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Suburbs back water hike fight

By MARIE MeGEE

Representatives of \$5 aburban communities Monday peleged full apport of any legal action needed to stop a \$9 per cert arite hile ordered by the Derot Metropolitan Water Board due to take effect May 1

The suburban officials me in Livenia at the invitation of Livenia Mayor Edward H McNamara to map a strategy against the rate hitse which McNamara has branded "arkitarry and approach and aboutdely unnecessary at this time." An article of the suburbance of the many communities and empowered him to select 10 members from the coalition to serve on a committee that will determine what legal steps to take to stop the Detroit water board and the costs involved. In the measurine-representatives will follow up Mendaly a action with deferring the communities. The remotistions will include a financial piedge of five costs per person. Based on the 1970 census, in the event the steering committee decides court action is necessary.

All the communities were urged to al-

All the communities were urged to at-tend the Feb 24 public hearing in Detroit set by the Detroit water board at which time the rate schedule reportedly will be explained.

McNamars used a

time the rate schedule reportedly will be explained. McNamara urged a "concerted effort" to force Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and water department officials to explain the need for the rate links when a balanced budget was passed by the water board for the part of the control of the control

offer legal action

One of the strongest, he said, was direct communication with the inter-member, the route (Lty Quartie) the must approve the rate hike according to a recent opinion from the attorney general's officer, "Make your feelings known, urged McNamara. As council members, they must be able to justify the rate hike to their own constituents."

The rate hike, expected to generate 114, million, applies to Detroiters as well as subarban users. McNamara noted, and many Detroiters are not fully aware of this, 1.

The fact that the Detroit council has not.

McNamara offered a mild defense. He

interiorating ground the frequency of a were doing to because they sumply don't lit was his guest. McNamara said, that It was his guest. McNamara said, that it was his guest. McNamara said, that a rate making procedure like Detroit Ed-son or Michigan Bell. The department has sold water as cheaply and easily for many years that they do'th creed any, be-fore the said of the said of the Of the water department's new director. Charles Scales McNamara said "the has very little knowledge about Junames."

The Lavonia mayor, who served on the rater board until he was fired in October firer questioning the rate hike, blasted ome items in the water department budg-

For instance," he said, "\$25,000 goes to e-mayor's office. I don't know of one rvice we got from him—except to fire

McNamara also was critical of 102 new jobs that appear in the budget. Fifty two of those are for the water department. McNamara said, and 46 of those are ad-ministrativy posts assigned to the direc-



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McNarrars said be will begin immed-ately sifting through committee possi-bilities and would commanize the com-mittee's progress through a letter. A date for a second meeting will depend on the committee's progress. McNarrars took a verbal potabot at McNarrars took a verbal potabot at Mayor Young's statements that the Li-vonia mayor was only missing objections to the rate hilz because he wasted headlines to help him run for the second district U.S. Congressional seat

Congressions see.
"Not only an I not a candidate for Congress." guipped McNamara. "I'm not a candidate for chairman of this meeting, if someone else wants to take over."
From the ouset of the meeting, however, it was obvious that the Livonia mayor was the unanimous choes of all the communities to lead the protest.

never necessary and will only be used loar moralis of the year."

Many commanities explained the hard-selp the rate increase would be on their readers.

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