

Area cities opt out of joining county plan

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ton at the landfill, and estimate a 10 percent increase each year. County consultants estimate a \$15-\$20 per ton cost, according to city reports.

"It is our belief Farmington will be able to continue using the Halloway landfill for the foreseeable future at a substantially lower cost than Oakland County's proposed system," the city manager told the Farmington City Council.

To implement the incinerator project, the county needs initial agreements by Dec. 13 from communities with a combined total of 800 tons of solid waste per day. About 25-30 percent of the 61 communities in Oakland County generate the needed waste.

As of Monday, 11 communities had agreed to participate, representing 60 percent of the county's goal, Schutte said. He is confident the goal will be achieved.

COMMUNITIES IN north Oakland County pay a premium for waste disposal, due to lack of access to good landfills. Their involvement may fulfill the county's goal, Deadman noted.

The county plan was implemented following a 1978 state mandate, requiring local governments or counties to prepare a solid waste management plan.

In July 1983, 73 percent of local communities representing 88 percent of the county's population approved a

revised county solid waste plan, but serious concerns continued to exist with the plan, Deadman said. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources approved the plan in 1983.

Other than project costs, concerns shared by both Farmington and Farmington Hills include flow control and future potential of Halloway's landfill site. Halloway has assured Deadman its landfill has three years remaining capacity. It also has state permission to develop an additional 168-acre par-

cel with a 12- to 20-year estimated service life, Deadman said. Halloway owns a total of 900 acres in Salem Township.

UNDER THE county plan, local municipalities would be responsible for flow control. This would require them to license all refuse haulers working in the city and guarantee exclusive use of a county incinerator or landfill.

Farmington Councilman Alton Bennett and Mayor William Hartsock see possible problems for garbage haulers with the county project. "Private haulers would be put in a bind," Bennett said. "You'd be changing the way they do business," Hartsock added.

"The administrative burden of enforcing flow control could be costly to a small community," Deadman told the council.

If either local city opts to join the system at a later date, it would pay an additional, uniform fee not charged to the municipalities initially joining the project.

Charges would be based on administrative and overhead costs, royalty payments to the landfill site host com-

munity, costs incurred prior to system start-up, plus additional costs incurred in building new facilities, Deadman said.

THE COUNTY is eyeing potential incinerator sites near industrial steam users. These include an area around the Ford Wixom Plant, property around the county's 20-building complex in Pontiac and vacant land near the station-owned Clinton Valley Center in Pontiac. The incinerator would be located within half a mile of an industrial user, Schutte said.

Possible steam use by Parke-Davis in the Rochester area has been ruled out, Schutte said.

The county formally requested a response from local governments in an Aug. 19 report from Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy and Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Wilcox.

If the county meets its 600-tons-per-day goal, a permanent Municipal Solid Waste Board will be established within two months, with representatives from each participating city and township, the report said.

Language program wins approval

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mended from the committee, which met prior to the board meeting with a full room of Farmington language teachers.

Trustees serving on the committee include chairwoman Janice Rolnick, James Abernathy and Helen Prutow. "Our philosophy at the middle school level is to offer as many electives as possible," foreign language proponent Rolnick said.

The second dissenting vote was cast "reluctantly" by Abernathy in view of an apparent split among language teachers present at the committee meeting. Assenting votes were cast by Prutow, Rolnick, board president Susan Rennels and trustee Jack Cotton. Helen Ditzhary was absent.

The change offers eighth grade students an elective Level 1 foreign lan-

guage in addition to the present eighth grade language orientation program. Student surveys will determine whether Spanish, French, German or Latin will be taught, according to David Poelke, administrative adviser for district-wide foreign language.

AS IN the past, Level 1 foreign language will also be taught in high schools. Books for Level 1 classes will be uniform throughout the district.

The new class will be added to 15 one-semester electives currently offered at the middle schools, Nutter said.

The original proposal suggested Spanish as an eighth grade elective foreign language, moving the eighth grade language orientation program to seventh grade as a required class. It also proposed adding a fifth year of foreign language at the high school level.

The approved plan suggests the high

school program expansion if enrollment numbers support the offering.

Poelke told the committee the program would be "in keeping with national trends," and the change will allow flexibility at the high school level by offering the program at an earlier age.

"We're merely offering an elective at the eighth grade level. The loss of students in another elective would be minimal disruption," he said.

POELKE ALSO presented committee and board members with quotes of \$13,500 for each portable language lab

proposed for each of the four middle schools. Board cost estimates were based on this quote, with additional expense for staff and possible staff transportation.

Concerns voiced at the meeting included the effect on high school transcripts for college, loss of students in higher-level language programs, possible parental pressures forcing eighth graders to begin a foreign language, and the chance of middle school students failing and "destroying themselves."

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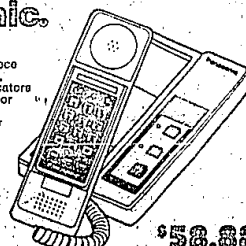
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