

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Schools ask for new election July 30 following defeat of 4-mill increase

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON—A special millage election will be held July 30 if the County Scheduling Committee gives the go-ahead to the Farmington school board.

During a special meeting the night after the June 10 election the board unanimously voted to ask the committee to allow an election on that day in an attempt to get the necessary millage for the 1974-75 school year.

Voters in Farmington, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield defeated a millage proposal on the June 10 ballot which asked for a four mill increase in the voted school tax.

The millage was defeated by 238 votes. Precinct two, bounded by Orchard Lake Rd., Haggerty Rd., Grand River and portions of 13 and 14 Miles roads was the only one which passed the millage. The vote there was 824 to 821.

The largest opposition came from precinct four, between Inksker, Orchard Lake, 12 Mile and Independence Roads. Voters there defeated the millage by 196 votes.

Business manager, William Prisk, said the decision to hold a special election had to be made immediately in order for the district to meet the time limits for registration, gaining approval, and publicity.

HE SAID the county committee will probably allow the district to hold the election.

The main thing that would prevent the approval he said would be

the fear on the part of the county committee that the election might interfere with the state primaries the following week.

It was the consensus of opinion of both the current members and the newly elected representatives that the election should be held.

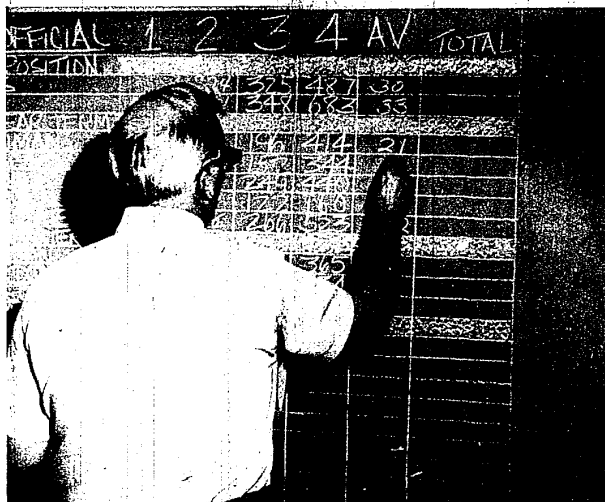
"I do not consider a defeat by 238 votes a major defeat," board member, Gary Lichtman said, "it is a minor setback. We have an obligation to the students in this district."

We faced that obligation when we first decided to ask for the four mills now. I think it is time we demonstrate it again by going back to the community at the earliest possible date and asking them for it again."

IN THEIR request to the county committee the school board did not have to specify how many mills they were going to request, they only had to set a date. The majority of members, however stated that they thought the board should ask for the full four mills.

Mrs. Lillian Allen, a board member said, "We can not ask for anything less than the original four mills. If we have failed to explain the necessity for it to the community let's go back and try it again. I do not think this community needs compromises in its educational system."

A decision concerning the specific number of mills to request will be made after the county committee makes a decision about the election date.



Election time

Mrs. Ann T. Rodewig (above) is congratulated by her husband and daughter, while victor William Prisk checks the results. Business Manager William Prisk had the not-so-happy task of posting the results, which indicated the millage asked for by the district went down to defeat.

Photos by Ralph Evert

District court to add a seat

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON — An expanded district court in Farmington will result from the passage Friday of a state bill adding a second man to the local bench.

The additional seat, requested by 47th District Judge Michael Hand last year, will alleviate what is now one of the largest case loads in the county, the judge said.

Petitions for a non-partisan primary in August must be filed in Lansing by June 18.

Hand said he expected to eventually have a two-judge facility in the Farmington Hills city hall.

"But right now, I expect one of us would have to use one courtroom in the city, and the other use the one in the Hills."

HE ALSO predicted an increased cost to the two cities, including the addition of more clerks and a court reporter.

An additional bill now pending in the legislature would transfer the funding of the district court system to the state, he added, which would reduce the local cost.

One provision of the bill would allow the addition of a court magistrate in districts the size of Farmington.

Gravius, Sruble and Rodewig are winners

Candidates disappointed at millage defeat

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON — The reaction of the three candidates elected to the Farmington school board was one of joy mixed with disappointment. The three winners, Mrs. Anne T. Struble, Mrs. Ann Rodewig and William Gravius all expressed gratitude to their supporters after winning the June 10 election.

All three, however, also said they were disappointed in the fail-

ure of the millage, adding that it would make their job, as well as the job of the administration, more difficult.

FARMINGTON, Farmington Hills, and West Bloomfield voters were asked to pass a four mill increase in voted taxes. While asking for the increase the school board lowered the allocated tax and the debt levy tax.

The school system not only lost the additional funds but will now be operating on a decreased budget as a result of these cuts and the millage defeat.

There were seven candidates on the ballot. The three openings were for two, four year terms and one, one year term.

The defeated candidates were, George Bowman and Bruce Dunsen for the four year term and Edmond Dodson and Maynard Gordon for the one year term.

One of the candidates listed on the ballot, Michael Sheldon, withdrew from the race early in the campaign.

Gravius, who was elected for a four year term said, "I am very disappointed that the millage did not pass but I will try to do my best

with the money we have to work with. The new board will have to take a hard, serious look at the different programs to see which can be altered or cut."

The other four year winner Mrs. Struble, echoed Gravius' concern over possible program cuts.

"I had such hopes of building and improving the school system," she said. "Now the board will have to decide how we can continue to give the personal attention to each child while operating on a cut budget."

"We face a bigger job and a bigger challenge than we had anticipated since we will have to maintain and preserve the present level of education with a budget cut."

AT THE beginning of the campaign, Mrs. Struble said the board would be remiss in not going back and asking for at least the three mill variable tax which it had cut if the millage were defeated.

"At this time I don't think I can say that I as an individual will do that, what is important now is for all of us to look at the situation together and decide what needs to be done," she said.

"When we evaluate it together,

I'll decide whether or not we should go back for at least the three mills."

"However, I do not know at this time whether a complete evaluation along with the other board members will cause me to change my mind on that."

School Supt. Marinus Van Ameyde said the school system had not had time to determine specifically what cuts and changes will be made as a result of the defeated millage.

"THIS IS the fourth time the voters have turned down an increase," Van Ameyde said, "the people have made it clear that they don't wish to support an increase. The board and administration will just have to abide by that decision and decide which programs and services we can afford to cut."

The new board members all said they were anxious to get together and begin working with the current board.

"Of course I would not have run if I did not want to serve," Mrs. Rodewig said, "and I am glad for the opportunity. Now I hope we can get together with the board soon

and get to know each other and begin working together."



"The problem now is to maintain and preserve the current level of education while working with a budget that has been cut." — Mrs. Ann Struble

"I THINK that all the people elected are good people and hard workers," Gravius said, "and I think we can work well together."

Mrs. Lillian Allen, Rev. Hugh Stewart and Dr. Burton Knighton are the retiring board members.

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