

The Farmington Enterprise

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11 School Boards May Sue Township For Tax Money Due

Officials of All Districts in Township To Meet Monday Evening To Consider Possible Steps For Collection of Money

The Boards of Education of eleven school districts lying wholly or partly within Farmington township may use the Township for tax money due them since last spring, and which the Township is unable to pay. The eleven Boards will meet Monday evening at eight o'clock in Farmington High School to determine what action they may take to get the money.

Calling of the meeting followed unsuccessful efforts Tuesday evening to decide on a course to be followed. The school officials met with the Farmington Township Board, but an hour's discussion produced no results.

Supervisor Arthur Coe informed the school trustees that the Township has no means of paying the money.

Money received from school taxes, which should have been used to pay the school districts in full last Spring, was used to pay Township expenses, with the idea of borrowing to make up the amount needed, as had been done in previous years. However, when the Township officials came to borrow last Spring, they were unable to do so, and it was learned that the borrowing in previous years had been illegal.

"Nothing New"

Supervisor Coe informed the school officials that the Township had tried every possible method of getting the money. Former Supervisor Harry N. McCracken traced the history of the Township loans, saying that "this is not something new, but this thing has been growing for years."

"In 1926, said Mr. McCracken, the board borrowed \$20,000 to meet its debts. In 1927, somewhat of a boom year, the loan went down to \$10,000. But in 1928, when business went back, \$40,000 was borrowed. The banks began to realize that this thing was growing larger all the time, and after we had borrowed in 1929, banking officials here and in other townships investigated, and found that the banks had no right to loan and the Townships had no right to borrow, as had been done."

Kept In One Fund

Setrak Utjian, of Clarenceville district, asked if it was not true that during all the years the borrowing had been done, it had nothing to do with the school districts at all, but was really due to the fact that the Township used school money for other purposes. Mr. McCracken said that all the money was kept in one fund, but was kept separately on the books, although the various funds should have been kept separate. He suggested that the best remedy now is to use strict economy and get along as well as possible until the taxes come in next winter.

It was estimated that if it is necessary for the Township to raise a general tax to pay up the indebtedness, it would mean an additional six dollars per thousand and levy in the Township. It was pointed out that all of the difficulty is caused by delinquent taxes, and that under present conditions an increased levy would probably mean only a greater delinquent tax, and that the problem would be as far from solution as ever.

Urged Not to Sue

Cecil R. Cummings and Warren Cordes of the First Detroit Co., buyers of the City of Farmington sewer bonds, were present and urged the officials not to go into court, because it would mean that the Township, City and all the school districts would find it difficult, if not impossible, to sell any bonds for a number of years after being involved in such litigation.

A score of school trustees attended the meeting at the home of Clerk Willard Campbell Tuesday evening, and fully as many are expected next Monday.

Contract Is Let, Work On City's Sewer Is Begun

Title Arriving in Farmington; To Start Excavation First, Or Next Week

Construction work on the City of Farmington's addition to the sewer system is scheduled to begin the first of next week, following letting of the contract by the City Commission to Carle and Tomasini, Flint contractors, Monday night. A large quantity of 48-inch tile for the Grand River section has already been laid down in the vicinity of Brookdale Drive.

The cost of construction work will be \$51,656.50, this being the low bid for the work to be done. The Commission voted to have 42-inch rather than 36-inch tile laid in the section running east of Maple St. to River Rouge, the difference being \$10,000.

(Continued on page five)

Board Adopts Budget System

Farmington School Expenditures To Be Apportioned Among Departments

The budget system of handling school expenditures was adopted by the Farmington Board of Education at its August meeting last Thursday evening, and a budget will be drawn up for the coming school year.

Adoption of the budget plan is the culmination of two years of effort by Trustee Lloyd Gullen, who has advocated the plan since he became a member of the Board. The system was adopted by passage of a resolution offered by Mr. Gullen.

Putting the budget plan into effect will involve considerable work as there has never been a budget before. In future years the task will be much simplified because there will be a working basis provided by the previous year's budget.

Trustee Gullen, in speaking on the resolution, pointed out that there has heretofore been no defined balance between departments, and the aggressive teachers often obtain more money for their departments than should be allowed, while others, who are less active toward obtaining funds get along with less than their department should have.

