

November Vote Chance Killed By Charter Commission Split

By STEVE BARNABY

A deadlock Tuesday night killed hopes the Farmington Charter Commission would complete a charter in time for the November ballot.

The Farmington Charter Commission deadlocked this morning in its attempt to complete a charter for the November ballot.

Deadline for filing the charter with the state was Friday.

Heated debate ensued after a 2 to 3 vote defeated the motion to put the charter on the ballot. Richard Frankel, a supporter of a November vote, stomped out of the meeting...

Other members supporting a November vote were Robert Clarke and Floyd Cairns.

LEADING THE opposition to the November vote was Commission Chairman Robert McConnell, who said the Friday deadline was too short...

McConnell warned that if the charter wasn't a good one, voters would defeat it in November.

possibility of passage at a later time impossible. Frankel disagreed and accused McConnell of breaking his campaign promise...

ONE BIG stumbling block toward a final draft of the charter is the tax limit. Throughout the last few meetings, the issue has been tabled. When brought up for discussion at Tuesday's meeting, Frankel objected on the grounds that all members should be present for a vote on that issue.

Attendance at commission meetings has been a problem throughout the sessions. Last night six members were present while members Teeples, Ben Marks, and Fred Lichtman were absent.

The commission agreed that eight members would have to be present for discussion of the tax issue.

ANOTHER BARRIER to a November vote is a technicality in the state law. The commission's intention

was to put the charter on the ballot for approval in November and at a later time hold a special election for city councilmen.

The commission attorney advised that such an action would be illegal and could draw court action. Normally the two elections are on the same ballot.

State law requires that candidates have to file at least 49 days before an election. This means council candidates would be running for a

city office in a city that didn't exist, if both elections were at the same time. Commission members thought, this was unfair.

Cairns said that Oakland County corporation counsel had assured him separation of charter and council election had been done in similar cases without court action.

There is a fear among commission members that if the charter isn't put on the November ballot, a special election would have to be held.

today's hot line

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what's inside

What's With YES?

YES is not going to be just another bureau, if recent actions in Farmington Township are any indication. An analysis of the new youth employment agency and other youth services is on:

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Busing Groups

A leading figure in the anti-busing movement criticized the formation of "ad-hoc" groups as "mainly an emotional outlet" recently. We have the story on:

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Love Music?

If you love music and have a talent for singing or playing a musical instrument, several groups are looking just for you. You can pick from the many groups now planning auditions listed on

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New System

Are church committees a thing of the past? One Observerland church thinks they are, and is using workshops and task forces instead. The new system seems to be working well.

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Jewish New Year

The Jewish new year holiday season begins next weekend with Rosh Hashanah and ends a week later with Yom Kippur. Area synagogues have scheduled special services.

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BACK TO SCHOOL—The old school bus is just around the corner for Farmington kids. (Evert photo)

School Budget Draws Criticism From FEA

By MARY PADEN

Farmington Education Assn. President Roger Allen criticized the school board last week for cutting eight teachers and tentatively raising top administrative salaries up to 12 per cent while teachers were held to wage-price limits.

About 30 persons attended the budget hearing, held to get public feedback on the proposed \$17.4 million budget. The budget is now in the board finance committee chaired by Dr. Mervyn Ross and will come before the board for approval "soon," probably after all union contracts are settled.

The budget restores many cuts made last year in elementary and secondary "supportive" teachers such as art, music, physical education, and media center but provides for eight fewer classroom teachers—seven fewer in elementary schools and one in high schools.

Elementary enrollment is down 120 students; high school is up 236.

Average class size remains the same as last year in the elementary schools—28 students—but is increased

from 25 to 26 students in secondary schools. Average class sizes have varied from 26 to 29 students in secondary schools and from 21 to 27 students in elementary schools over the past eight years.

Class size was lowest in 1969-70 and 1970-71, but was raised because of budget cuts last year.

Lawrence Freedman, elementary education administrator, said teachers preferred more supportive teachers to a slightly reduced class size.

"HAVING MUSIC, art and physical education teachers is more valuable to a teacher than having three less kids in the classroom," he said. "Being able to send a group to the media center frees the teacher for individual help with other students."

"We divide the number of students in the building by the average class size to find how many teachers we need," he said.

"Say two classes were 10 students over the average. Adding an extra teacher would put three classes way under the average."

