

Wednesday, October 22, 1969

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CITY LISTENS -- Residents of the City of Farmington gathered in Farmington Junior High's cafeteria last week to listen to the pros and cons and ask questions about consolidation. (Evert photo)

1-City 'Yes' Vote Is Best For Township Residents

Farmington Township residents should vote "yes" Nov. 4 on the question of consolidation to allow a charter to be written.

Township residents should vote yes because consolidation will give residents what they want and need—a city government. The Farmington Enterprise & Observer believes it is only a matter of time before the township becomes a city. And we think township residents are right in desiring a city.

A "yes" vote Nov. 4 will not only lead to a city for township residents, but a better city than could be obtained through separate incorporation.

Should consolidation fail, and the township incorporate separately, that city would not have a built-in downtown area that the consolidation city would have.

A SEPARATE CITY would also have to compete with the City of Farmington for the industrial and business developers. Zoning clashes could

A "yes" vote Nov. 4 will also protect the township's boundaries from being annexed by the City of Farmington, Livonia, Southfield or Novi.

WHAT WILL consolidation cost? City Manager John Dinan estimates a tax levy of 8.6 mills for the first year's operation if the consolidated city assumed the same services that now exist. Add to this 0.8 mills for capitalization expense.

Opponents of consolidation admit Dinan's estimate is fair. But nobody, at this point, is really attempting to predict what consolidation actually will cost.

It is fair to assume that taxes for the single-city could be lower than what taxes will be for both cities if consolidation fails and the township incorporates.

CONSOLIDATION may not, in the end, be the answer. If it's not, then the Farmington Enterprise & Observer will recommend a "no" vote on the charter.

But this newspaper cannot recommend a negative vote on Nov. 4. The Farmington Area has problems which must be faced. The township has problems, the city has problems, and the villages have problems.

When you have a problem, you seek a solution. It's foolish to do otherwise. Consolidation appears to be the best tool to solve our problems.

Vote "yes" Nov. 4. Give the charter commission a chance. Let's write a charter for a single-city and vote on the charter. The alternatives are unclear.

THE ONLY THING clear today is that a "yes" vote Nov. 4 will give the area two years to focus on its problems and write a charter.

The township resident who votes "no" must accept the possibility the township might lose its industrial base.

This newspaper cannot promise what will happen tomorrow; we can only promise that a "yes" vote means security and the chance to find a solution to the area's problems.

—The Farmington Enterprise & Observer

Brennan Tells Why 'Yes' Vote Is Township's Answer

Joseph T. Brennan, Farmington Township attorney, issued a statement this week indicating his personal support for a "yes" vote on consolidation Nov. 4.

Brennan has represented the Township of Farmington for more than 11 years, and five other municipalities. He has lived in the township since 1956 and has his law offices in the City of Farmington on Grand River.

HE WAS elected to the charter commission for the last two unsuccessful incorporation attempts and is a candidate for the consolidation charter commission.

In 1966, Brennan acted as chairman of a study committee reviewing the entire subject of governmental organization for Farmington Township.

"I believe that Farmington Township should incorporate as a home rule city," says Brennan. "I thought so in 1966 when an attempt was made to incorporate the entire township, including its villages, into one city."

"I thought so sometime later when an attempt was made to incorporate the bulk of the township."

"I favor the consolidation proposal, and I am a candidate for the Farmington Charter Commission because this pro-

posal will bring about a home rule charter for Farmington Township."

WHILE URGING a "yes" vote, Brennan reviewed the history of four separate studies that have been made of Farmington's future governmental organization.

The first, Brennan said, was made by a group of professors from Wayne University at the time it was proposed to incorporate the north part of the township into the City of Farmington Woods, the southeast portion into the City of Clareville and the southwest as the Village of Woodcroft.

The second study was made in 1966 by Brennan's committee. The remaining two are the MSU study and the Donald Oakes study, both recently completed.

"All of these studies have one thing in common," Brennan emphasizes. "They all recognize the ultimate necessity of Farmington Township incorporating as a home rule city."

Brennan said space does not permit expounding upon the many reasons why these conclusions were reached. " suffice it to say, that there are no adequate alternatives to a home rule city charter if our boundaries are to be protected and our community is to make the best and most efficient use of its assets and realize its full potential."

BRENNAN SAID in his judgment, "It makes little difference whether the township becomes a city of 33-square miles or part of a city of 36-square miles as long as it ultimately adopts a home rule charter."

"I recognize those real and speculative advantages, geographical and cultural, which would result from the proposed consolidation. The problems involved don't appear to be insurmountable if we elect an able and experienced charter commission."

"I believe that it is in the best interests of township citizens to vote in favor of the consolidation proposal. I appreciate the confidence that my neighbors expressed in me at the last two incorporation elections and hope that they will see fit to allow me to represent them again."

Who Dares Impede Progress? Asks Smith

Charles E. Smith, a city candidate for the charter commission, takes exception to positions taken by John Allen who is leading the consolidation opposition in the city.

"In John Allen's articles, he stated there was no consolidation measurements or precedents to evaluate small community mergers. "If this is true, then it will be a difficult task for the candidates who aspire to be elected to the charter commission to develop the necessary guidelines to successfully produce a charter that will serve all of the future needs of the four communities."

"TO DEVELOP this consolidation successfully so that it

will be acceptable to the citizens," Smith continued, "politically astute men should speak out and express their opinions and give their ideas for all to consider."

"Consolidation is progress, and who dares in these trying times to impede progress? What progressive citizen would contend that our city could not be improved?"

"And surely our city citizens are not content to be relegated within the confines of a small community that is only located enroute to the state's capital in today's parade of progress."

"If the City of Farmington is allowed to stand as it is, we the citizens are condemning it to isolationism and prohibiting the citizens from rea-

lizing the benefits of a modern, planned consolidated community."

"I AM A political novice who can only offer common sense," Smith adds, "but I am willing to dedicate myself to the task of forming a charter with the ability I possess which will serve the people of the community."

"I am particularly interested in one phase of the consolidation, which is the recreational activity of the community and since I have spent 10 of my 15 years in Farmington devoted to this phase of community activity, I have submitted my candidacy for the charter commission."



PROPER USE — Theresa Burzynski of Floral Ave. in Farmington Township testifies that rubber tires make good swings. That's a proper use for rubber tires — lying in a junk pile is not. Rubber tires not used as swings are among the items to be picked up during Farmington Township's October cleanup drive. As of Monday, the township had collected about 30 truck-loads, or 90 tons, of large junk items including old appliances, furniture and tires. Workers have completed cleanup efforts in the southern half of the township and today move north of 12 Mile Rd. Residents north of 12 Mile may set out their large items on the regular garbage pickup days. (Photos by Fran Evert)



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