To Make Plans For Dedication of Field

Plans for the dedication of Farmington High School's new athletic field will be formulated during the next few days. School Trustee Lloyd Gullen, named by President Ross, to have charge of arrangements, and Carl Goers, who is preparing the Labor Day baseball game plans for the American Legion, will co-operate in working out details of the ceremony.

Grand Larceny Warrant Served On Choir Leader At Victory Banquet

While 40 members of the State championship choir of Farmington Methodist Church and their friends looked on and listened, stricken dumb with dismay, Arthur Applin, leader of the choir, was served with a warrant charging him with grand larceny, in the midst of a banquet given last Thursday evening in honor of the Farmington singers' victory. The warrant, naming Mr. Applin as defendant, was signed by Municipal Judge John J. Schulte, and was served by Chief of Police Leo Doyle.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ross of Farmington gave the dinner for the choir, which won the \$100 first prize for the second successive year at East Lansing on August 1. The Walleye Lake Methodist Church choir being second.

The dinner was about half over when Chief Doyle interrupted it with the warrant for Mr. Applin. Mr. Ross answered the chief's call and advised the host that he had a warrant for a man attending the banquet. Seeking to avoid any unpleasantness, Mr. Ross asked the police chief if he would not stay for dinner. No, the chief would not stay, he had had his dinner. Then the host, sparring desperately for time, asked if the officer would not be willing to wait until his party was over to make the arrest.

By this time the police chief was getting impatient. "Mr. Ross," he said sternly, "in my business I have to take my man when I can get him. This warrant is going to be served right now."

"Well, may I read the warrant?" asked the host.

"Certainly," responded the chief. (Continued on page five)

To Start Work On Grand River Paving In City

Road Is Closed From Farmington Road East; May Put On Two Mixers

Grand River Ave. was closed to traffic for a stretch of three miles Monday morning, and will remain closed until the new pavement is ready. Breaking up of the old pavement from the Junction into the business section of the city is already under way with laying of new cement to follow as soon as possible.

All through traffic now passes over the cut-off, making the detour along Farmington Road. No four wheelers have yet been laid on the north side of Grand River from Eight Mile Road west, but it is understood to be promised that two concrete mixers will begin at the same time, one working west from Eight Mile Road and the other, a smaller one, starting at Farmington Junction and working west into the city.

As the construction work has been laid out, Grand River will be closed until mid-autumn, however greatly the work is speeded. It is reported that the State Highway Department has ordered the contractors to rush the work, in view of the fact that Grand River is completely closed to travel, an unusual condition for a main highway in Michigan.

The road was closed from Farmington Road to the Junction, Thursday.

FOUR IN HOLDUP OF GAS STATION MAY BE RELEASED

Await Ruling On Whether Mint-Machine Is Property Under Law of Larceny

Four men who tried to hold up "Mammy's Bungalow" barbecue and gasoline station west of Farmington on the evening of August 10, and were captured in the attempt, may win their freedom on a technicality, it developed when the time arrived for their examination Wednesday afternoon before Judge John J. Schulte in Farmington court.

The four were charged with trying to carry away a mint-dispensing machine. The question raised was whether a slot-machine is regarded as property, from a legal standpoint. If it is not "property" within the meaning of the law, Assistant Prosecutor Charles E. Wilson said Wednesday, he will move for dismissal of the charges against the four.

Judge Schulte postponed the case for one week, during which time Mr. Wilson will delve into the law on the matter.

The four defendants, all Detroit young men, were held in \$1,500 bail. The holdup was attempted without weapons, one holding his hand in his pocket as if he had a gun. Joseph Shoemaker, proprietor of the place, did have a gun and drew it on the would-be bandits.

Five lawyers appeared to represent the four defendants.

PLANS PROCEED FOR THE ANNUAL FLOWER EXHIBIT

Classified Lists For Entries To Be Announced Next Week; Date Is Sept. 9

The plans for the Annual Farmington Flower Show are well under way. The date has been set for Tuesday, Sept. 9, election day. The display of flowers has been arranged to be held at the Community Hall of the M. E. Church. In next week's issue of the Enterprise will appear the classified list for the award of ribbons. Much enthusiasm is expected, since many of Farmington's flower-lovers planted their gardens with this event in view. In conjunction with the flower show several local churches expect to serve a public dinner at 6 o'clock.

Township To Start Suit To Clear Title On Town Hall

Suggestion For Legislative Act Allowing Township To Use Hall Endorsed At Meeting of Officials And Lodge Committee

Suit will be started in Oakland County Circuit Court in the near future by the Township of Farmington, to determine ownership of the Farmington Town Hall property.

