

Peltz-MDOT panel to hammer out final plan

By Joanna Maliszewski
staff writer

It's time to roll up the sleeves and sit down to some tough thinking and hard work.

That's the next task for some members of the Farmington Hills Peltz-MDOT committee who plan to meet within the week and hammer out the best plan to replace wetlands from the 12 Mile boulevard project to the Peltz-MDOT land, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road.

"We're working toward a reluctant compromise. We recognize the city is in a bind. They have to mitigate (replace wetlands)," Committee Chairman Mark Davis said. "I think we are moving in the right direction. We have to bid down five different alternatives to one that as many people as possible can live with."

The city, according to the state Department of Natural Resources regulations, must obtain a permit for filling in the wetlands along 12 Mile before bids can be obtained to

continue the boulevard construction project.

CITY OFFICIALS expect to obtain that permit by Jan. 31. The permit would be based on the city's application that went to the DNR with a copy of a plan to replace the wetlands on the MDOT portion of the Peltz-MDOT land, said Farmington Hills assistant city manager David Call.

"The only thing we are missing is the wetlands permit," Call said. Changes can be made later in the wetlands replacement plan.

Without the replacement of wetlands along 12 Mile, the city could lose a \$3.6 million state grant that will help pay for the next estimated \$7 million boulevard mile, Halsted to Haggerty, Call said.

The original plan is not what the Peltz-MDOT committee wants. The committee's environmental planning consultant Todd Holloway has developed four alternative plans to the original one by landscape architect John Grissim of Farmington Hills.

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— Mark Davis
committee chairman

The goal for many committee members is to try to reduce the amount of wetlands that need replacing and to reduce the amount of land at Peltz-MDOT used for replacement, as well as to reduce any damage to the vegetation and wildlife.

Grissim's original plan called for using almost 22 acres of the MDOT land to replace 7.3 acres of wetlands. That was based on the need to replace 4.5 acres from 12 Mile. The DNR, Call said, requires replacement at 1-1/2 times what will be filled in.

THE 22-ACRE plan included about 7.3 acres of actual wetlands and another 15 acres for the area around the wetlands that would be sloped and bermed, Call said.

That plan, however, infuriated some committee members who considered it tantamount to mass destruction of the land. At the latest Peltz-MDOT meeting more than a week ago, Call and city manager William Costick said they do not want to destroy the acreage.

Holloway also told the committee that Grissim's plan could be reduced to using only 11.2 acres by having

less sloping and berms.

Call — with the help of consultants Applied Science & Technology, Inc. of Ann Arbor — clarified just what needs to be replaced from the 12 Mile project.

The worst case scenario calls for replacing 7.26 acres. That includes 0.60-acre of a Howard Road wetland where the city would like to build a noise berm for residents near I-696. It also includes 0.48-acre at the intersection of 12 Mile and Haggerty where the Haggerty Road Connector is expected to be constructed. This wetland is included in case the connector is not built. If the connector is built, "we expect they (the state) will take care of it," Call said.

THE WORST case scenario also includes 0.92-acre in the area 800 feet east of Haggerty to 400 feet east of Halsted. It also includes 2.52 acres in the mile stretch of Halsted to Drake and another 0.33-acre of unregulated wetlands in the Hag-

gerty-12 Mile stretch.

In other words, all but the 0.33-acre are regulated wetlands for a total of 4.52 acres that must be replaced at 1 1/2 times to equal a total of 7.26 acres, Call said.

Call said it is possible to replace wetlands from the one-mile stretch of boulevard construction expected this year from Haggerty to Halsted and to worry about wetlands replacement later for the Halsted to Drake mile stretch.

The four alternatives developed by Holloway call for 3-4 acres of wetlands replacement, not including the acreage that might be disturbed for the wetlands. The alternatives call for a smaller wetlands replacement and less disturbance to the surrounding area.

The Peltz-MDOT committee's next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Feb. 12 when it's expected a wetlands replacement recommendation will be made and later presented to the city council.

