

The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 24.

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Decide Against Changing School Election Method

Board Of Education Reverses Motion Passed In February; Economy Cited

The annual school election in Farmington District No. 5 in June will be held under the same method as heretofore, following decision last Thursday evening by the Board of Education. In deciding against the change to the method of nomination by petition and placing of the candidates names on a ballot, the Board reversed itself, having voted at the February meeting to adopt the proposed system.

At the February meeting, on motion of Trustee Arthur Lamb, supported by Trustee Lloyd Gulen, the Board voted to adopt and make legal the motion made by Floyd Nichols at the annual meeting last July, and adopted by the school electors. The secretary was instructed to make preparations for the election, which included provisions for registration of all electors in the School District.

At the Board's meeting last Thursday evening the secretary, Mrs. Norman Lee, asked the advice of other members of the Board regarding the registration and other aspects of the election. The section of school law providing for such election requires that registration shall begin at least 30 days before the election, and also provides for official notice, election inspectors and ballots.

After some discussion, the Board voted, on motion of Mr. Lamb, to rescind its motion of the February meeting. Economy was the basis upon which the Board rested its decision to retain the present method of election rather than adopting the proposed system.

The date on which the annual meeting will be held was not affected by the action taken Thursday evening. The meeting of electors will be held Monday evening, June 8.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD WEDNESDAY FOR MRS. BERT COE

North Farmington Woman Expires After Long Illness; Was 46 Years Old

Funeral services were held on Wednesday for Mrs. Clara Bell Coe, 46 years old of North Farmington, who died Monday after a long illness. The last rites were held at the house with burial in North Farmington cemetery. Rev. E. W. Palmer officiated.

Mrs. Coe had lived in Farmington Township all her life, having been born on a farm on the Halsted road. She was married to Bert Coe in 1905.

She is survived by her husband, Bert Coe, and two sons, Russell and Stuart. Also by four sisters, Mrs. William Hunt, Mrs. Henry Kraus of Detroit, Mrs. Marie Walters, Mrs. Ray Marsh and two brothers, Edward and Herman Grimmer, all of West Farmington.

Mr. Johns was a Sunday guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lamb.

Juniors Energetic

Have \$80 For Trip

Farmington High School seniors are enjoying their Washington trip this week, but their enthusiasm doesn't exceed that of the Junior class. These energetic boys and girls have probably set a record, having already gathered \$80 toward their trip next year.

The class voted some time ago to have Lynn Rohrer, commercial teacher as their class sponsor next year and to accompany them on their trip to Washington.

New O. E. S. Leader



Mrs. Harrison Johnson will be installed as Worthy Matron of Farmington Chapter No. 239, O. E. S. next Wednesday evening. She was elected Tuesday evening.

Committees Are Named By Mayor

Commissioners Assigned To Various City Departments; Police Left Open

Commissioners to head the various Farmington city departments were named by Mayor Arthur Lamb Monday evening. The list of his selections, read by the Mayor, was approved by the Commission.

No committee was appointed to head the police department. Mayor Lamb stated that appointment of a police committee had been left open, and the department will be directly under the mayor for the present at least.

Two commissioners will head each department, instead of one, as in the past. Mayor Lamb stated that the past two years' experience had convinced him that two-man committees would be better, particularly in view of the fact that commissioners may often be out of town when questions on city affairs come up.

The committees are as follows: Sewers: Hatton and Hamlin. Water and Fire: Osmus and Goers. Cemeteries and parks: Hamlin and Gildemeister. Lights and public buildings: Goers and Osmus. Streets: Stamann and Osmus. Sidewalks: Gildemeister and Goers. Ordinances: Hatton and Stamann. Finances: Gildemeister and Hatton.

THAYER NOT TO BECOME JUSTICE UNTIL JULY 4th

Inquiry Reveals That State Law Sets Later Date, Superseding Charter

All Farmington City officials elected on April 8 took office Monday with one exception, John H. Thayer, elected justice of the peace. Mr. Thayer will not take office until July 4.

The City Charter provides that all officials shall take office on the second Monday in April, but the State law provides for justices of the peace to assume their duties on July 4. The office of justice of the peace being a constitutional one, the State law governs. Judge John J. Schulte and Mr. Thayer, after a conference Saturday, agreed that Mr. Thayer should obtain an opinion on the matter from the prosecutor's office, and the opinion confirmed the view that Judge Schulte's term would not expire until July 3rd.

The term of justice is for four years. UNITED IN MARRIAGE Homer Abney and Miss Ida Coon were married Monday, April 13 by Rev. E. W. Palmer of the Farmington Baptist church. The bride is a sister of Mrs. Carl Goers. They will live on Lakeway.

Subway Beneath Grand River Is Planned By City

Seek Bids On Tunnel Under School Street, To Protect Children

An underground passageway under the Grand River pavement to protect children of the Farmington Schools is under consideration by the City Commission, which voted Monday evening to ask for bids on the project. It is proposed to build the tunnel as soon as possible, and engineers' estimates indicate the probable cost to be about \$2,500.