Starting of litigation was authorized Tuesday night by the Township Board, and on Wednesday morning Supervisor Arthur P. Coe and Clerk Willard Campbell notified Attorney James H. Lynch of Pontiac, representing the Township that authority had been given to proceed in court.

The move to file suit came a few days after Township and City officials and representatives of Farmington Masonic Lodge had believed that a way out of the difficulty had been found, at a meeting last Friday evening. At that meeting, the representatives of the three interests approved a suggestion of Justice of the Peace Ernest Blanchard, that efforts be made to obtain legislation which would permit the Township to utilize the Hall for voting and for office purposes.

First Agreement

The accord on the proposal for remedial legislation was the first agreement reached in nearly two years that meetings have been held in efforts to settle the problem. Mr. Blanchard offered arguments in favor of the suggestion the desirability of avoiding possible unfriendliness between the City and Township, central location, saving of expense in litigation, and several other advantages. Most of those present expressed themselves as heartily in favor of the idea. It was suggested that the people should be asked to vote on the proposal, and the prediction was made that they would approve it.

School Principal Issue Settled

Stormy Debate Occurs On Resolution To Hire Crawford For Coming Year

The question of a principal for Farmington High School and the hiring of A. R. Crawford for that position appeared definitely settled this week, following passage of a resolution last Thursday night by the Board of Education to engage Mr. Crawford as principal. This week it was stated that Mr. Crawford felt it best for the school district as well as his teaching interests that he accept a contract which has been offered him elsewhere.

The passage of the resolution by a 3 to 2 vote followed the stormy debate that has yet occurred between present members of the Board, the offering of an amendment to the resolution and defeat of the amendment.

Trustee Lloyd Gullen offered the motion to engage Mr. Crawford as principal, Trustee Lamb supporting the motion. Strenuous objections followed, during which court action was mentioned and a good deal of the controversy which had occupied a number of months was reviewed, going to the extent that it was said Mr. Crawford might find himself harmed elsewhere, where he had been offered a position. The legality of the action was questioned and Mr. Gullen agreed to incorporate in his motion a clause that legal advice was to be obtained. More bitter exchanges followed.

Finally Mr. Gullen demanded a vote on his motion. Trustee Mrs. Blanche Ross offered an amendment that the matter be left until Mr. Burns is consulted. Trustee Mrs. Florence Lee supported the amendment, but it was voted down, three to two.

The original motion was then put to vote. Trustee Gullen and Lamb and President A. L. Ross voted for the motion and Mrs. Lee voted against it. Mrs. Ross refused to vote until she knew what legal advice would be taken. The motion was declared carried.

It is understood that the continuing opposition and antagonism expressed toward Mr. Crawford led the majority of the Board to the conclusion of the former principal himself, that under the circumstances, it would be impossible to obtain the best possible results of his service in the school.

To Have Five Names

Supt. J. A. Dalrymple, whose contract was signed by three members of the Board last Spring is to have five signatures on his contract. President A. L. Ross told Supt. Dalrymple at the Board meeting that the members intend to "stand back of you 100 per cent and help you in every way we can." Trustees Gullen and Lamb will, Mr. Ross indicated, sign the superintendent's contract at the next Board meeting.

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MAN AND WOMAN HELD FOR TRIAL IN AUTO DEATH

Woman Driver And Man Who Seized Wheel Bound Over To Circuit Court

Arthur Minehart and Margaret Avent, both 27, and residents of Detroit, charged with involuntary manslaughter in the death of Cleo Johns in an automobile accident on Grand River Ave. west of Farmington on the night of June 7, were bound over to the Circuit Court for trial Wednesday afternoon by Judge John J. Schulte of Farmington.

Over the objection of former Judge Aldrich Baxter, representing the defendants, Judge Schulte, who acted as coroner at the accident, stated that Johns died of a broken neck as the result of the accident. Johns was driving and his car collided head on with that of Minehart, headed west. Miss Avent was driving and turned out to pass a truck. Police claim Minehart seized the wheel. The charge against him is based on a claim that he permitted Miss Avent to drive the car when he should not have done so. Assistant Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson appeared for the prosecution.

Bonds of \$1,000 each were furnished by the defendants. "We can," Trustees Gullen and Lamb will, Mr. Ross indicated, sign the superintendent's contract at the next Board meeting.