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Budget vote spawns political tension

By Julie Brown
staff writer

The political animosity between Farmington Hills councilmen Joe Alkateeb and Donn Wolf increased a notch during a recent debate on the 1985-86 budget.

Wolf's declaration to abide by the wishes of the electorate drew Alkateeb's ire.

The Farmington Hills City Council adopted the city's 1985-86 budget, and set an 8.8 millage rate for the year at the June 10 meeting.

Council members voted 8-1 to adopt the budget, with Wolf casting the dissenting vote.

The 8.8 millage rate represents a .8 mill increase from last year's rate. The general fund budget for 1985-86 totals \$16,772,237.

WOLF SAID he was opposed to an increase in taxes.

"My position has been very clear, and it has not changed," he said. "I will not vote to increase taxes without a vote of the people."

Wolf said increased building in the city will help provide additional revenue.

Wolf's anti-tax speech brought a quick response from Alkateeb.

"If I were the people of this town, I would be sorry to have you as a representative of mine," he told Wolf. "What you just said is a bunch of political bulls."

Alkateeb asked Wolf why he had not come up with any specific suggestions for the budget at earlier meetings.

"You have grabbed the limelight before. I remember the headlines 'Mr. Wolf is against taxes,'" Alkateeb said. "It's OK to talk and talk is cheap. The question has always been 'Where are your proposals?'"

The budget is a responsible one, Alkateeb told Wolf. Some areas it covers, such as the new police facility and drainage improvements, are essential, he said.

"WE WENT to the bare bones, and I think that's responsible. Enough is enough, and I think I've had enough," Alkateeb told Wolf.

"Quite frankly, the capital is a little less than what I thought it would be," council member Charles Williams said. "I think it's well put together, and I think it's a good budget."

The 8.8 millage rate includes 7.3713 mills for operations, 1.1 mills for capital improvements and .3287 mills for debt service. The rate is levied on the basis of each \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Last year's budget included a 7.7 millage rate for operations and debt service, and 3 mills for capital improvements. The 1985-86 rate increase of .8 mills represents a 10 percent increase over last year's rate.

The budget is slightly different from that presented at the May 22 public hearing. It now includes the addition of one building inspector for the community development division and an engineering aide, a civil engineer and two seasonal inspectors for the engineering division.

Those additions increased the General Fund appropriation by \$125,100. That amount will, however, be offset by an increase in revenues from related fees.

"The increase in the revenues will pay for the increase in our city staff," said Karen Birkholz, assistant to the city manager.

These are the increases since the proposed budget hearing on May 22. This is the only change" since that date, she said.

Legislator looks back on council days

By Julie Brown
staff writer

All in all, Charles Williams has been satisfied with his years on the Farmington Hills City Council.

"I've made some very good friends there, and I think I've accomplished a lot in the four years I've been on council," he said.

Williams, who won a four-year council term in the November 1981 election, has announced that he will not seek reelection this fall. In making his announcement at the June 10 council meeting, Williams said it was based on health reasons.

"Basically, I've had an infected foot for the last four years," said Williams, who is a diabetic. "I may end up having to have an amputation."

"Right now, it's touch and go. To try to undertake a campaign this year is a little hard. I just figured I'd want to get this thing out of the way." Repeated hospitalizations have meant that Williams has had to miss some council meetings.

THE FARMINGTON Hills council is basically a responsible one, Williams said, although members do have their differences at times.

"But the majority usually comes up

"Right now, it's touch and go. To try to undertake a campaign this year is a little hard."

— Charles Williams
Hills councilman

with the right answer. I think everybody is trying hard, everybody does their homework."

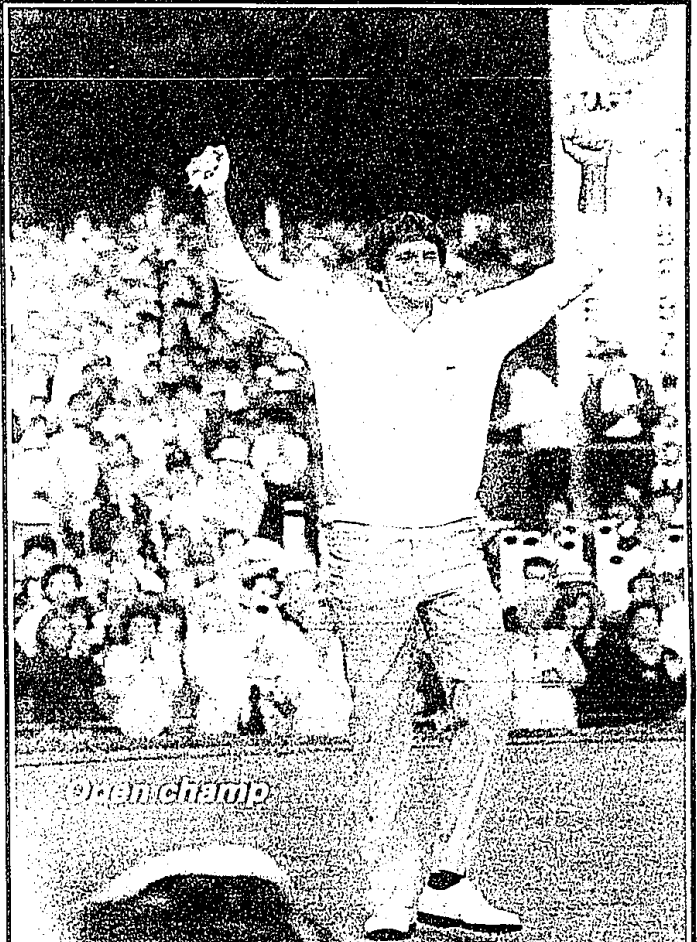
Williams served as the city's mayor throughout 1984.

