



Farmington Observer

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MetroVision backs down in fee rift

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

"We won. Can you believe it? We won," muttered about 35-40 Farmington Hills and Novi residents as they left a Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) meeting Tuesday knowing they will be getting cable TV in their less-populated neighborhoods.

But to SWOCC members, it wasn't a case of winning but rather insisting that MetroVision live up to its end of a cable franchise agreed upon almost two years ago.

SWOCC members voted unanimously to direct MetroVision to proceed with the design and installation of another 60 miles of cable line throughout the tri-city franchise area.

"You are directed to construct the 60 miles," said Ron Watson of Novi, SWOCC chairman as he pointed to Tom Bjorklund, MetroVision general manager.

The 60 miles of cable line will provide cable TV for those residents who in October were told that they would have to pay a \$200-\$800 installation fee before cable would be installed.

Areas involved include residents in West Franklin Estates, Normandy Hills, Biddestone Woods, Quaker Valley, Ridgewood and the 11 Mile and Power Road neighborhoods.

Saying MetroVision will install the cable line for the still-unwired areas, Bjorklund indicated that his company will designate the specific areas to be wired within a week.

FARMINGTON Hills city manager Lawrence Savage, who Tuesday took the lead in insisting MetroVision follow its original franchise agreement, made

it clear that the homes which would be covered by the 60 miles of cable line have always been a part of the "initial service area" MetroVision had agreed to wire in its first phase of construction.

"Our position is that density is not a question," Savage said. "Those homes are in the initial service area."

But the 60 miles of cable still does not cover 58 homes in both Novi and Farmington Hills which are in even less-populated areas than the neighborhoods which collectively refused to pay the installation fee.

Some of the 58 homes, Savage said, are in Farmington Hills' Section 7 which was never included in the first phase of cable construction. But in directing MetroVision to install the 60 miles, the SWOCC reserves the right to discuss on an individual basis the wiring of the 58 homes.

THE MONTHS-long dispute stemmed from what MetroVision officials called their "line extension policy" under which customers are charged for cable installation in areas which have fewer than 30 houses in a mile.

MetroVision officials have pointed to economics as the problem in wiring these less-populated areas.

But SWOCC officials said that while they could understand that the financial picture has changed since the franchise was agreed upon two years ago, the issue is irrelevant when it comes to wiring the areas included in the original agreement.

Since residents first made the cable installation fee dispute public in October, the SWOCC, which includes the

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Candidates for council await debate

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Sixteen candidates have thrown their hats into the political ring seeking appointment to the Farmington Hills City Council.

The 16 residents are bidding to fill the vacancy left by former Mayor Fred Hughes who officially resigned as a council member on Jan. 20 to take a job promotion.

Applicants for the vacant city council seat are: Robert Anzlov, 30157 De Orr Drive; Mary Avery, 28060 Thornybrae Court; George Benington, 30134 Pipers Lane Court; Jack Burwell, 32620 Wayburn West; Phillip Chase, 38217 Tralee Trail; Eldon Dillon, 27508 Westcott Crescent Circle; Kenneth Gray, 37052 Carla Court; Susan Higgins, 25359 Arden Park Drive.

Also applying are Massie Kursoja, 21729 Oxford; Edward McDonnell, 33700 Quaker Valley Road; William Ortmann Sr., 28010 S. Harwich Drive; Robert Primeau, 33101 Raphael Road; Timothy Rompe, 24508 Springbrook; Terry Sever, 24435 Beechwood Drive; Aldo Vagnoni, 26193 Kiltartan; Al Zolton, 29549 Gilchrist.

Farmington Hills council members will interview the applicants at a public meeting Monday, Feb. 6. Council is expected to make the appointment following the interviews, said City Clerk Floyd Cairns.

Each applicant will, within a yet unspecified time limit, have an opportunity to make a presentation about themselves, Cairns said. Council members may then ask the applicant questions about his or her qualifications.

IF APPLICANTS are unable to attend the interviews, "they (council members) are going to consider them on their resumes," Cairns said.

Although Hughes was re-elected last November to serve a two-year term, the appointee may serve only until the November 1984 election. The appointee would have to successfully run for election at that time to remain on the council. If more than two candidates file for the November election, a primary will be held.

Following is a short synopsis of each applicant:

Anzlov is a four-year planning commission member. A 10-year city resident, he is the outgoing president of the Farmington Area Republican Club and has been active in local subdivision organizations. He has worked for Michigan Bell Telephone for 21 years, most recently as a financial analyst.

