

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Township Hires Consultant For Police Federal Grants

Farmington Township will be engaging services of a management consultant for its police department at an expense of \$3,000 for four months work.

The consultant will function as an administrative assistant to Ronald Holko, director of public safety, and will primarily be preparing applications for federal grants.

THE POSITION was originally described as an administrative assistant to the director when Holko first presented the proposal to the

township board's finance committee.

But the title was changed to management analysis consultant when Holko made the formal request to the township board at its regular meeting Monday night.

Holko told trustees the consultant would help him get "caught up on paper work" and assist in preparing grants for federal aid until the director is able to train personnel in the department to handle these duties.

The consultant will work three days or 24 hours a week

for four months, Holko said, for the \$3,000 fee. Part of his duties will be to assist personnel in the department to learn the work the consultant will handle temporarily.

THE PROPOSAL authorizing the \$3,000, an over-budget item, was approved by trustees 7-0 but not before dissenting discussion. Trustee David Stader questioned why Irving Yakes could not be assigned the duties which the consultant will assume.

Stader pointed out the board

is paying a full-time salary for Holko and Yakes, and Yakes is supposed to be an administrative assistant to the director.

Holko said the consultant is very experienced, having prepared federal grant applications for a number of other communities.

SUPERVISOR Earl Teeples and Clerk Floyd Cairns observed that Yakes had done a lot of work, along with Lt. William Kelley and Sgt. Arlo Newell, in preparing the grant for the traffic safety bureau which has since been funded.

Holko answered that the traffic safety grant was not as involved as other grant applications and that the consultant would also be available to assist the township in other non-police federal grant applications.

Stader praised Holko for his leadership but added that Yakes has experience and capability. Yakes now has more time available since Holko has assumed duties as director, Stader added.

Treasurer Thomas Nolan commented that grant applications require an expertise that is now missing in the department, except for Holko, who has a number of operational duties to perform. Trustee Fred Lichtman said that reshaping the police department is a very time-consuming job that could use assistance of the consultant.

considered in Farmington would have to sub-contract the electrical and mechanical design work, and he recommended the St. Clair Shores firm because it handled all the design work itself.

After considerable discussion, trustees voted 6-1 to hire the architect recommended by Holko with Teeples casting the dissenting vote.

THE BOARD then approved an application for federal grant that Holko has been working on for the past 60 days.

The grant, if funded by the federal government, will allow the township to hire four cadets beginning July 1 for two years.

The township would pay a total of \$16,000 for the four cadets for two years with the federal government contributing \$64,000.

The cadets would work in the station for 20 hours a week and attend school for 20 hours a week. At the end of two years, the cadets would obtain an associate police degree and be eligible for elevation to patrolman.

Holko said the board would not be obligated to hire the four cadets as patrolmen if the positions were not open and neither would the cadets be obligated to become employed as township patrolmen after obtaining their degrees.

Motion to authorize filing of the application was made by Nolan, supported by Cairns, and passed 7-0.

Leaders Pray

The fifth annual Farmington community leadership prayer breakfast will be held Jan. 19, and invited as guest speaker is Dick Headlee, of Farmington, a bishop of the Mormon Church and past U.S. Jaycee president.

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Free Babysitters

The Farmington Community Concert Band is opening its new season Jan. 18 with a performance in Harrison High auditorium. Not only is the concert free, but free baby-sitting is also being offered.

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Sidewalk Lawsuit

After reading the story on page one about cooperation one builder has given in building a needed sidewalk, turn inside for a story about Farmington Township having to start a lawsuit to force other developers to build sidewalks required by ordinance.

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For Clarenceville

The Clarenceville Board of Education will be asked Thursday to adopt a set of "guidelines" for the controversial high school newspaper. . . . In other Clarenceville news, a former administrator was killed by a bank holdup man in East Lansing.

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DEATH SCENE — This home on Drake north of 13 Mile in Farmington Township was the scene of the death Saturday forenoon of Mrs.

