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Introduce Ordinance Placing City Planning Commission Under State Act

Council Moves To Expand Planning Authority Through Provisions Of The Enabling Law

The City Council, at its regular meeting Monday evening, formally introduced a new ordinance providing for the organization of the Planning Commission under the provisions of the State Enabling Act.

The ordinance is in compliance with the provisions of the proposed newly revised Zoning Ordinance and increases the powers and authority of the Planning Commission. Under the provisions of the ordinance, the Planning Commission will have the authority to conduct public hearings, to adopt regulations governing the subdivision of land, and to pass on all new plats before they are filed for record. The ordinance makes the Commission a legal body under state law. Final action on the proposal will be taken up at the next regular meeting of the Council on March 19.

The Council approved a motion to purchase a 12-foot strip of land along the north side of Shiawassee West of Orchard Lake Road from the Detroit Edison Company at the agreed price of $1,000. The total area of 12,000 square feet is being purchased to provide a right-of-way for the construction of a sidewalk along the property. The city will proceed with the construction of the sidewalk as soon as possible and bill the Edison Company for the improvement.

A CONTRACT for the purchase of sewer cleaning equipment was awarded to the W. H. Stewart Company, Syracuse, New York, in the amount of $2,655.46 as per quotation. An electric eel, supplementary equipment for cleaning lines, was also purchased from the Ohio Tool and Engineering Company for the sum of $1,109.68. It was pointed out by the Council that the total cost of the new equipment is less than the amount being paid annually for the rental of equipment and contracting of personnel to clean sewers.

Property owners on State Street, between Wilmarth and Cass, appeared before the Council to seek action on the sewer problem. They stated that repeated requests have been made to the city office re-

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Firemen Kept Busy During Storm Monday

Summoned Four Times In Three Hour Period

Volunteer firemen of Farmington Fire Station No. 2 on Wheeler Street were kept exceptionally busy answering fire calls during the thunderstorm in this area Monday evening.

The first call came in around 8:30 p.m. for standby service when an electric line was blown down across Grand River on a passing oil truck near Colwell. The truck could not be moved and traffic was re-routed on Grand River until Edison workers could repair the line.

A short time later another call summoned the firemen when it was reported that a house had been struck by lightning. This proved to be a false alarm.

The third call came when smoke was seen pouring out of Nette's Meat Market on Eight Mile and Grand River. An electric motor on the store's cooling system burned out. The fire was extinguished immediately and only minor damage was reported.

The final call was for standby service when another electric line blew down in the area.

Some homes in the vicinity were without electric power while repairs were made on the lines.

Zoning Hearing Set For March 14

Next Wednesday, March 14, has been set as the date for a public Hearing on a proposed amendment to the Township Zoning Ordinance.

Leo Kelly, chairman of the Zoning Board, stated that the hearing will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. All residents of the Township affected by the proposed change are invited to attend the hearing and participate in the discussion.

The proposal concerns the rezoning of a parcel of land at the southwest corner of Twelve Mile and Orchard Lake Roads from Residential One and Residential Three to Commercial. The area to be rezoned covers approximately ten acres of land. A portion of the adjacent area is already zoned as commercial.

According to officials the owner of the property has agreed to deed a strip of land to the County Road Commission for the straightening of Orchard Lake Road at the Twelve Mile intersection provided that the rezoning is approved.

WATER COMMITTEE OFFERS TO MEET WITH STATE

Mrs. Philip Newberg, secretary of the Farmington Township Water Development Association, stated this week that the organization has advised the State Health Department that they will be happy to meet with them any time to discuss the water problem in the Township.

The offer to meet with the State is in response to a letter from John E. Vogt, Sanitary Engineer of the Health Department, copies of which were mailed to Ernest Blanchard, Township Supervisor, and Dr. Joseph Gadbaw, chairman of the Water Development Association. Vogt has offered the facilities of the State Health Department in an effort to solve the water problem.

