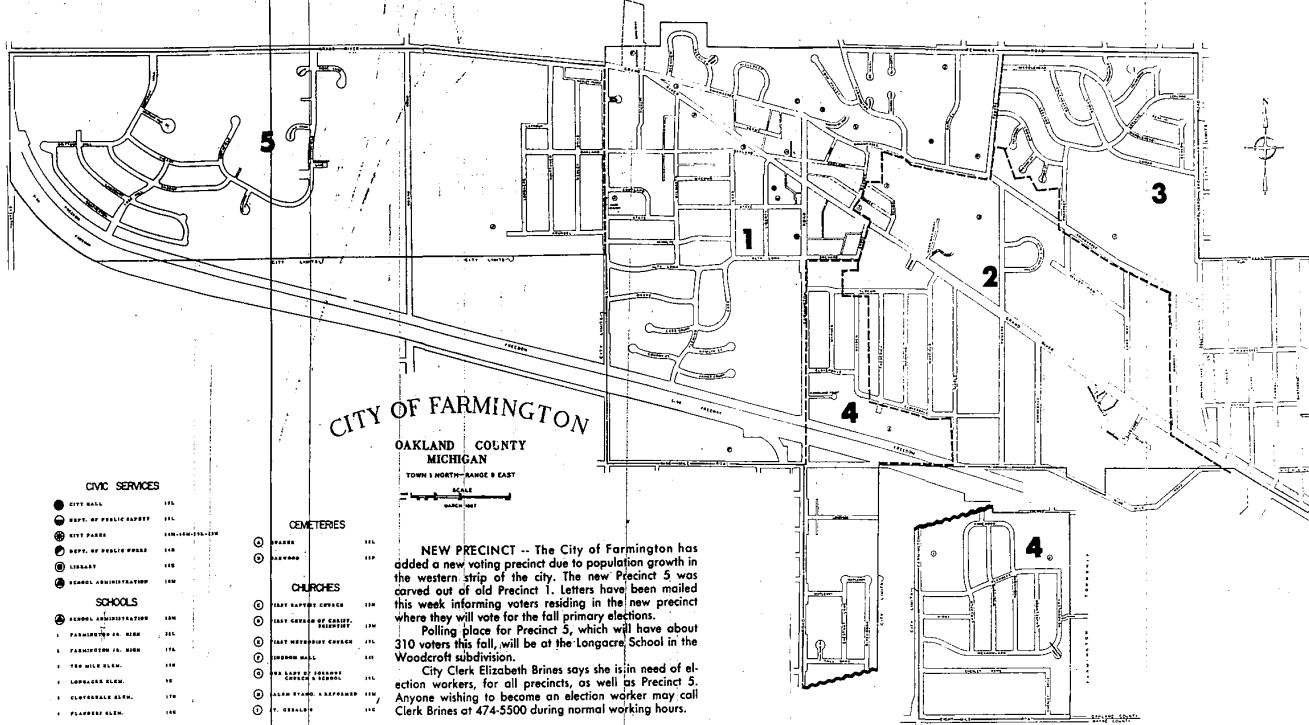


the farmington enterprise & observer

Wednesday, March 4, 1970

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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 co-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 cityhood but that the village it would like to be used is not incorporation.

If a cityhood vote is to be held, Quakertown would prefer a consolidation election. Under consolidation, villages have veto 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 present time, it was not known what action would be taken.

IN LAYMEN'S terms, a co-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 arguing against an incorporation

election are: Bond for Quakertown; Charles Hackney for the Boundary Commission; Burton Shifman for the City of Farmington; and David Greenspan for Robert McConnell, the petitioner of the 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 a second choice. Thus, if the court rules against a consolidation election Greenspan would switch sides and join with Brennan to argue for incorporation.

NO DATE HAS been set yet for oral arguments by the five attorneys by Oakland County Circuit Judge Frederick Ziem who is the 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 October by Richard Tupper, asks Oakland County to set 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," Marks said.

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.

"I moved out here in 1946 to have a little place in the country," said Jim Randolph of 2405 Middle Belt. "I'm beginning to regret it."

Everybody Agrees — Lower Tax Rates!

FARMINGTON
The Farmington Council of Homeowners' Associations got an earful Monday night, but other ears should have been burning.

Township residents attacked taxing authorities, mainly the Farmington School District, for increased tax bills.

The Council of Homeowners' Associations reacted by making preparations to battle for lower tax bills by decreasing millage rates. The group appointed a committee to investigate taxes so it may further action.

M.G. CAMPBELL of 2326 Geraldine Ct. opened the discussion of local property taxes by asking the audience if they were interested in reducing their tax bills.

The overflow crowd in the conference room of the Thompson-Brown Building answered in the affirmative, even going so far as to suggest picketing school district administrative offices.

Campbell, chairman of the Franklin Ravines Taxation Committee, said his subdivision authorized the committee take a stand on rising tax bills.

In a statement released last week, the committee said reduction in millage rates is the way to offset increased assessments.

The issue, Campbell said, is "the ability of local taxing authorities to be able to get increased revenue without increased millage."

SINCE STATE LAW requires property to be assessed at 50% of market value, "the only recourse property owners have is to go after millage reductions," he said.

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

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

Hal Rowe, a member of the Farmington Township Board of Tax Appeals, said the way to fight increased taxes is through lower millages.

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

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Emory Daniels, Editor
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