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City May Issue Notes In Effort To Meet Crisis

Hatton Suggests Tax-Anticipation Notes; Action Monday By Commission Expected

Farmington City may issue short-term notes to tide over its financial emergency, until taxes begin coming in next July. Issuance of tax-anticipation notes, suggested by Commissioner Hatton, was discussed by the Commission last Thursday night and may be brought up for action again Monday evening.

The issuance suggested by Mr. Hatton would not be classed as

Name Leo Gildemeister As Mayor Pro Tempore

Commissioner Leo Gildemeister is mayor pro tem of Farmington City following unanimous election of that position by his fellow commissioners at the first meeting of the new body. Mr. Gildemeister has led the field for the Commission in every election in which he has been a candidate, since the City was incorporated.

The mayor pro tem serves in the absence of the mayor from the City. His election was the first action of the new commission after the call to order.

ordinary "scrip" but would in reality be negotiable notes issued by the City, to be payable in six months. Mr. Hatton emphasized that the issue would be small, not to exceed \$1,000 in all, thus avoiding overburdening the town with them or their being loaded upon any one business-place or individual.

The notes would be in denominations of one, five and ten dollars, and would pay interest at three per cent. They would be accepted by the City for taxes, water bills, and any other obligations to the City. They would be redeemed by future tax collections and by deposits the City has in closed banks.

Since the city has \$18,000 in deposits in closed banks alone, there would be no possible question as to the security behind the notes. The purpose of the notes would not be to try to create a value that does not exist, as is true in some instances, but merely to help the City over the next three months while its deposits are tied up and its tax-collection period is still three months away.

It was pointed out that the notes would be helpful, since City employees have not been paid and other bills are also outstanding to the extent of over \$1,000. The notes would be issued for salaries and local bills, and those receiving them would endorse them the same as checks, when using them to make purchases or pay bills.

Commissioner Gildemeister, in charge of finance, expressed the belief that the City should be able to borrow \$5,000 on its \$18,000 deposits from the R. F. C. and at his request action was deferred until he could make an effort to do this end.

FARMINGTON WILL OBSERVE MAY 2, 3 AS CLEAN UP DAYS

Tuesday And Wednesday Are Set Aside For Spring Cleaning By Both Officials And Citizens

Saturday night for Farmington comes in the middle of next week—Tuesday and Wednesday, May 2 and 3, have been set aside by the City Commission as Clean Up Days.

The department of public works will make collection on both days of all rubbish which citizens place at the street curbs, in an effort to encourage a city-wide spring cleaning.

Alleys and other public places in Farmington's business section have already been cleared by the work of the department in the last week, and the two Clean Up Days are expected to extend the work throughout the town. The heart co-operation of the citizens is asked.

The City will be divided into two parts, North and South, in a contest for the removal of dirt and rubbish, to be judged by Howard Osmie and Harold Stedman.

Farmington To Go Back To The Soil In A Big Way; Garden Lots Offered

When you see John Doe strolling down the street with a hoe over his shoulder you will know he is on his way to his private garden.

This is going to be a year of gardens. Every wise man will have a garden if he can't have a bank account. The deposits in this garden will be backed by hard labor and the immutable laws of nature.

Whether your name is John Doe, or Richard Roe, or anything else, if you want a garden or more space than you now have, call the Enterprise office and specify the amount of ground you want and your address. A garden plot will

be assigned you as near your home as possible.

The garden plots are being furnished through the courtesy of certain citizens of the Community having unused vacant lots. Applications must be sent in at once. Plots will be assigned in the order of requests received.

The project, which is meant to increase the interest of the citizens in gardening and to some extent beautify the city, is of course entirely separate from the Welfare garden plan. The Welfare gardens will be devoted to the raising of foodstuffs, these are for anything the individual gardener desires—and they are being provided free.

Who Is Justice, And Who Is Not?

Lapham Is Justice Of Peace; Who Else Is Remains Matter For Debate

Has the City of Farmington one justice of the peace, three, or two? Who is in office and when do terms begin and end? A question these are questions that still await decision, and leave the city justice situation in a muddle, although the problem was supposed to have been settled two years ago. This much is certain, that Byron Lapham is justice of the peace.

Who else is, is a bone of contention. It all began two years ago. John H. Thayer was elected justice. The City Charter provides that justices of the peace take office on the second Monday in April, along with all other officials. A question was raised, however, on the ground that justice of the peace being a state office, the Farmington City justice would not take office until July 4, when the terms of township justices began.