AROUND THE BLOCK

THE WEATHER . . . has a sly way of creeping into the news every year about this time and it does a pretty good job of capturing the headlines. For the second week in a row the weather is top conversation almost every where you turn. On Sunday, the sun managed to break through a little bit and there was a feeling of Spring in the air. But that was rather short-lived, because Monday brought rain, lightning, thunder and one of the heaviest hail storms we have experienced in quite some time. Tuesday was pretty much a repetition of the day before with more rain, lightning and hail. So it goes, as Spring makes a determined effort to move in and Winter makes an equally determined effort to stick around for a while. How long will Winter hold out? Your guess is as good as ours.

* * * *

SPEAKING OF SPRING . . . and all that goes with it, have you tried any of the side roads lately? If you haven't, don't start now, because it most likely will cost you a towing bill. According to reports, the warm weather coupled with heavy rains has resulted in a fast thaw and that means just one thing . . . "mud." The familiar sight of cars parked along hard surfaced roads and people footing it through the mire to their homes is already beginning to take shape. And you can be sure that as the next few months roll by, many of the roads in Farmington City and Township will draw plenty of comments. So heed this advice, keep to the high ground where ever possible and by all means look before you plunge.

* * * *

DUMPING OF RUBBISH . . . along roads in Farmington Township is against the law. This was graphically illustrated once again this week when three men were found guilty of the charge before Justice Allen C. Ingle. The three men, Willie Rosser, James Ray and Manious Stanley, all of Detroit, were apprehended dumping rubbish in a drainage ditch on Middlebelt between Grand River and Eight Mile Road. They received fines of $100 each or 90 days in the Oakland County Jail. Ingle stated that none of the men could pay the fine and thus were sentenced to jail. The illegal dumping of rubbish in the Township has been a growing problem and every effort is being made to eliminate it!

DETROIT OK'S EXTENSION OF WATER TO TOWNSHIP

State Plans New Action Against City On Pollution

Charge Non-Compliance With Court Order

The City Council was advised Monday that the Water Resources Commission has requested the Attorney General to take appropriate action to secure compliance with the Court Order by the City of Farmington in regard to the abatement of pollution of the Rouge River.

The notification was forwarded to the City Council in the form of a letter from Milton P. Adams, Executive Secretary of the Commission. The letter recounts the action taken by the Commission at its regular meeting on February 21. The minutes of the meeting read, "Under Court Order requiring that plans be submitted by January 1, 1956, Mr. Pierce reported that plans had been submitted that are not acceptable to the Michigan Department of Health."

"Pierce recommended that the matter be referred to the Attorney General for necessary action. The Commission moved that the Attorney General be requested to take appropriate action to secure compliance with the Court Order. The motion was unanimously carried."

FOLLOWING the reading of the communication from Adams, the Council directed Paul Pare', City Attorney, to forward a letter to the Attorney General, advising him of the action taken by the City in joining the Farmington Interceptor Authority as well as additional plans which have recently been filed with the Department of Health.

City officials stated that the new plans cover sewer facilities for the city area with specifications for oversize mains between Middlebelt Road and the connection with the Detroit system to include the Interceptor plan. At the same time, efforts are being made by the Authority to arrange for the engineering and financing of the proposed Interceptor

Boards Of Review Have Busy Day

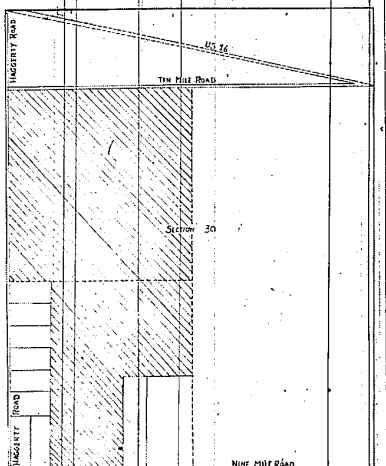
Both the City and Township Boards of Review were kept busy on Tuesday rechecking assessment figures and answering questions from property owners regarding tax matters.