"We are constantly trying to

keep low class sizes but at the same time there are always budget limitations." The proposed 1972-73 budget is up \$1.5 million—12 per cent from last year's "austerity budget" of \$15.9 million. Although voters turned down several bond requests for an additional 3.5 mills last year,

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PUPPETS AND CARTOON characters will help kindergartners and first graders in several schools learn to read and fifth and sixth graders at the Gill and Eagle Elementary schools will find the wall gone between their classrooms.

Three elementary schools, Gill, Woodale and Middlebelt, will have new media centers, which provide film viewers, tape machines and other electronic learning machines to supplement the library.

There are now nine media centers in Farmington schools and several other schools have modified media centers. Enrollment is expected to be down about 120 students in the elementary schools and up about 230 students in high school.

New or expanded elementary programs include:

SWRL — Southwest Reading Laboratories — a reading readiness and reading program for kindergartners funded by federal funds under Title III of the Aid to Education Act.

SWRL will be in Longacre, Flanders, Eagle, Woodcreek and Kenbrook Elementary Schools at the request of the staff and principals.

A new math program including math resource centers will be installed in several schools.

The Alpha 1 reading program, funded by the district will be expanded from its pilot status to include Bond, Ten Mile, Alameda, Beechview, Middlebelt, Fairview, High Meadow and Larkshire Elementary schools.

Alpha Time—a similar program for kindergartners will be installed at Bond and Ten Mile schools.

Both programs teach children to read through the use of puppets and cartoon characters, stressing the involvement of the student.

"It's a most enjoyable way to learn reading," said Elementary Education Administrator Lawrence Freedman.

THERE WILL BE one big fifth grade classroom and another big sixth grade classroom with two teachers each at Gill and Eagle schools.

Teachers have been team teaching there before and removing the walls will make it easier, Freedman said.

Woodcreek School, where innovations such as team teaching have been going on for the past two years, is continuing its program this fall.

"The program continues to be highly successful and the youngsters will again be exposed to an interesting and exciting experience," Freedman said.

He said a similar program at Shiawassee Elementary school was also successful.

THREE ELEMENTARY schools will have new principals: Jean Ralph at Flanders School; Richard Close at Kenbrook School and Carolyn Plysek at High Meadow School.

Elementary school students will have to bag their

Some elementary school students will have to bag their lunches, because the elementary hot lunch program was dropped.

lunch that is—since the school board dropped the elementary hot lunch program last week.

Brown bag lunches will be provided to indigent students and students who forget their lunches if their parents can't be reached.

"And the roof has been fixed at Alameda," Freedman said happily. Last spring buckets were placed at strategic points to catch raindrops which filtered through the roof at Alameda Elementary School.

Students at Harrison High School experimented with a college type registration last week, selecting courses and teachers and making their own schedules.

FARMINGTON JUNIOR High School will have a new principal, William Chasson, and Robert Anderson will become assistant principal at East Junior High School.

No new courses were introduced in the high schools but students will study from new text books in some chemistry math and history courses.

About 400 ninth graders will attend Harrison and North Farmington High Schools again this fall while the district's fifth junior high school is being built. The school, at Northwestern Highway and 14 Mile Rd., is scheduled to open in September of next year.

Policewoman Wins Shooting Trophy

Farmington Township's was formerly secretary to first policewoman, Linda Director of Public Safety Ronald Holko.

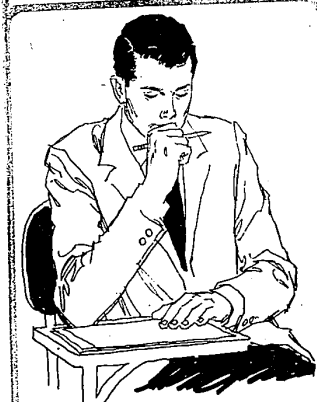
Harris, scored another "first" when she became the first woman to take the first-place shooting trophy in the 11-year history of the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy recently.

She also graduated sixth in a class of 30 who took the 9½ week course of basic police training.

Miss Harris was appointed last July as a patrolman in the Farmington Police Dept. She



LINDA HARRIS accepts congratulations from Farmington Township Public Safety Director Ronald Holko on her award for pistol shooting.



Read our special FOCUS Adult Education section and find your educational opportunity.