Mr. Thayer reported such a decision after a conference, and later went to the prosecutor's office, after which they reported to the City Commission that the prosecutor's office had confirmed their opinion. This permitted Judge Schulte to continue in office until July 4.

Subsequently, however, Mr. Thayer was stricken with illness and resigned before taking up any justice work. Mr. Schulte was appointed to succeed him. Begun in office, he merely continued after July 4, entering upon the new term. His appointment, however, could only be until April election this year.

At the April 4 election, two justices were voted for, the remaining two years of Mr. Thayer's term, and a full four-year term justice, to succeed E. A. Fink. Byron Lapham was elected to fill the vacancy, succeeding Mr. Schulte, and that he took office the following Monday is undisputed, since he is filling a vacancy. Mr. Schulte, however, ran and was elected for the full term, and the question is again raised, whether the justice took office on July 4, if it began April 19, or whether he is judge. If not, Mr. Fink continues in office to July 4 and Mr. Lapham and Mr. Fink are the judges.

The matter was discussed by the Commission and Mr. Schulte last Thursday evening. The clerk was instructed to write the Attorney-General's office for an opinion as to whether the Charter or State law prevails.

William Davis, Injured City Worker, Is Better

Slight improvement was reported Thursday in the condition of William Davis, Farmington municipal worker who was severely injured by a truck crank April 19. X-rays taken at Mutual Laboratories Hospital, Detroit, where Davis is now confined, showed only slight head fractures.

Although he has not passed the danger point, doctors expressed confidence in his eventual recovery on finding that the fractures were small and limited to the region above and below the eye. A bad bruise behind the eye was also discovered.

Davis was injured while working on a city truck at the municipal dump. He was hit in the head when the crank he was turning to dump the load kicked back.

Welfare Burden Shows Big Gain

City's Responsibility Grows; List Of Needy Families 4 Times Larger Than Before

Welfare has suddenly loomed forth as a serious problem before officials of the City of Farmington. Formerly of restricted scope, with not more than half a dozen families, the City's welfare roll within recent months has leaped upward to such an extent as to have created genuine concern for the present and immediate future.

The problem was brought sharply into the foreground in a report made by Commissioner Staman last Thursday evening, showing a cost in March of \$404.98 for poor relief. This was almost double that of the previous month, February, which was over a third greater than that of the month before, January. A formidable total of bills remains unpaid.

According to the report of Mr. Staman, who is in charge of poor relief as the Commissioner's welfare commissioner, there have been 22 families put on the welfare rolls of the City. In January the cost was \$117.24, in February \$239.72, and in March \$404.98, making a total of \$822.94 for the three months. Unpaid welfare bills on April 1 totaled \$292.45, for food and fuel. Groceries alone have been averaging \$30 a week. Mr. Staman's report shows.

Equally as serious as the heavy welfare burden which has been put upon the City is the fact that there is no cash available to pay for food and fuel ordered. Suppliers have been carrying large accounts for the City.

One of the chief hopes lies in obtaining loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for May and June. This would not only provide cash, but would put the City on the list eligible to have unemployed men put on the roads for highway work.

In January and February the City applied for R. F. C. loans through the Township, but no application was made for a loan for either March or April. Only those cities and townships can obtain R. F. C. road work for their indigents which have applied for R. F. C. loans.

The Commission voted approval of the applications for loans of \$400 for May and \$350 for June, designating a motor and clerk to sign the papers. The application was filed Friday.

WOMAN'S CLUB TO HOLD CO-OPERATIVE LUNCHEON MONDAY

Junior Club Presents Civic Opera Conductor In Talk Before Parent Organization

The Annual meeting of the Farmington Woman's Club will be held at the home of Mrs. E. O. Hatten Wednesday, May 3. There will be a co-operative luncheon at one o'clock.

Members are asked to bring service plates, silver, sandwiches and one other article of food. The members of the club were guests of the Junior Woman's Club Monday evening, April 3, at the home of Mrs. Martha Warner.

The Junior Club had on their program Hadden's Wrecked, Conductor of Detroit Civic Opera who told the story of the opera "Jekyll and Hyde" and a make of the never-fading "Robin Hood". He also described one of the more curious masterpieces, "Carmen".

TUESDAY'S NIGHT 6:30-9:00 WEEKLY FARMINGTON "HARMONICERS."