The Boards held the first of a series of annual sessions on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. An unusually large number of persons appeared before the Boards. Officials credited the high degree of activity to various alterations in the assessments as well as the current tax situation.

Sessions of the two Boards will continue next Monday and Tuesday. The Township Board of Review will meet at the Town Hall on Monday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Tuesday, March 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The City Board of Review will reconvene at the Municipal Building on Monday, March 12 and Tuesday, March 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All property owners liable to the assessment rolls of the City or Township are invited to appear before the respective Boards if they have any questions regarding their assessment.

ONE OF THE BUSIEST spots in Farmington on Monday was the City Council chambers, where the Board of Review was holding its initial session for the current year. According to officials, a steady stream of city property owners appeared before the Board to inquire about their 1956 assessments. Pictured left to right during one of the conferences is R. Schoultz, property owner; Delos Hamlin, C. Goddard Smith and Leo Gildemeister, Board Members, and Don Dates, City Assessor. During the same period the Township Board of Review was meeting at the Town Hall, although officials reported only a normal number of inquiries. Both Boards will continue their sessions on Monday and Tuesday.



PROPOSED PLANS for the rezoning of approximately 244 acres of land in the southwest section of the Township to make way for the construction of a race track and recreation center are now being considered by the Township. The location of the proposed site, which would have to be rezoned from Residential to Commercial, is designated by the shaded area on the map. It is located in the western half of Section 30, between Nine and Ten Mile Roads, immediately east of Haggerty Road.

Organize New Citizens' Committee To Study Township Water Problem

Group Offers To Assist Water Development Association And Board In Reaching Solution

A group of Farmington Township Citizens met Friday evening, March 3, at the NorWest Recreation Club Room and unanimously approved the formation of a Voluntary Citizens Committee to assist the Township Board and the Water Development Committee in working out a solution to the water problem.

Doyle Woods was unanimously elected chairman of the Committee. A sub-committee was appointed to study and make recommendations for a solution to the water problems in the Township. Elected to this committee were George Steinberger, chairman; Colin MacKay and John Spicer. The committee agreed to study the problem and report at a later date.

Citizens present at the meeting included: Ralph Evert, representing Springland Subdivision and La-Muera Estates Subdivision; Herbert R. Neal, representing Forest Hills Subdivision; George Steinberger, representing Franklin Knolls, Franklin Forest and Franklin Fairways Subdivisions; Frank Downs and Dr. E. Howard Hanna, representing Quaker Valley Subdivision; Ken Binder, representing Rougemont Subdivision; Richard C. Habicht, representing Normandy Hills Subdivision; Colin

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Work On School Sites Continues

Negotiations are continuing this week on the purchase of two sites in Farmington Township for the proposed construction of new elementary school buildings.

The negotiations are being conducted by individual members of the Farmington Board of Education. The one proposed site, located in the central portion of Section 9, north of the Kendallwood Subdivision, is expected to be purchased as soon as legal description can be secured. Efforts are also being made to complete arrangements for the purchase of a second site near the center of Section 10 between the Westbrooke Manor Subdivision and the Kendallwood No. 2 Subdivision. The first site contains approximately six acres while the second site includes about eight acres.

The School Board, at its last regular meeting, authorized Bayard Tupper and Wendell Brown to proceed with final negotiations for the purchase of the two individual parcels.

POST OFFICE SETS NEW WEEK-DAY CLOSING HOUR

Starting Friday, March 16, the Farmington Post Office will close week days at 5:30 p.m. instead of the present 6:00 p.m., Henry Trombley, Postmaster, announced this week.

Trombley added that the present Saturday schedule will remain in force with the office remaining open until 12 noon. The Postmaster stated that the earlier closing time on week days will enable the Post Office to prepare for the dispatch of all mail deposited in the office up to closing time on the same day.

