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What's Next? - Study Hits Snag On Specifics

By SUE SHAGHNESSY
(Sue Shaghnessy has covered the development of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee since its origin at Board of Commerce meeting in July 1965. In addition, she has covered the two incorporation campaigns in the township and the city's 1966 annexation attempts.)

\$5,000 and work is expected to begin shortly after the first of the year. Target date for completion is October.
The four governmental units—city, township and the two villages—are being asked to finance the cost on a pro rata share of the equalized valuations.
Members of the city council and the two village councils seem inclined to let the study committee choose the group to make the study.
The position of township officials, however, is that they want to talk to some other people before approving any study proposal.

It seems likely that the township will explore other possibilities for a study and find an additional project rather than go along with the township's recommendation.
Since the MSU study will depend on data supplied by the governmental units, the project in MSU words "must have the unequalled cooperation of all of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee, but of the various governmental agencies of the area."
A few weeks ago, Mayor Wilbur V. Brotherton of the city issued a plea for a meeting between representatives of the city and township to discuss just who should do the study.
Brotherton warned that agreement could not be reached on this matter before the implementation of any study the results would be damaging.
"We'll be right back to where we started from," he said, and added that he did not want to see the study as an issue "further dividing the city and township."

TO SAY that a division currently exists between city and township is true, but something of an understatement.
The division is deep and serious.
The basic conflict stems from opposing responsibilities and points of view.
The city must expand its tax base for future development. The best means of expanding a tax base is to attract industry.
There is little available land in the city. The solution is to try to increase the city's land area through annexation attempts.
In the past three years, the city has filed three annexation petitions for township land. The first, in 1965, seeking to take the Woodcroft Subdivision failed.
Shortly after this election, township officials filed incorporation petitions "to protect the boundaries." This question was turned down by the voters in June 1966.
In July, 1966, the city filed for the township's developing industrial park and would also have taken in the existing Star Center plant and the Independence Green development.
A few weeks later, the city filed again for the Woodcroft area.
This time around, the city was successful in the Woodcroft attempt, but failed in its try for the industrial park.
Incorporation petitions were filed again for the township. This time, however, the petitions included the Woodcroft area.
Brotherton is warring that these were areas which had been the hotbed of opposition to the township is true, but something of an understatement.

previous incorporation question.
That question was defeated by the voters in October.
Thus the township officials are concerned lest another annexation attempt occur. The city council says it has no plans for the immediate future, but that hasn't allayed the fears around township hall.
ON THE OTHER hand, the city councilmen have expressed the opinion that they are tired of being "the heaves" in this matter.
The feeling at the council table seems to be that they have made a commitment and expect to keep it, and they are tired of township officials doubting their integrity.
In all this, the study committee has become subject. Township hall is buzzing with charges that the committee is "city dominated."

background

WIKI—that's the \$64,000 question.
Everyone—Farmington's officials and the private citizens—seem to be in agreement that an outside study of governmental alternatives is necessary.

JOHN RICHARDSON, chairman of the study committee, admits that the group talked "seriously" only to MSU. "We contacted the Michigan State University Institute for Community Services for the project. Cost of the MSU study is

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TRACY CONROY -- This is the way people will remember this man best -- behind the counter in his meat market on Farmington Rd. A Firestone store will open on the site where Conroy had been in business since 1939.

more feet of the site from the Detroit United Railways.
Over those long years of business, Conroy served the town in many other capacities.
He was elected to the City Council three or four times and resigned finally when the State Legislature passed a law forbidding anyone owning a business selling liquor or wine from holding public office.
He was a member of the City Charter Commission which set up the present city manager form of government. He also, during these years, found time to become a charter member and past president of the Kiwanis Club and Exchange Club.

UNDER THE new program, which would involve the current fifth and tenth graders two years in the elementary schools of English would be required.
All students would be required to take a course in Fundamental Skills and Introduction to Literature and Composition.
Students who were gifted in this area would be able to take a test prior to entering high school. If an A- is earned on this test and with the teacher's recommendation of the student's proficiency in the area, the student would be allowed to skip the introductory class and begin study in some of the more specialized areas.
In addition to the fundamental class, all students will be required to take a course in the American Literature field in order to graduate.
The advanced courses include: a survey of English literature; mass media and its impact on society; mythology; Shakespeare; modern world lit-

Conroy's Shuts After 28 Years

BY ELIZABETH WISSMAN
Something will be missing in Farmington now that Tracy Conroy has closed his meat market.
People who want anything as good as his holiday hams, were, will have to search far and wide and then probably won't be able to find one.
Conroy had been in business at his market on Farmington Road since 1939.
He's more than just an old-line Farmington businessman. He is a Farmington pioneer having been born on a farm his grandfather owned on 10 Mile near Orchard Lake Rd.