A Farmington Hills resident for more than 27 years, Avery is a planning commission member and former Farmington High School teacher. If appointed, Avery would like a leave of absence from the planning commission because she does not intend to run for election but rather return to her duties on the commission. She is the planning commission's liaison to the City Energy Commission, a Farmington Area YMCA director, Republican precinct delegate and League of Women Voters member.

Benington has been a city resident



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Champion form

Hilmer Kinty, one of the Detroit area's top boxers, came to Farmington this week to show how to develop a winning form. To see more on this story, turn to 3A.

Police quarters are eyed

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Despite architects' efforts to keep total costs at \$2.5 million for a downsized proposed 32,000-square-foot police facility, Farmington Hills City Councilman Joe Alkateeb says the square footage cost is "too high."

Alkateeb vowed at a special meeting Monday to vote against the proposed police building that architects Robert Ziegelman and Michael Weik of Luckenbach & Ziegelman Inc. of Birmingham have estimated at \$78.13 a square foot.

"I still maintain it's too high," Alkateeb said. "I know there are some areas in this (proposed police) building which are more expensive but its mostly offices."

"I honestly don't see where you come out with \$78 a square foot!" he continued.

BUT ZIEGELMAN, who presented council members with a preliminary layout of the proposed police facility, targeted to be located adjacent to the city hall, told Alkateeb that his firm's suggested cost per square foot is still \$5 under the national median cost for police buildings.

"I think we are very much in line . . . because of the uniqueness of a police building which includes the building of the cell blocks . . ." Ziegelman responded.

"It's a great building. But do we have to build that magnificent of a building?" Alkateeb asked.

"No. You are not building a magnificent building," Ziegelman said, pointing again to the average median cost of police buildings.

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Cable TV attracts schools

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Now that cable TV is available to many Farmington-area viewers, officials of the Farmington School District would like to become involved by producing programming for a special education channel.

Farmington's Board of Education recently budgeted \$73,000 for equipment and other start-up costs involved in the project, which is expected to begin next September. The board also expects to hire a full-time program coordinator.

A committee, chaired by Farmington assistant superintendent Lawrence G. Freedman, recently issued a proposal outlining the district's cable TV plans.

Cable TV could be used for activities as diverse as televising live sports and drama and providing security cameras in school buildings, according to the proposal.

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oral quarrel

How much should new cop shop cost?

Just about everyone agrees that Farmington Hills needs a new police station three or four times the size of its present quarters. What is being debated these days is how much money should be spent on the new station.

One Hills Councilman, Joe Alkateeb, has vowed to vote against the building, complaining that the cost — \$2.5 million, or \$78 a square foot for the "downsized" 32,000-square-foot structure — is too much.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

HOW CAN TAXPAYERS BE SURE THAT THEIR NEW POLICE STATION ISN'T COSTING TOO MUCH MONEY?

To answer this question, call us at 477-5498 anytime before 1 p.m. Friday. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please see Monday's Farmington Observer.

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Not all was sweetness and light last Tuesday night when the Farmington

Board of Education made it official: The schools must be "wholly neutral" in dealing with religious beliefs.

Board members and administrators alike expressed the hope that Policy

No. 1330.5, unanimously adopted at Tuesday's special board meeting, would be the final word on Campus Life, the controversial Christian social group which has inflamed a segment of the community by trying to deliver its message in and around North Farmington High School for the past couple of years.

The policy says, in part, " . . . that school districts must be wholly neutral in dealing with religious beliefs. Therefore, while schools may teach about religion, schools must not support or introduce those procedures that either enhance, promote and inhibit religion."

The four-paragraph policy was accompanied by a set of six "procedures" to help implement it.

But for some among the slim turnout

of 13, the issue of "schools and religion" wasn't really settled with the passage of the policy.

Lynn Nutter, an assistant superintendent, said that district officials have been sponsoring "coffee klatches" in an attempt to discuss the issue with area residents.

Diane Fishman, mother of a North Farmington student and an outspoken foe of religious activities in public schools, called the meetings "an effort to do PR for the district."

"I find it amazing that no one who spoke out against Campus Life was included," she said.

FISHMAN ADDED, "I'm looking at a board and a superintendent who are

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Deadline incorrect

In the Monday, Jan. 30 issue of the Farmington Observer the deadline for residents to apply for a Farmington Hills City Council appointment was incorrectly reported. Deadline for appli-

cations was at 4 p.m. Jan. 30. We apologize to residents and the City Clerk's office for any inconvenience caused by this mistake.