Testifying against ex-boss 'very difficult' for Hills chief

Continued from Page 1

Hart, 68, was named police chief by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young in 1976. He was suspended with pay after a federal grand jury indicted him in February, 1990, on charges of embezzlement, conspiracy, tax evasion and obstruction of justice.

If convicted, Hart faces up to 10 years in prison on any of the seven counts in the indictment.

U.S. District Court prosecutors maintain that Hart embezzled \$1.3 million from checks he wrote to cash and steered another \$1.3 million to bogus corporations controlled by former civilian Deputy Chief Kenneth Weiner.

Weiner, a former business partner of Coleman Young's, pleaded guilty in the fall of 1991 to embezzlement and other charges. He is serving a 10-year sentence and is not expected to testify in the Hart trial.

TWO WEEKS to a month after

Hart told Dwyer a covert operation was underway, the first check payable to cash showed up.

"On occasion I would sign the check, the chief would sign the check and on other occasions the chief or others who were signing the checks," Dwyer testified.

In his testimony, Dwyer made it clear he never signed any check without proper documentation. But he added that at no time did Hart tell him about the covert operation or where the money was spent.

Dwyer, who came to Farmington Hills as police chief in 1985, testified that he kept a ledger book documenting money requested from the secret fund. When he moved to Farmington Hills, he left the ledger book behind with his successor.

That successor, Dwyer said in a telephone interview Friday, lost the ledger. But a copy of the ledger that Dwyer made when he left the Detroit Police Department was handed over to the federal grand jury more than a year ago.

Dwyer said he made a copy of his ledger book not because he distrusted Hart but because "of my policy of

keeping things documented. If I would have known about the covert operation, I would have ensured that all receipts from informants was properly documented. I just processed the checks as a daily routine."

Despite his openness with the media, Dwyer expressed concern with how his testimony in the Hart case might appear. "I am certainly not and never have been accused of being a target of this investigation," Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Patrick Foley, who is also acting as a federal prosecutor, asked Dwyer Thursday when he first met Kenneth Weiner.

"I met him while I was working in the chief's office," Dwyer responded. "He would come in and have meetings with the chief of police."

Dwyer testified about Hart's character Friday. He told the court that he considered Hart a modest man who did not flaunt his rumored extramarital relationships.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

around Farmington

All announcements for this column must be mailed to Around Farmington, Farmington Observer, 21838 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

Deadline for Around Farmington is noon Monday for the Thursday publication and noon Thursday for the Monday publication. Requests for announcements will not be taken over the telephone.

• BEGINNINGS

Through Feb. 29: The Artists' Gallery presents Beginnings, a new show for 1992 featuring the works of artists Lili Langerman and Iris Czajkowski. The gallery is at 29673 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. For more information, call 353-4707.

• FUN AND FITNESS

Thursdays from Jan. 30 through March 26: Faith Covenant Church hosts its fun and fitness program Thursday mornings 9:30-11:15 a.m. at the church, corner of Drake and 14 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. Exercise, crafts, speakers, devotions and fellowship are offered. Bystanding available. For details, call the church at 661-9191.

• LEARN TO BUILD A HOME Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 27: The Michigan Builders Institute, in cooperation with Farm-

ington Community Education, 30415 Shilawasee Road, offers a 24-hour, eight session seminar on How to Build Your Own Home. Cost is \$150 and includes a building book. Preregistration is required no later than Jan. 23. For more information, call 489-3333.

• PRE-MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

Six sessions beginning Jan. 28: Jewish Family Service is offering a new session of the popular workshop, Kiddushin Is For Keeps: Making Marriage Work to couples who are engaged and/or recently married. For information about the location and time of the workshop call Lorraine Lerner at the Jewish Family Service at 559-1500.

• TAXES AND YOUR INVESTMENTS: 1991

Tuesday, Jan. 28: Don Criss and Jim Hubbard of the CPA firm Criss, Hubbard and Parr discuss tax changes in the prior year and how they will impact on your tax liabilities for the new tax season. Both speakers will field questions following their presentations in the Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile road, at 7:30 p.m. No charge, but for reservations and information call 553-0300.

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