



MAKING IT STICK -- Eleventh grader Don McTellan applies glue to a hydroplane being built in the Farmington High School woodshop. Shawassee sixth graders look on and ask some pertinent questions as they tour the vocational education department. (Evert photo)

Hall's Clique Operates In Secret, Charges Kahn

Machine Endures

FARMINGTON Bernard Kahn, campaign manager for Earl Teeple, says he is less concerned with what is being done by the Farmington Township administration than in the way it's being done. Kahn said too much of the township business is being conducted in secret sessions with the official action reserved for public meetings where little debate takes place.

Kahn, Farmington Township resident, said he was among the first urging Teeple to oppose incumbent Curtis Hall for township supervisor.

Kahn said he told Teeple: "You've urged your sons to become involved and talk about public service. Are you willing to put yourself on the line?"

When Teeple agreed to run, Kahn explained, he insisted he would not make any public speeches or campaign because that would be against township police regulations. Teeple is a detective with the township force.

"Hall considers anyone who opposes him as a renegade on a muckraker," said Kahn while addressing the Rotary Club of Farmington Tuesday. "He'll call them dissident Republicans or even, Heaven forbid, Democrats. He devotes his efforts to personalities, not issues."

When asked about Teeple's experience to be supervisor, Kahn replied: "Very few presidents and senators have had experience before they were elected. But most had integrity and a willingness to work. 'Earl has knowledge of public affairs, and his diligence and integrity will get the job done properly. I think Teeple comes into the race more qualified than Hall. Earl is a student of government and can learn the job rapidly.'"

Kahn then talked about the political machine Hall has built. All but two trustees now on the board were handpicked by the supervisor, said Kahn. They

serve as collateral for the bank to make loans up to \$500.

Referring to the trial of a township patrolman for assault and battery, Kahn told of the township's paying the costs after the acquittal. "It is perfectly proper to pay the defense of a civil suit but distinctly wrong to pay for a criminal suit."

The township paid \$1,500 for a township patrolman's successful defense of a criminal charge made against him, Kahn said. "Nothing has been done about this and, likely, nothing will be done."

Kahn said the rule barring Teeple from political activity is a local departmental regulation and not a township ordinance. Petitions were circulated by supporters, Kahn said, and the only thing Teeple has done on his behalf is sign an affidavit which stated he was Earl Teeple and permits him to run for public office.

Kahn observed that township trustees give Hall the power to change any departmental rule at any time. "If Hall has a fair and free campaign, we can alter that departmental rule and give Earl a chance to talk with the public."

were nominated to fill vacancies and then succeeded themselves. "The board is not composed of independent individuals and only on rare occasions does not act as a block."

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FARMINGTON Farmington Township trustees recommended two minor changes in zoning among actions taken during their last regular meeting.

Trustee Fred Lichtman urged a change affecting the township's Zoning Board of Appeals, of which he is a member. Supervisor Curtis Hall also had a suggestion concerning the appeals board.

LIGHTMAN ARGUED that sections of present zoning ordinances which require the planning commission to make recommendations on matters before the Zoning Board of Appeals should be eliminated.

The trustee noted that the ordinance now makes the Zoning Board of Appeals a "rubber stamp" for the planning commission, although the appeals board is not bound by a decision of the planning commission.

Asking for a planning commission recommendation often causes unnecessary delay, Lichtman added.

"While we're playing ping-pong, there are people who have problems who are being delayed," he said.

The trustee asked Paul Bibeau, an associate of township attorney Joseph T. Brennan, to investigate the change in language.

HALL'S SUGGESTION concerned the zoning requirement that garages be built 20 feet from a home. He said the requirement is antiquated and should be changed to 10 feet.

The supervisor noted the provision probably was installed when cars were considered a fire hazard. A garage burning from a car fire would be less of a hazard to a home if it were placed 20 feet away, Hall reasoned.

Lichtman said the Zoning Board of Appeals has been routinely granting variances to the 20-foot requirement. He added the change probably would save those adding garages \$250 because neighboring property owners must be notified by a matter if a matter is before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

After some discussion about eliminating a space requirement between a house and an accessory building, the trustees decided to approve the 10-foot limit.

IN OTHER business, Hall suggested steps be taken to force removal of diseased trees in developed areas of the township.

Areas which are 65-70 percent developed should be included in efforts to stop the spread of Dutch Elm disease, Hall said.

"The only hope of stopping Dutch Elm disease is removing diseased trees and burning them," said Trustee Margaret Schaeffer.

In other action, the township board approved a contract with the employees of the building department. Hall said the contract calls for a 7 percent wage increase given to all township employees this year plus an adjustment to bring salaries to the levels of surrounding communities' building departments.

Also, the board declared it a necessity to construct a sanitary sewer in Franklin Village Subdivision along Westgate. The beginning step in the sewer construction process came after about 67 percent of residents who would be served by the line signed petitions favoring the construction.

In another matter, the board corrected action taken March 30. Hall said \$100,000 had been transferred from the township's general fund to the public improvements fund.

Since the money legally cannot be spent from public improvements except for specified projects, the trustees transferred the money to a revolving account.

Electric Typewriting Lab Set

FARMINGTON Purchase of 10 electric typewriters have been approved by the Farmington Board of Education for a business department laboratory at North Farmington High School.

The Remington electric, at \$255 each, will be used for Typing II, Secretarial Procedure and second-year shorthand.

Both Farmington Senior High and Harrison High already have at least two rooms equipped with electric typewriters.

Purchase of 10 machines for North is part of a three-year program to have 32 electric typewriters for that school. The total expense will be \$7,800 and expense this year will be \$2,200.

Enrollment in advanced typing has nearly doubled as a result of the introduction of beginning typing in the junior highs.

According to Business Manager William Prisk, office preparation teachers and coordinators and principals believe that business students "without electric typewriting experience are seriously disadvantaged when competing for jobs with students who had electric typewriting experience."

Purchase of the 10 machines will allow North students to have 13 weeks training a next year.

Gutted School May Open

Farmington school officials expect that Eagle Elementary School, recently gutted by fire, will be repaired and ready for use by opening of school in September.

Work started immediately after the fire and has been

Total damage to the school has been estimated at \$220,000 and all will be covered by insurance.

IN FACT, school was back in session five days after the fire struck except for the special education students who had to be transferred to Forest Elementary.

At its last meeting, the Board of Education approved a partial settlement with the insurance company for \$75,000. This settlement will allow the district to pay for work already completed and work now in progress.

The first phase of repair has almost been completed by Burton Brothers, the low bidder, and a bill submitted for \$28,400.

Bids for the remaining work have been taken and awarded to Quality Construction Co. for \$34,680.

INSURANCE ADJUSTERS have already concurred that all expenses incurred by the fire will be reimbursed by the policy.

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