"I would say that last year as mayor was a very hard year," he said. At times, Williams and fellow council member Joan Dudley were at odds.

One contribution Williams points to is his involvement early in his council term with reducing city surpluses.

"I got heavily into the surpluses the city had. In the course of the last three years, we have freed up some for capital improvements," such as the Spicer property acquisition.

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A jubilant Andy North celebrates after winning the 85th U.S. Open championship Sunday at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township. North was the only golfer to break par on

the course called "The Monster." For complete details, see Page 18. For more photographs, see back of Section A.

How woman makes the grade in state police ranks

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Dorothy McAllen encourages young



women to consider careers in law enforcement.

"It definitely is a good career, a challenging career, and there is room for advancement if you're willing to work," she said. "You have to work the same as anyone else."

Career advancement is something McAllen, 34, has first-hand experience with. She and her colleague, Nadene Yovanovich, were recently named the first women lieutenants in the Michigan State Police. The new lieutenants were recently honored by Michigan Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths in a ceremony at her office.

Both women have local ties. McAllen, who commands a Detroit-area narcotics enforcement team, is a Farmington Hills resident. Yovanovich grew up in the area and is a 1967 graduate of North Farmington High School.

THE CHALLENGE involved in police work makes it rewarding, said McAllen, who was named Woman of the Year by the Michigan Federation of Business/Professional Women in 1979. "It would be the challenge that's involved, and the chance to be recognized for good work. The department's very good on that."

State Police involvement in a variety of law enforcement activities allows for professional growth for its staff, she said.

"I felt the Michigan State Police would be an excellent department to go into. There are so many areas you can get into."

The Bay City native holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University. Her first as-

signment upon her 1975 graduation from recruit school was that of a road trooper in the Detroit area.

In addition to general duties in traffic enforcement and criminal investigations, she served as post community services officer and was an instructor at the 1977 recruit school.

Her field has traditionally been a male one, but McAllen sees that as beginning to change. The accomplishments of women police officers have made for greater acceptance.

"It's been shown that women can do the job. I would call it more of an obstacle that needs to be overcome, a challenge that needs to be met."

WHEN McAllen began work as a road trooper, she was one of the first women to do that job.

"When I was first promoted to sergeant, it was the same way. Now women

are constantly being promoted to sergeant.

"Obviously, we're not going to change anyone's attitude overnight. The feeling obviously is there. It's traditionally been a male field."

"Many of the men, including my husband, don't like to see women have to deal with the kind of public we have to deal with," she said. "It's just the way they've been raised, the traditional values they have."

McAllen's husband, Thomas, is a detective sergeant with the Michigan State Police. Thomas and Shannon are the couple's 5-year-old twins.

The fact that she now outranks her husband isn't a problem, McAllen said. "I was promoted first as a sergeant. He doesn't have an ego problem. It doesn't bother us, we don't take our work home with us."

McAllen's husband works out of the

same Livonia location as she does, although he is in a different area, working in criminal surveillance.

THE COUPLE met through Thomas McAllen's brother, who once served as Dorothy McAllen's partner.

"He was my partner, and now he's with the FBI in North Carolina."

In 1981, McAllen was promoted to detective sergeant and assigned to the Criminal Investigation Section at Livonia.

"I've enjoyed them all," she said of the varied assignments.

"The road patrol was a mind-opening experience," she said, particularly hav-

ing come from the smaller community of Bay City.

"Being one of the very first women, I was used for a lot of special assignments. It was exciting back then, and great experience on my resume."

McAllen has recently been involved in the development of Operation HEMP, a statewide program designed to eliminate marijuana planting.

"Last year was our first year in Operation HEMP. We didn't start it until July of 1984."

Other states had started up programs to get rid of marijuana planting.

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Downtown group sets meeting

Farmington's downtown study committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. June 19 in City Hall.

The topic of this second of nine meetings scheduled will be "communications" — how members of a downtown community, including city officials, neighbors and merchants, communicate with each other.

Also on the agenda will be the intro-

duction of steering committee members who are expected to develop a plan to redevelop Farmington's downtown.

At the study committee's first meeting, more than 40 people attended. An assessment of trends in successful marketing was presented, and opinions regarding the future of downtown Farmington.

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