'Fraud' In Levy Holds Up City's Overdue Taxes

County Ties Up Funds For Failure To Act On 1931 Decree Of Excessive Assessment

The City of Farmington is being held by the Oakland County treasurer for \$8,008 in delinquent taxes, as a result of failure to take proper action following a 1931 Circuit Court decree which has just come to light, and which ruled out a 1928 property assessment as "so grossly excessive as to amount to fraud." Because of this, the County has been holding back all delinquent tax money it has received for Farmington City and School District No. 5.

This situation was disclosed in a report by Commissioner Leo Gildemeister in charge of city finances, at a meeting of the Commission last Thursday evening. Already about \$800 has accumulated for the City and School District, but unless some corrective action can be taken which will be acceptable to the higher authorities, the County Treasurer will continue to hold this and all future sums. Instead of the City receiving \$800, Farmington's account is shown on the books at a deficit to the County of \$7,200, and the City and School District would receive no delinquent tax money until after \$8,008 had been received and applied.

Commissioner Gildemeister reported that the City's difficulty with the County Treasurer developed through misunderstanding of the decree issued by Judge Glenn C. Gillespie on April 24, 1931. Protested Levy

The decree followed a protest filed by Charles H. Ely, now deceased, and Mrs. Addie Ely, his wife, in April 1931. Earlier that year, the usual proceedings had been filed by the State Auditor-General in preparation for the annual sale of property on which taxes were delinquent for three years. The "sale" was for the year 1928. Lots 46, 54, 55 of Farmington Woods which had been subdivided out of the Ely Farm, were on the list for sale.

Written objection was filed by Mr. Ely, there being half a dozen objections to sale of various pieces of property in the bunch. Judge Gillespie heard the objections, and decided Ely's protest against the high assessments was well merited. He issued a decree ordering that the Ely Farm lots be withheld from sale and the property be reassessed for 1928 taxes, for the reason that the 1928 assessment was so grossly excessive as to amount to fraud. This was the only objection fully sustained by the judge in the hearings. Sale of the properties by the State in May, 1931, was thus halted.

Discover Tie-Up

The existence of this decree was not generally known, and was revealed within the last week or two, when city officials went to the County Treasurer's office to find out if the City had any delinquent tax money coming, which might aid the City through its financial difficulties to the end of the fiscal year on July 1 next. They were informed that there had been money received, but that it was being held back because of the trouble over the decree.

Commissioner Gildemeister stated that after Judge Glenn C. Gillespie's decree was issued, the present assessor, James Hogle, who did not make the 1928 assessment had been led to believe that since the decree had declared that the

(Continued on page five)

Committee To Handle Township-City Affairs

To bring about better understanding and mutual benefits of Farmington City and Township, Mayor Warner announced a new committee at the City Commission meeting last Thursday night. It is known as the Township-City Affairs Committee, and the purpose is to see that the City's part in all matters between Township and City is properly handled, and that attention and consideration be given to any important steps are taken.

Commissioner Gildemeister was designated and will have charge of the City of all matters involving the two governments, upon

Two Pioneers Are Mourned; Sprague, Webster Succumb

Early Residents Who Died This Week Were Oldest And Second Oldest Farmington Masons; Both Active As Citizens

Farmington was shocked this week by the death within twenty-four hours of two pioneer residents, Elliott Sprague and James Judson Webster.

Both men were born in Farmington, both lived here throughout their lives, both were active in community affairs for many years, and both were members of the Masonic Lodge. Before their death this week, Mr. Sprague was the oldest member of the lodge and Mr. Webster the second oldest.

James Judson Webster

James Judson Webster, a lifelong resident of Farmington, died at 2 o'clock Thursday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Clarence Webster in Flint, at the age of 77. Pneumonia was the cause.

Although funeral arrangements have not been completed, Spencer Heene left Thursday for Flint to bring the body back to Farmington for burial. H. Reed Webster, Mr. Webster's son, also went to Flint to join his aunt Mrs. E. C. Grace, who remained there through Thursday night.

Funeral services will be held in the home where Mr. Webster was born, the old Webster home on the corner of Grand River and Oakland.

Mr. Webster lived in Farmington all his life until last winter, when he went to live with his daughter, Most of his life was spent in farming. Mr. Webster lived on Farmington Road and Grand River. Mr. Webster's father, Gardour Webster, at one time owned a large part of what is now Farmington's business section.

Mr. Webster is survived only by his one son and daughter and his sister, Mrs. Grace.