Plans for the subway walk were presented Monday evening by Commissioner Emory Hatton. A suggestion that the ultimate solution of the traffic hazard problem lay in an underground passage was made three weeks ago during a discussion at the Farmington Exchange club. Commissioner Hatton took the matter up with State and County highway officials.

Draws Plans State Engineer Cowgill, Mr. Hatton reported, offered valuable co-operation and proceeded at once to draw up a plan according to suggestions made by the Farmington official. The drawing placed before the Commission provides for a walk five feet wide and six and one-half feet high.

A stairway would provide entrance from the School street sidewalk. Across the street there would be a stairway leading from the Grand River avenue sidewalk, the stairs on that side running parallel with the pavement. It would be necessary to narrow the sidewalk at this point to allow for the stairs, due to lack of room between the curb and property line.

Would Save Wages Commissioner Hatton said he believed that the tunnel would not only provide the greatest safety, but would pay for itself ultimately in saving the money now paid to high school boys to protect the smaller children crossing Grand River at School street and Power avenue. The cost of the patrol is estimated at about \$1.50 a day. In addition, Mr. Hatton said, it would relieve the minds of the parents of the students who do the patrolling, these parents being uneasy because of the responsibility placed on their boys, and also because of the boys' being in constant proximity to traffic.

Concrete And Steel The walk would be 74 feet long, according to the plans, and would be constructed of concrete with steel reinforcement. It would be lighted at night, this being the only cost of upkeep, besides cleaning.

The Commission's decision to ask bids was made at once, in the belief that much money could be saved if the tunnel is completed before the new paving is laid on Grand River in that vicinity. Final decision on the matter will be made after receipt of bids.

New Committee For Library Is Created

A new library committee, composed of citizens, was created this week, when the personnel of the committee was announced by Mayor Arthur Lamb. Mayor Lamb stated at the City Commission meeting that the library board was appointed in response to suggestions from a number of citizens that such a board would be advisable. The committee chosen consists of Rev. Floyd Charles Johnson, Miss Ernestine Pierce and Miss Mildred Adams.

BULLETIN

Mayor Arthur Lamb of Farmington was named chairman of the most important committee on the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, the equalization committee, at the session Thursday.

A Building Was Wanted To Burn; Firemen Got One - Unexpectedly

A building was wanted to burn last Saturday afternoon, in order that firemen might demonstrate the new Farmington Township fire engine. The volunteers got a burning building to practice on but unexpectedly.

The fire-fighters spent more than an hour on the Fred Bade farm, starting and extinguishing grass-fires. The flames were snuffed out quickly with chemicals from the four tanks on the truck. Trials showed the chemical spray would reach about 25 feet upward and about 40 feet on the level.

A few minutes after the firemen returned to Farmington, they had their burning building. The roof on the home of E. A. Wagner, 32033 Valley View avenue, had caught fire. Decorators had stuffed waste paper in the furnace, and the sparks, dropping on the roof, set it ablaze.

Lyman Farrand, owner of the house, climbed to the roof and checked the fire considerably with pails of water before the firemen arrived. A good-sized hole was burned in the roof, and damage is estimated at nearly \$200.

The Township truck was driven to Farmington from Indiana last Friday evening. It carries four 40-gallon tanks of chemical, with ladder, hose, axes, lamps and other fire-fighting equipment. It will be housed in the Farmington City fire hall and service will be given by Farmington's volunteer force.

Teaching Budget Reduced \$3,500

Dropping Of Home Economics Effects Saving Estimated At \$1,800

A reduction of \$3,500 in teaching expense in Farmington Public Schools for next year has been made by the Board of Education, which has also decided to drop for at least one year the Home Economics department.

The saving effected in teachers' salaries is more than 10 per cent of the present teaching budget. In addition to the dropping of the domestic science course, the position of clerk to the superintendent was eliminated, this saving being \$1,100 a year.

Other savings effected are as follows: reduction of nursing service from 12 to 10 months, \$300; reduction in salary of one high school teacher, \$100; second grade, \$50; third grade, \$100. In addition to the \$3,500, the Board saved \$1,200 in normal salary increases which have been customary each year, having voted to suspend all salary increases for the coming year at least.

Nearly All Return All of the present faculty will return except Kenneth Bisbee, sixth grade, and Miss Josephine Roe, second grade. Mrs. M. Shadley will be transferred from the position of clerk to the third grade, and Gladys Landesman has been engaged for the second grade. The sixth grade position was the only one left to be filled after the Board meeting last Thursday evening.

Miss Emma Hyde, Home Economics teacher late last week, received an offer from the Orion schools, which she has accepted. Upon learning of this, at a special meeting called for Saturday evening, the Board members quickly agreed to recess the department.

Large Force Begins Work On Grand River

Resumption of work on the widening of Grand River in Farmington Monday morning has been marked by great activity, with a large force of trucks, tractors and other implements assembled and a big force of men at work. Grading has been begun at Farmington Lumber and Coal Co. office, from which point the work is proceeding eastward.

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN INSURANCE DROPPED

City insurance on Farmington volunteer firemen, which expired Thursday, will not be renewed, the legality of the insurance having been questioned. The policy cost the City \$99 for the past year.

