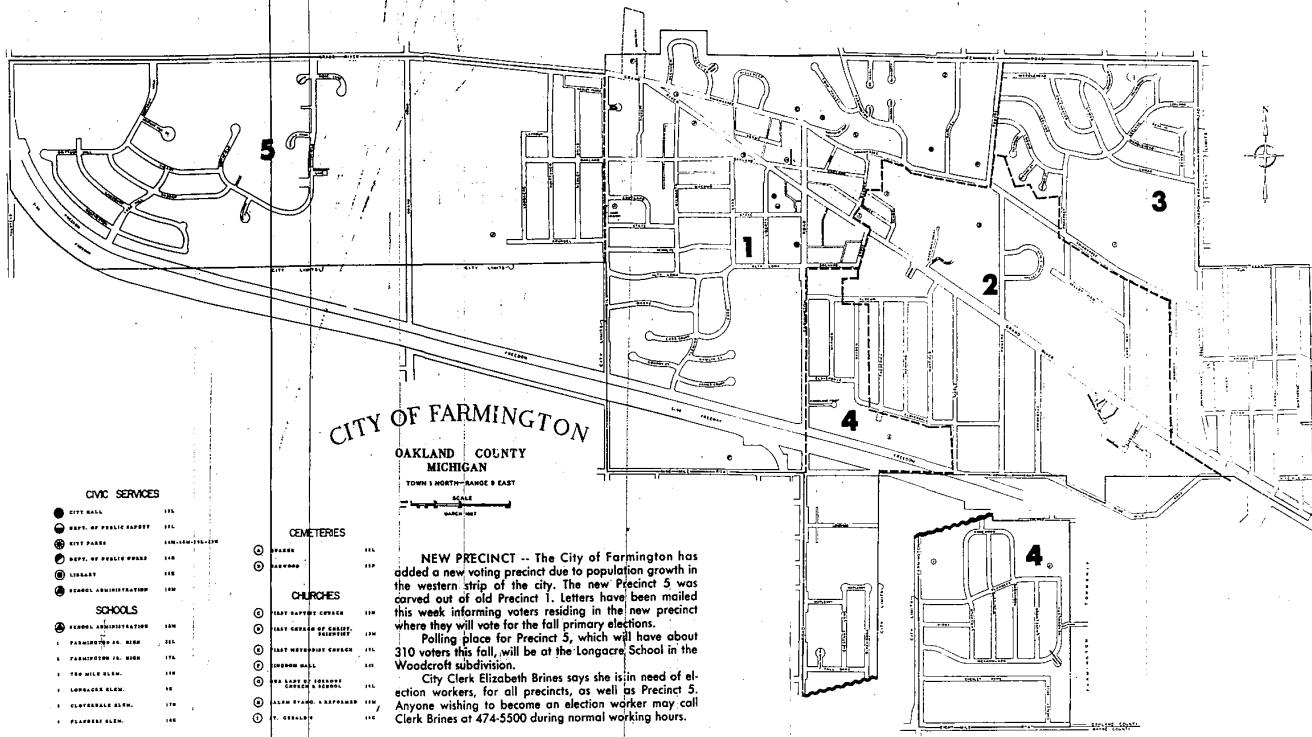


the farmington enterprise & observer

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Quakertown Joins Boundary Lawsuit

FARMINGTON The Village of Quakertown is taking legal steps to prevent becoming part of a city without a veto over the choice.

Quakertown has intervened as a co-defendant in the boundary lawsuit pitting Farmington Township against the State Boundary Commission.

As a defendant, Quakertown joins the side of the state and City of Farmington against Farmington Township.

THE REQUEST to intervene was filed last week by Howard Bond, Quakertown's

attorney and a Farmington Township resident.

The action does not mean that Quakertown is fighting citywide, but that the village it would like to be is not incorporated.

If a cityhood vote is to be held, Quakertown will prefer a consolidation election.

Consolidation of villages have power over the question and the charter. Consolidation also guarantees Quakertown one position on the charter commission.

It is expected that the Village of Wood Creek Farms

may also enter the lawsuit as a co-defendant.

The Wood Creek council met last night (Tuesday) and were informed by their attorney, David Goldman, of Quakertown's action. At press time, it was not known what action would be taken.

In LAYMEN'S terms, a defendant is someone who takes the same position as the person or agency being sued. A co-defendant is not defending any action he took but is only supporting the position of the defendant.

Attorneys now in the lawsuit are arguing against an incorporation election as a co-defendant.

For Quakertown, Charles Hackney for the Boundary Commission; Burton Shifman for the City of Farmington; and David Greenspan for Robert McConnell, petitioner of an October incorporation request.

Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan is on the other side, arguing in favor of an incorporation election.

McConnell is asking for a consolidation vote as first choice but would settle for an incorporation election as second choice. Thus, if the court rules against a consolidation election, McConnell would switch sides and join with Brennan to argue for incorporation.

NO DATE has been set yet for oral arguments by the five attorneys before Oakland County Circuit Judge Frederick Ziem who is presiding judge.

Ziem held a hearing this morning, (Wednesday) on Brennan's request that the Oakland County Board of Supervisors be restrained from acting on annexation petitions until after the suit against the Boundary Commission is resolved.

It is a foregone conclusion that Ziem will grant that request and order the annexation proceedings to halt pending outcome of the lawsuit.

The annexation petitions, filed last month by Richard Tippner, asks Oakland County to file an election to annex the southern half of Farmington Township to the City of Farmington.

"We're going to have to convince our school board to do it. They've got to know that there are 25,000 odd people out here that are ready to fight," said Mark.

The school district wasn't the only taxing government to be criticized, however. Several members of the audience urged that millage rates should be lowered at township, county and state levels.

"The millage rate - that's the answer right there," Rowe emphasized.

"The school budget meetings

last week, the committee said reduction in millage rates is the way to offset increased assessment.

"The ability of local taxing authorities to be able to get increased revenue without increased millage," he said.

SINCE STATE LAW requires property to be assessed at 50% of market value, "the only property that can increase is to take after millage reductions," he said.

"Most of us are nowhere near 50% of market value in our houses which raises the possibility of further rates," Campbell continued.

"I'm afraid to improve my property for fear of reassessment," Campbell added.

"The millage rate - that's the answer right there," Rowe emphasized.

"The school budget meetings

are what we have to do. That's where it starts," Rowe said, adding that only a hand-

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