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Fifteen Cents

Board receives coffee comments

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—Vivian M. Jurasek, president of the Farmington area PTA council, presented the school board Tuesday night with questions and comments on the millage issue.

The material was gathered from the PTA's "Coffee and Comments" program which was designed to give the public a forum to air its views and suggestions about the school board and its administration.

Held throughout February, the coffees also served as material for bulletins on teacher tenure, management, curriculum and discipline.

Nearly 400 citizens from eight school areas attended the programs.

"Every session expressed the need for direct personal input from the board and the administration for clear facts and input," wrote Mrs. Jurasek in a memo to the board.

Several administrators are working with the PTA to prepare a program to outline the millage and its effect on the school system. The program will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13 at the PTA's general council meeting at East Junior High School.

It will then be offered to each

school in the district and is open to the public.

"I WAS ASTONISHED at the number of questions we received," Mrs. Jurasek said. "And they aren't complaints, they're more like suggestions. The public is very willing to learn."

A preamble to the list of questions the board must consider stresses the importance of honesty and communication.

"The millage request must be as honest as possible—give the voters all the facts and information before the election, then let them decide."

"Stress what cuts will be made if the request for millage fails. Stress what are the priorities to be reinstated if the requested millage passes."

Members of the board and the administration have noted the difficulty in stating specific cuts which may be made in the event of millage failure.

Business Manager William C. Prisk presented budgets listing priority items to the board, saying that without confirmed state aid cuts or additions, a solidified budget could not be formulated.

Farmington faces a possible \$200,000 slash in state aid together

with a tentative addition of \$220,000 from the same source.

Gas prices and other inflation-plagued items will be difficult to address and will further hamper a jelling of the school budget.

Items marked with an asterisk will be among the first to go if the school system doesn't realize its expected income for the 1975-76 school year.

QUESTIONS ON curriculum cuts ranged from the pro-academics to the pro-B-I schedule including "Why drop chemistry labs, etc. and continue band and sports?" and "Keep only intra-mural sports which support themselves."

Many questioned the credibility of the school board. "Does the board of education really care what we think? Then ask us!" and noted a lack of communication. "I think if there were better communication between the school board and the public of the need for a millage, there would be a good chance of it going through."

One person said parents should be present at union negotiations so that the board would not be alone between two militant adversaries and another wanted the school board's jurisdiction terminated over parental supervision activity.

Funds to improve southeast section

By WYLIE GEORDES

FARMINGTON HILLS—About \$600,000 in federal grants will be invested in improvements in the southeast section of Farmington Hills, city councilmen decided Thursday night during a work session.

The money will be distributed to Farmington Hills over the next three years. Oakland County officials told City Manager George Majorus last week. The county gave Farmington Hills until Monday to file a formal application for the money.

Majorus said 31 communities applied under the "umbrella" of Oakland County for the grants. Communities larger than \$1,000 or those which previously had urban renewal projects automatically qualify and must apply directly to the federal government for the grants.

Farmington Hills, although its current population is estimated at 11,000, had 45,000 residents at the time of the 1970 census, Majorus said.

THE GRANT, county officials told Majorus, will give \$400,000 the first year, \$200,000 the second and \$80,000 the third. The grants are designed to improve areas of blight in communities.

Councilmen informally agreed to spend the \$600,000 on drainage, sanitary sewers and water mains in sections 35 and 36, the southeastern corner of Farmington Hills.

The six councilmen present at the session argued over the most equitable way to spend the money and which of the types of improvements would benefit the most people.

Majorus said the council's consensus was that storm sewers, sanitary sewers and water mains should be installed in that order. The council can decide later exactly how to spend the money, he said.

Majorus told councilmen that a 1968 housing study showed the southeast section of the city has the most need for improvements.

"Most of our housing that lacks sanitary facilities or has shown deterioration is in the southeast part of the city."

A quick survey by the city showed that paving streets and installing water mains, storm sewers and sanitary sewers in five sections in the southeast would cost a total of \$12 million.