A bill is in the Legislature and is expected to be made effective shortly, bringing volunteer firemen under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Send in your news items.

Plan Payment Of Money Township Owes Districts

Majority Of Boards To Join In Court Arrangements; To Take Several Years

Seven and possibly eight or ten Farmington Township school districts will join in placing before the Circuit Court at Pontiac their shares in the \$36,000 owed the districts by the Township from 1923 tax collections, it was determined Wednesday night. Representatives of all the districts met in Farmington Town Hall at the call of James H. Lynch of Pontiac, attorney for the Township.

By their action, the various boards will have placed before their court their claims, to be considered in final decision on the suit brought by the Clarenceville Board of Education, District No. 5 Fractional. The Clarenceville board, represented by Attorney George R. Bushnell of Detroit, obtained \$7,000 a short time ago, on their suit for the full amount due, \$13,659.20. Judgment as to the remainder was deferred.

Mr. Lynch explained to the school trustees present, numbering nearly 30, that Judge Covert, who heard the Clarenceville suit, had suggested that all the claims be brought in, and the matter adjusted on a basis fair to all. He said that the Clarenceville Board, by its alertness and energetic action, had "stolen a march" on the other boards, particularly by filing the suit at the right time to catch a good sum of money in the hands of the Township Treasurer.

Consider All Mr. Lynch said while that there was nothing wrong or unethical about the Clarenceville Board's taking action, it is advisable and fair that the situation be considered as a whole, and all districts be paid their proportionate share as fast as the Township can do so. Otherwise, he said, there will be suits at various times, each district trying to get what it can.

Representatives of Farmington City, Noble, West Farmington, Bond, No. 4 Fractional and Wall-ed Lake schools all indicated they would favor joining in the arrangement.

Amass Grace, representing the Nichols School district, gave a negative answer. He said he could see no advantage in the plan, and that the percentage of taxes collected is down to 40. "Next year it will be 30 and after that 20 and 10", said Mr. Grace. The Nichols district has \$1,541.74 due. Besides interest.

Special Fund Mr. Lynch replied that by joining in the arrangement.

New Commissioners Take Their Offices

Two new commissioners, Delos Hamlin and Howard Osmus, were welcomed to their places Monday evening by other members of Farmington's governing body.

Commissioner Osmus, by reason of the location of the chair he happened to sit in, will henceforth be "lead-off" man on the Commission. Having seated himself next to City Clerk N. H. Power Monday evening, Mr. Osmus will be called on first whenever a vote is taken. That is, providing he keeps the same chair.

Fire Escape To Be Put On School Building

In compliance with a requirement of the State Fire Marshal, a tubular steel fire escape will be installed in the near future on the Farmington High School building. The tube will lead from the gymnasium to the ground.

Purchase and installation of the tube was voted last Thursday evening by the Board of Education. The cost will be \$650.

City Employees Re-hired; Pay Cut

Commission Makes Reductions Averaging About Ten Per Cent In Salaries

Present City employees were re-engaged by the Farmington City Commission Monday evening, but with reductions in salary which average about ten per cent. A ten per cent reduction was made in the price paid to city labor, from 50 to 45 cents an hour. The lowered pay schedule is effective May 1.

William Maas, superintendent of public works, was re-hired for another year at a salary of \$1,900, his present salary being \$2,100. His assistant, Harvey Blough, is to receive \$1,400, as compared with \$1,500 at present. In addition, Mr. Blough is to receive his living quarters, light and water, as heretofore.

Car Expense Off Chief of Police Lee Doyle will receive the same salary, \$1,800, but maintenance of his car, which has been borne by the City, must be paid for by him after May 1. Officer Thomas Armstrong will receive \$1,600 instead of \$1,800. Chief Doyle will get two days off per month and Officer Armstrong two nights off each month.

Appointed Fireman Harold Grace was appointed a member of the volunteer fire department, replacing Meredith Steele, who is in Ann Arbor. Appointment of a health officer was deferred for a time. The appointments and salary reductions received the unanimous approval of the Commission.

EASTERN STARS ELECT OFFICERS; INSTALL APRIL 22

Mrs. Mary A. Johnson Selected Worthy Matron Of Chapter No. 239

Farmington Chapter, No. 239, O. E. S. held its annual meeting Tuesday evening, April 14 in the Masonic Hall.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Worthy matron, Mrs. Mary A. Johnson. Worthy patron, Benj. E. Storms. Associate matron, Mrs. Mae West. Associate patron, Arthur P. Coe. Secretary, Mrs. Ada Bond. Treasurer, Mrs. Lillian Zwalhen. Conductress, Mrs. Gertrude Webster. Associate conductress, Mrs. Allie M. Coe.

Mrs. Johnson is president of the Farmington Women's Club and a past president of the Oakland County Federation of Women's Clubs.

Alternates to Grand Chapter: Mrs. Kate E. Banfield, Mrs. Ethel A. Middlewood and Mrs. Josephine B. McGee. A special meeting for installation of officers will be held Wednesday, April 22, at 8 o'clock.