Trombley stated that it is the hope of the Post Office that the new regulations will not inconvenience anyone. Should there be any complaints, patrons are requested to refer them directly to the Farmington Postmaster.

ONLY ONE MINOR AUTO ACCIDENT INJURY REPORTED

Only one minor personal injury auto accident was reported in the Farmington area during the past week despite the fact that traffic was heavy in the area.

Paul W. Smith of Garden City suffered lacerations to his chin and jaw when the auto in which he was traveling alone early Sunday morning ran off Twelve Mile Road near Halsted Road and crashed into a tree.

According to a police report, Smith apparently fell asleep at the wheel of his car. He was taken to the Garden City Medical Center for treatment of his injuries.

Officials Report Unusually Heavy Vote Registration

Books Close March 16 For School Election

City and Township clerks report this week that registration activities in connection with the coming Farmington School District election are running unusually high for a special vote.

Floyd A. Cairns, Township Clerk, stated that approximately 50 new registrations have been taken thus far during the special period. At the same time, over 318 new registrations have been recorded in the City, according to Kathryn Cotter, City Clerk. These figures are extremely high for a special registration period.

Eligible electors of the School District living in Farmington Township may register at the Town Hall any week day from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Electors living in the City may register at the Municipal Building any week day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Persons residing in that portion of the District located in Novi Township and the City of Livonia are to register at their respective Township and City offices during regular business hours.

ON FRIDAY, March 16, the final day of registration for the special school election, all offices will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the purpose of recording registrations. Only those persons whose names do not appear on the books need to register. Electors must be registered by 5 p.m. on March 16 in order to be eligible to vote in the special school election.

The school vote concerns a proposed $2,000,000 bond issue which, if approved, will provide funds for the construction of a new junior high school building as well as three new elementary schools.

Study Candidates For Library Board

Appointments to the newly created Farmington District Library Board are now being considered by the City Council and Township Board.

A list of recommended candidates was submitted to the City Council Monday evening by the Friends of the Library. After some discussion, the Council moved to table the matter pending a study of the recommended candidates. James Cavanaugh suggested that one of the appointees be selected from the Council since funds for operation and maintenance of the Library will come from the City budget. Several other members stated that they felt the Councilmen should be excluded because of their other regular duties.

Consideration of appointments by the Township Board is expected to come up at the next regular meeting Tuesday evening. Floyd A. Cairns, Township Clerk, stated that a list of prospective candidates has been filed with the Township by the Friends of the Library.

Two appointees are to be selected by both the City Council and Township Board. The Library Board will have complete authority over the administration of the new library.

PLAN TO DEDICATE NEW 'WHITE WAY' IN CITY MARCH 16

Formal dedication of the new "white way" street lighting in the Farmington business area has been been set for next Friday evening, City officials reported Tuesday.

The new boulevard-type lights were turned on Wednesday but the formal dedication is being delayed until the old standards can be removed. Details of the dedication program are now being worked out by city officials and representatives of the Detroit Edison Company. The new lights cover the business area along Grand River and South Farmington Road.

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Supervisor Announces Proposal For Relief Of Water Problem

Ernest Blanchard, Township Supervisor, reported to The Enterprise Tuesday that permission has been received for the extension of Detroit water to the so-called "dry area" of Farmington Township.

The details of the proposal are now being worked out between the City of Detroit and the Farmington Township Board. Blanchard stated that release of the information on the proposed extension was approved by officials of the Detroit Water Board early this week. Officials emphasized that the problems of financing must still be worked out, but that the cost of the extension will be considerably less and the system will be far more satisfactory than previous proposals.

In a formal statement signed by Blanchard and approved by officials of the Detroit Water Board, the details of the program are outlined as follows:

"The problem of supplying water to the so-called dry area of Farmington Township is a difficult one and not simple. However, for some considerable time the Farmington Township Board has been working quietly but insistently toward obtaining water for this dry area. Outwardly it might seem that accomplishment is slow, but this is a big problem and difficult.