WILLIAM S. KENYON, OF CLARENCEVILLE, INTERRED SATURDAY

Succumbed To Heart Attack April 19; Illness Lasted For Two Months

William S. Kenyon, 63, Clarenceville business man, was buried in Holy Sepulchre cemetery last Saturday morning following funeral services by Rev. Burt, Protestant Episcopal minister from Pontiac. Mr. Kenyon died on the morning of April 19, of a heart attack.

Mr. Kenyon had been ill for two months before the final seizure. He is survived by his wife and niece and nephew, James Donnelly and Mrs. Clayton Goers.

A resident of Clarenceville for more than ten years, Mr. Kenyon was the owner of a gasoline station, and active in the business life of the community.

BUSINESS WOMEN'S GROUP IS HOST TO 72 OAKLAND GIRLS

Hold Successful Conference To Advise Schoolgirls On Choosing Careers

Seventy-two Oakland county school girls were entertained last Saturday by Farmington Business and Professional Women's club in an all-day Girls' Conference.

Speakers at group conferences were: Mary Jorgenson of the Redford Rectory, talking on newspaper work; Elizabeth Weld of Pontiac, home economics; Sarah Jones of Rochester, farming; Ellen McMurry of Wayne, business; Miss Jessie Olin, tea-room management; Miss Cleo Murland of the University of Michigan gave the speech at the morning session. The girls were given luncheon at the Methodist Church and a banquet Saturday evening at the Evangelical church. The day was completed by a party at Farmington high school.

Mrs. Nacker New Head Of Past Matrons' Club

Farmington Past Matrons' Club, Order of the Eastern Star, held its annual luncheon meeting Thursday noon at the home of Mrs. Adolph Nacker into office as president.

The luncheon was at the home of Mrs. Lottie Waller on Grand River Avenue.

TUESDAY NIGHT 6:00-9:00 WEEKLY FARMINGTON "HARMONICERS."

Elliott S. Sprague

Elliott S. Sprague, 86, a lifelong resident of Farmington Township, died at his farm home, Drake Road, late Wednesday afternoon after a week's illness.

His death was due to complications which set in after he suffered a broken collar bone a week ago Wednesday. A newly-purchased horse which he was leading out of the barn on his farm wheeled around in fright and threw him to the ground.

He was the eldest child in a family of nine children of Alonzo and Miranda Sprague, Alonzo Sprague of Belleville being the only surviving member of the family. He was born August 23rd, 1846 in Farmington Township.

On January 8, 1873 he married Eva Heath. They lived for the first two years of their married life on a farm in Cornum where they purchased a parcel of land from the Carlos Stead farm where they have lived ever since. The couple quietly celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary last winter.

Mr. Sprague has been one of the leading farmers of the community and very active until the past year.

Before Mr. Sprague's death he was the oldest living member of Farmington Masonic Lodge, and at one time both he and Mrs. Sprague were members of the O. E. S. chapter.

He leaves, besides his widow, one son, Lyman Sprague, a granddaughter and many nieces and nephews.

He was a member of Farmington Universalist Church.

Services will be held from his late home Saturday at one o'clock in the church in West Farmington cemetery.

The Rev. Record of the Unitarian-Universalist church conducts the services.

CITY EMPLOYEES ARE REAPPOINTED BY COMMISSION

New Commission Affirms Status Of Employees And Officials By Unanimous Vote

Officials and employees of Farmington City will continue in the positions they have been holding, having been re-appointed at the first meeting of the new City Commission last Thursday evening. The appointments, made by the Commission all received unanimous votes.

Re-appointed by the commission are William Meas as superintendent of public works; Harvey Blough as assistant, Dr. Joseph W. Norton as health officer; and all of the volunteer firemen. Salaries were not set, in view of the fact that the city is without funds and faces serious financial problems in the coming year.

A bit of assistance much welcomed by the Commission in view of the City's straitened circumstances was a voluntary reduction of the firemen's compensation. In a communication to the Commission, Chief Norman Lee recommended that the pay be reduced as follows: calls to be \$1.50 instead of \$1.80, and the original pay for calls to cover the first two hours instead of the first one hour; over two hours the pay to be 75 cents an hour instead of 90 cents formerly paid; after the first hour, thus, fires under an hour that formerly cost \$1.83 will cost \$1.50, and for two hours the cost will be \$1.50 instead of \$2.70. The figures are all per man.

The Commission accepted the offer, and re-appointed Mr. Lee as chief and Ed Thayer as assistant chief.

COMMISSION MEETING
Farmington City Commission will hold its regular May meeting Monday evening, May 1.