only announced candidate is Dr. Sanford Bloomberg of 29570 Pipers Lane.

Nominating petitions must be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Education by 4 p.m. Saturday, May 13. These offices are located at 32500 Shilawassee. The minimum number of signatures required is 24, while the maximum is 96.

School Superintendent Gerald V. Harrison's office reports that many petitions have been picked up, but that no record is kept.



THE CARS IN THIS PARKING lot at Farmington High School represent a typical American phenomena — they belong to students who drive to school. No place else in the world is a large

parking lot planned as a necessary facility for a new high school being built. Farmington High's parking lot will be increased in size this spring.

Students Fill Parking Lots

The lots are filled with cars which students drive to school.

People driving past the parking lots at Farmington High and North Farmington High may not be aware they are witnessing a unique American sociological phenomenon.

An American educator traveling in the Soviet Union was asked what one of the major problems in American education is.

He said student parking space.

The Soviets thought he was a liar.

AMERICANS ARE

conditioned to their children's driving to school that they shrug off what would be to the rest of the world an innovation.

Administrators at the two local high schools are also conditioned to their parking lots being filled every day with students' cars.

Harold Humble, principal at North Farmington, says about 200 student cars were registered last year. On a given day, 300 cars were in the school lot.

Except in bad weather, Humble says, there is more than enough room for parking.

The lot at North Farmington is unpaved, which makes the parking facilities more flexible.

According to Humble, very few of the students own the cars they drive, which indicates that most must come from two-car families.

James Geiger, principal at Farmington High, says he also has more than adequate parking room. The lot will be added to this spring.

Geiger says that some of his senior boys own their own cars. These have part time jobs, and the first thing they buy when they get a pay check is a car.

Parking lots at both schools are supervised at noon. Students may not drive during the day.

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Company Safe Is Job's Loot

Township police report that West Point Motor Supply, 27508 Eight Mile Rd., was broken into and robbed May 1.

The burglar or burglars, as yet not apprehended, made off with a 1964 1/2 ton safe, carrying it intact through the front window of the store.

Inside the safe, police said, was \$360 cash and the company's checkbook. Businesses are warned not to honor any green and white checks with the name West Point Motor Supply inscribed on top. Any- one cashing one of these checks is asked to notify the township police.

An Editorial

You asked for it. Now you've got it.

This is the first edition of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

To put it out, we followed your advice. We listened to what you told us about your likes and dislikes.

We combined the best features of the Enterprise and the Observer to bring you the Farmington Enterprise & Observer on Saturday and again on Wednesday.

It has three sections.

The first section is about Farmington and Farmington only.

Up-to-the-minute sports, regional news and politics, and women's features spearhead the second section.

The third section contains Michigan's top award-winning classified want ads.

We've beefed up our staff to bring you sharper and more thorough reporting than possible before.

We spent a lot of time finding an extra readable new headline type.

All this because we think people in Farmington want their papers to get better.

We're doing this.

Today.

We hope you'll tell us what you think of the new Enterprise & Observer, what you like and what you don't like.

Because we're still looking for ways to make the paper better.

And when we find them, we'll use them.

—Philip H. Power, Publisher

N.E. Area Faces 6 Government Options

Wood Creek Farms, the village which includes all of Sec. 12 in Farmington Township, and Sec. 1, in the northeast corner of the township, have some major decisions to make about their municipal futures.

And they have at least six options on which way to jump.

The decision is being forced by a proposal to incorporate most of Farmington Township as the "City of Farmington Hills." The petition, now being examined by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, exclude the Village of Quakerstown, Wood Creek Farms and most of Sec. 1.

Advocates of incorporation are confident it will be approved this time. Incorporation was beaten last year, ap-

some extent because of opposition in the areas now excluded.

But while the proponents of incorporation are busy figuring out how to win a "yes" vote, Wood Creek Farms and Sec. 1, because of their borderline position, can and must decide which way to move.

The possibilities range from joining the city-to-be, becoming a city on their own, or joining some other municipal unit—and they have a broad choice.

THESE APPEAR to be the possibilities:

- They could annex to the new City of Farmington Hills.
- Once the new city is formed, there would be a limbo period in which the Wood Creek Farms and Sec. 1, along with

Quakerstown, would be left with the responsibility of township government. But an annexation could be arranged in a couple of months.

- They could remain a township.
- This is a legal possibility, but hardly feasible. The remaining area is residential with little in the way of tax base and powers to support such services as police, fire, courts and so on.
- They could become a city on their own.
- Even before any incorporation of Farmington Hills, Sec. 1 could vote to annex to the Village of Wood Creek Farms.
- Under the state constitution (VII, 20): "The legislature shall provide by law for the dissolution of township government whenever all the territory of an organized township is included within the boundaries of a village or villages . . . and provide by law for township government under restrictions and limitations provided by law."
- This possibility is the least clear. Consolidation of township areas is rarely done in Michigan—if it has ever been done. Township officials by nature are too jealous of their domains to allow themselves to be absorbed into another unit without a holy war. In this case, however, with residential areas less than eager to assume the tasks of township government, the possibility can be considered.
- Also, Wood Creek Farms and Sec. 1 could consider some

sort of merger with Franklin Hill, located in Southfield Township, either at the village level or by organizing a new city.

- John West Bloomfield Township.
- This could be accomplished by the same method as a consolidation with Southfield Township.
- All of this assumes that Wood Creek Farms and Sec. 1 will all the same route. The assumption could be wrong, and the two areas could go separate ways.
- In that case, it would take not only a constitutional lawyer but a mathematician skilled in permutations and combinations to calculate all the possibilities.