"Some two years ago the Detroit Water Board was consulted and was then unable to furnish Detroit water to the township. A meeting was recently arranged between the Township Supervisor, Mr. Ernest V. Blanchard and other Township Board members with Mr. G. Remus, Executive head of the Detroit Water System and with its Engineers Mr. Michael and Mr. Day. This has paved the way for the obtaining of Detroit water.

"The details are now being worked out between the City of Detroit and Farmington Township Board and this will permit the extension of Detroit water so as to serve Farmington Township.

"The plan is that Detroit will extend its 48" main along Eight Mile Road west to the intersection of Telegraph Highway, or possibly slightly further west. This extension will then enable the Farmington Township Water System, or a system composed in part by Farmington Township and in part of the southwesterly portion of Southfield Township, to connect on at that point with a large feeder line of perhaps 36" and thus obtain an ample and suitable supply of Detroit water.

"This plan will necessitate a storage facility and a booster system and will incur some additional cost accordingly. However, it is felt that it would be much more satisfactory to obtain a steady and reliable supply from the Detroit System than to rely upon local wells. It is further thought that this would make it unnecessary to drill wells in the northern part of the township where present well water supply seems to be temporarily adequate.

"The details of this plan are now being worked out by Mr. Blanchard, the Township Supervisor, the Township Engineers, Hite and Hirn, with the assistance of Judge Arthur E. Moore, who has been aiding the township in this program.

"The Township Board feels a responsibility for all sections of the Township of Farmington and that it is necessary to obtain a water supply for the dry area in such a manner as will not be unfair to any other section of the township. This plan seems to be ideal in this regard.

"It is hoped that all sections of the township will cooperate towards its accomplishment. Obtaining Detroit water will solve many of the water problems of the township and aid in the development of this fine area."

Citizen's Group Backs Bond Issue At Clarenceville

Study Sketches Of New H. S. At Joint Meeting

Individual members of the Clarenceville Citizens Advisory Committee have indorsed the proposed $750,000 bond issue for construction of a new high school building, it was announced following a joint meeting with the Board of Education Monday evening.

Officials emphasized that the endorsement was by the members of the Committee as individuals and not necessarily as representatives of the various civic and service organizations. It was also announced that the first organization to endorse the proposal is the Northeast Livonia Civic Association.

Prior to the vote by the individual members of the Committee, preliminary sketches of the proposed high school were discussed with Walter Anicka, School architect. The sketches covered the general layout of the proposed building, possible future projections and location of the structure on the property.

FUTURE ACTION on the development of final plans will be delayed pending the outcome of the special bond issue election, set for April 23. The Citizens' Committee took no action on the preliminary sketches, since this is outside their jurisdiction. The Board, however, suggested a number of minor changes which it felt should be incorporated into the final plans if the bond issue proposal is approved.

The Citizens' Committee set April 2 as the date of its next meeting, at which time further discussions will be held on the proposed bond issue.

CITY ASSESSMENT ROLL HITS NEW RECORD HIGH

Preliminary figures released this week by city officials tentatively place the assessed value of real property in the City of Farmington at $5,675,410 and personal property at $1,551,190.

This represents an increase of approximately $1,300,000 in real property over the 1955 assessment. Officials stated that new building, especially in the commercial areas, as well as some adjustments in existing property, is responsible for the increase. The new figures are subject to minor change by action of the Board of Review.

Officials stated that the tentative figures on personal property also show a comparable increase in assessments between 1955 and 1956.

CONSTRUCTION work on four bridges on the expressway project from Farmington to Brighton will resume in full swing shortly, following a slowdown during the winter months. The above picture was taken last week at the site of the bridge which will carry Grand River over the Expressway west of Halsted Road. The other overpass under construction in the Farmington area will carry the Expressway over Farmington Road north of Nine Mile Road.