BACK IN those days, 10 Mile between Orchard Lake and Middle Belt was known as Conroy Road.
Asked about these early days, Conroy says, "You've heard the expression 'one-horse town'?" Well, Farmington had two horses.
"The streetcar ran up the middle of Grand River and the north side of the street was all hitching rails for horses. The old Owen House Hotel was on the corner with a general store and just down the street was the old Grace Hotel."
Before he opened his Farmington store, this meat expert had a market at the old Five Points at Grand River and Seven Mile Road. The store parking lot was located where the present State Police building is.

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DIGGING - Township police and volunteers worked two hours Thursday to recover the body of Jack Hukkala, 36120 Lyman. Hukkala was conducting a deep soil test, when the 25-foot excavation caved in.

Cave In Buries Builder

A 43-year-old Farmington Township builder who was running a deep soil test on vacant property less than a quarter-mile from his home died tragically Thursday when a 25-foot excavation caved in, burying him at the bottom of the pit.
Jack Hukkala, of 36120 Lyman, had ridden the arm of a digging rig operated by Arthur Oesch to the floor of the deep but narrow hole when suddenly the unshored sides gave way, trapping him beneath tons of dirt and clay.
Township police responded to a frantic neighbor's call at 2:08 p.m., but it took two hours just to reach Hukkala's body and it was not until 5:10 that workers were able to bring him to the surface. Any hope that he might miraculously have survived had long since vanished.
The site of the tragedy was a lot owned by Hukkala himself, opposite a residence at 36141 Steele Rd., just north of 11 Mile and between Drake and Halsted Rds. This location, as well as the nearby Hukkala dwelling, are in the Old Homestead subdivision.
Hukkala is survived by his wife, June, and four children: Marilyn, 14, twin sons, Paul and Philip, 10, and a two-year-old son, Alan. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.
Several police cruisers, two pieces of fire apparatus and an ambulance arrived on the scene within minutes of the accident.
Volunteers from several construction projects in the area also joined the effort, and four pieces of heavy digging equipment were brought in to remove the fill.
By mid-afternoon it was apparent that the hope of rescuing Hukkala alive was gone, and even though individual workmen went into the hole by ladder to dig with hand shovels their efforts were in vain.

Trustees Face Up To Maternity Cost

There are all sorts of ways for a unit of government to save money. If its employees are OK enough, it's a safe bet that obligation of the maternity clause from group medical and hospitalization coverage is one of them.
This very attitude is figured to have saved the Township of Farmington more than \$4,000 in the two years since the Trustees approved full payment of group insurance participation by the approximate 50 employees and their families.
Inclusion of maternity coverage would have cost the township an extra \$3.67 per employee per month, and while no age chart of township workers is available suffice it to say that until this week there was no problem.
BUT NOW the wife of a township police officer is going to have a baby—police men and their wives having a tendency toward youth—and the trustees were asked in this week's meeting to take a stand.
They established a precedent by voting to pay the employee's doctor bill up to a maximum of \$200, and to pay for semi-private hospital accommodations.
The birth rate being what it is among their employees, the trustees figure they'll still come out ahead.
OTHER more routine matters on the agenda, the board took these actions:
Reappointed Richard Hug for a four-year term as the Democratic representative to the Board of Canvassers.
Endorsed the Planning Commission's approval of preliminary plat plans of three new subdivisions, Independence Commons, Wedgwood Commons and Phillip Judson Gardens North.

THE LOCAL building where he sold his wares from 1939 to Dec. 15, 1967 was erected in 1939. Conroy bought the property from the People's State Bank of Farmington and 20

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Area Escapes Draft Protests (So Far)

So far, anti-war protests, draft card burnings and other expressions of youth's expressing their resentment about being called to military duty have been absent from the Farmington scene.
Mrs. Louise Kimes, executive secretary of Selective Service Board 328 and for six years active manager of the local office, admits knowing not what each succeeding day may bring, but foresees no sudden change in the attitudes among the young men processed by this board.
On Dec. 12, Board 328's last 33 inductees of 1967 reported for transfer to Fort Wayne, bringing the year's total number of draftees from this area to 254.
All have been processed without incident.
The board currently has approximately 16,500 eligible youths of draft age in its files, a figure which compares with only 9,000 when Mrs. Kimes took over the local office in 1961 after serving seven years selective service board in Royal Oak.
Board 328 is one of seven operating in Oakland County, and the area of its authority includes virtually all of the county west of Inlander Rd. in the southern half, and west of the Pontiac city limits to the north.
Registration with their draft board is required of all young men within five days after they reach their 18th birthday. Men subject to current call must be at least 19, and the present maximum age is 26.
Average age of inductees who have passed through the hands of Board 328 this year has been between 20 and 20 and a half, according to Mrs. Kimes.

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