Therefore, city officials narrowed projects to sections 35 and 36. Majorus also suggested about \$18,000 of the money be spent to hire a housing code enforcement officer for the city.

MOST COUNCILMEN backed spending the money for drainage in the area, which has the lowest elevation in the city.

Councilman Earl Oppertbauer commented the drainage problem in the area is "a real mess." It would be "most appropriate to put the money into drainage."

Good drainage, he added, is the foundation of development. (See FEDERAL, page 3) g



Sights of spring

Come spring, motorists will be out in droves. They will tour the countryside, looking for scenic views and memorable sights. It should be an enjoyable outing for those who choose Farmington environs...as long as they avoid the area

200 yards south of the corner of Fourteen Mile and Drake roads. With sights like this, it will take about a month and a half to be cleaned up for Keep Farmington Beautiful month in May. (Photo by Craig Newman)

Another Northwestern study

By MARY CONNELLY

WEST BLOOMFIELD—A new study of the social and economic affects of the proposed Northwestern Highway extension will begin early this summer, according to the Department of State Highway and Transportation.

The department announced Friday that an expanded study of the highway's impact will be conducted by a private consultant.

The additional investigation will augment the draft environmental impact

statement prepared by the department and released in November, 1973.

Preparation of the draft environmental impact study on a "tight schedule" and new federal requirements prompted the increased examination into the proposed freeway's effects, according to department director John P. Woodford.

A November, 1974, federal law dealing with proposed highway construction projects broadened the base of the impact study to increase social and economic investigations.

Public concern about how the proposed extension would affect the historic Village of Franklin, potential land use changes in the area of the freeway and social and economic results in communities along the freeway route also produced the new department study, Woodford said.

Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield, opposed to freeway passage, called the highway department's expanded study "a step in the right direction."

The action is a direct result of citizens' talk with the department," said CCWB vice-president Lorna McEwen. She said citizens' groups sought an independent task force study of the "no-build" alternative to the freeway in December.

"We feel that the department decision to comply with our request for a study is a step in the right direction," she commented. "It affirms our criticism of the present environmental impact statement," she added.

JANET LYNN, executive director of the West Bloomfield-based Citizens' Council for Land Use Research and Education (CCLURE) said Friday she was "surprised" a study had been announced.

"Nothing had been agreed upon," Mrs. Lynn said. "They've made a unilateral decision after negotiating with us twice."

Mrs. Lynn said several citizen's groups met in December and March

with department representatives to discuss the possibility of a no-build study.

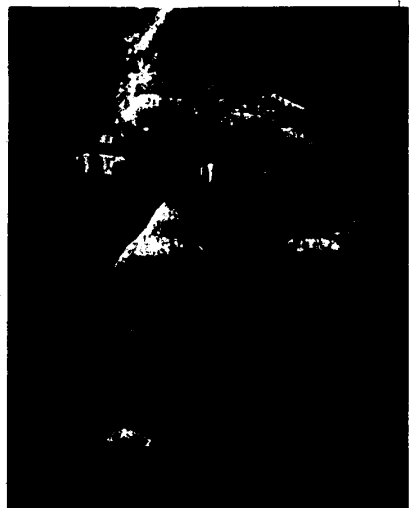
"We were waiting to hear from them. We left it that they would get back to us."

G. Robert Adams, administrator of the environmental and community factors division of the state highway department, said the "do-nothing" alternative would be among the range of proposals considered in the newly-initiated study.

THE HIGHWAY Department said a citizen's advisory committee and a technical study committee will be involved in charting the study and choosing a private consultant.

The Oakland County Road Commission, local officials, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), the federal highway administration and state agencies would be represented on the technical study committee.

"The citizen's advisory committee will be drawn from interested groups and individuals within the study area," the department said.



Watching him grow

She watched the king of the plants spread his, well, word to an appreciative audience. For a complete story of his words, turn to the Suburban Life front, page 9. j

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