May E. Albert, 83. Her husband, Harry, 85, was charged Monday with first-degree murder and stood mute when arraigned. (Evert photo)

Accused Wife-Slayer To Take Mental Tests

An 85-year-old Farmington Township man charged with first-degree murder of his wife has been referred for psychiatric examination to see if he is capable of standing trial.

Harry J. Albert Sr. of 29734 Drake stood mute when arraigned Monday afternoon before Farmington District Judge Michael J. Hand.

HAND DENIED bond and directed that Albert be referred to the Forensic Center of University of Michigan in Ypsilanti to determine whether he is capable of assisting counsel in his defense and whether he is mentally competent to stand trial.

Albert was arrested Saturday by Farmington Township detectives, and a first-degree murder warrant was issued Monday by the Oakland County prosecutor.

He is being charged in the death of his wife of 58 years, Mrs. May E. Albert, 83, known to friends as Mary Elizabeth. The Alberts were living with their daughter, Mrs. Joan Knapp on Drake Rd. for the past three years.

Mrs. Knapp had left for work at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. Upon returning home about five hours later, police say, she discovered the bodies of both her parents lying side by side on a bed in the middle bedroom.

Three township firemen arrived and administered oxygen and first aid. The Alberts were taken to Botsford General Hospital and Mrs. Albert was pronounced dead on arrival at 1:10 p.m.

POLICE SAY Mrs. Albert had a stab wound on the left

side of the chest and rope burns on the neck.

Albert was treated for superficial, self-inflicted wrist cuts at Botsford, says Ronald Holko, township public safety director, and turned over to the custody of township police. Police confiscated a long-blade kitchen knife.

Mrs. Albert had been ill for about eight years and had suffered a serious heart attack shortly after the couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1961.

Albert retired 20 years ago after spending 40 years as a designer of structural steel. Other survivors include: sons Frank and Jack Albert, both of Detroit; daughter Mrs. Knapp of Farmington Township; and Mrs. May E. Zellers, a daughter, of Florida; and several grand children. Funeral

arrangements are being made.

ALBERT HAS been committed to Oakland County Jail until he is transferred to the Forensic Center, says Judge Hand, but will be released to attend his wife's funeral.

O. Edgar Gambin of Detroit, defense attorney, asked Hand during Monday's arraignment that Albert undergo psychiatric examination before pre-trial examination is held.

Gambin agreed to waiving the 14-day rule which requires that defendants receive an examination to determine probable cause within 14 days of the issuance of a warrant.

Judge Hand says if Albert is found incapable of standing trial, he will be committed to a mental institution. The judge said the mental examination will take about 60 days.



SUSPECT ARRAIGNED — Harry Albert (left) is taken into the Farmington Township Police Station by Lt. Russell Conway, chief of detectives, after being arraigned Monday afternoon on a charge of first-degree murder of his wife. (Ralph Evert photo)

Sidewalk Is Built Early

Opening of school on Jan. 4 after holiday vacations saw East Farmington Junior High students using a new sidewalk to get safely to and from school.

The sidewalk installation was triggered when Kim Putnam, an East Junior High student, was hit by a car and injured while crossing Middle Belt near the school.

Chatham Super Markets, which is building a food center to the north of the school on the southeast corner of 11 Mile and Middle Belt, agreed to install the walk for school children before the footings were poured for the building.

Al Weisberg, Chatham vice president, agreed to install the sidewalk along the outside of his property after meeting with Township Supervisor Earl Teeples.

The walk was accelerated by a meeting with school officials, county road engineers and the center's general contractor. One meeting resulted in approval from Oakland County for the walk on county property, a setting of proper grades and an agreement between the general contractor and the building owners to install the walk.

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NEW SIDEWALK — When school opened Jan. 3 after the holidays, students at East Junior High of Farmington Schools had a new sidewalk to walk to school along Middle Belt. The walk was installed by Chatham Food Centers. Shown

on the walk are: (from left) Jim Betts; John Boleski; Mike Costello; Earl Teeples, Farmington Township supervisor; Ramon L. Owen, general contractor; and Al Weisberg, vice president of Chatham. (Evert photo)



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