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RICHARD HABICH, Farmington Exchange agent, makes a sale for the Farmington Goodfellow at the downtown intersection of Grand River and Farmington Rd. (Evert photo)



BILL O' CONNER, Farmington Elks, was among the Goodfellow old newsmen manning the intersection of Grand River and Orchard Lake Rds. for Friday's paper sale. (Evert photo)



EMORY DANIELS, Farmington Rotarian, sells the Goodfellow Paper he edited at the corner of Grand River and Halstead. (Evert photo)



LARRY FREEDMAN, Farmington Rotarian, sells a damp copy of the Goodfellow Paper to a local donor stopped at the Grand River - Halstead intersection. (Evert photo)

Residents Protest Tax Fee

Continued from Page 1A

provided for those rural townships who lack a full time, salaried treasurer. The fee income becomes the treasurer's salary.

In townships such as Farmington which has a full-time treasurer, Brennan added, the board is given the option by state law to waive the collection fee.

NOLAN COMMENTED the fee has been waived for at least seven years.

This year, he added, the operating budget could not have been balanced without revenues from the collection fee.

He cited the new fire station

and ladder truck as capital expenses plus rising salary costs for police officers.

The board's finance committee recommended to trustees that the fee be collected, Nolan said, and the board informally agreed to collect the fee with the \$118,000 being included in the budget revealed at the budget hearing to the public.

FROM THE audience, William Hatton complained that the audit shows the township had about \$700,000 in uncommitted funds in its revolving account and other accounts as of March 31, 1971.

Nolan said that the township's expenses do not coincide with the collection of tax revenues, and for years the board has had to borrow from other funds, such as the revolving fund, to keep the general fund balanced.

Nolan said these funds represent no surplus, and if the township lacked \$300,000 in its revolving fund now, it would be unable to build a new fire station.

Trustee Fred Lichtman commented that only three residents bothered to attend

the public hearing on the budget which was advertised in advance. The budget was printed, he added, and the collection fee discussed at the hearing without protest.

Trustee David Stader commented that the township's financial condition had reached the point where the board either had to impose the one per cent fee or place a millage proposal on the ballot.

Although some residents argued a millage proposal should have been placed on the ballot, others quickly asserted that any millage suggested would be voted down.

Stader commented that it was ironic the board was now being condemned for collecting the one per cent fee when no one had commended the board during the many years the fee was waived.

THE BOARD was in general agreement that it was impossible to rescind the fee this year.

Nolan commented that during 1971 the township's tax base (state equalized valuation) increased seven per cent. The valuation increase plus the collection fee resulted in a total 1971-72 operating budget of \$1.9 million. Thus, the one per cent fee increased the township's total operating budget by about five per cent.

Clerk Floyd Cairns noted the City of Farmington imposes the collection fee and added that without the revolving accounts, the township would have a deficit in December of about \$245,000.

Trustee Fred Lichtman stated that if residents approve additional millage, the board could rescind the fee next year and add all recent millage requests have been denied.

Lichtman scolded residents for not showing an interest in township government and asked: "Are we supposed to bus you to budget hearings? You have an obligation as citizens to be here when money is spent."

A motion was proposed by Lichtman and adopted 7-0 that the board, having carefully considered its budget, do nothing further about the collection fee.

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Graduation Carb OK'd

Harrison High school seniors will be garbed in dark green robes and matching hats with green and gold tassels when the school holds its first commencement exercise next June.

The girls' robes will have a gold collar. Official graduation dress was adopted for Farmington's three high schools at the board of

education's last meeting. North Farmington High male graduates will wear brown gowns and caps and the girls' gowns and caps. Both will have brown and gold tassels on their caps.

Farmington High will retain its traditional blue gown and blue cap with blue and white tassels. The girls' gowns will have white collars.

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