

Zoning Changes A Local Responsibility

Where does the responsibility on re-zoning matter really lie? It is a question we are asking ourselves right now in view of the action taken last week by the Township Board in referring a request for re-zoning which the Township Planning Commission had previously unanimously rejected back to the planners for reconsideration.

The property involved is an approximately five acre parcel at the northeast corner of Northwestern Highway and Middlebelt Road that the owners are seeking to have re-zoned from its present business and single family residential classifications to permit a 44 unit apartment development.

The feeling of members of the planning commission, as expressed at the public hearing and during their study of the request, was that they wanted to go slow in re-zoning any more property for apartment developments in the township until areas presently zoned for multiple housing are developed. The planning commission members, like us, are not opposed to apartments but are fearful that allowing too much land area to be developed with apartments could prove very detrimental to the community in years to come.

Township Board members made it quite clear that their chief reason for referring the matter back to the planners rather than accepting their initial recommendation was because of the opinions expressed by the township's planning consultant and the Oakland County Zoning Coordinating Committee regarding this parcel. Both the consultant and coordinating committee stated they felt that this was a logical use for this parcel and provided a transition type of development between commercial properties on Northwestern and single family home properties to the north and east.

This might very well be true. But, following this premise, it would seem that it would hold true for all property

located between commercially zoned property along a major thoroughfare and single family home developments set back in a little further. An awful lot of property in the community could qualify as suitable for apartment developments on this basis. We fear that we would end up with a lot more apartments than Farmington would want or could justify having.

Some of us firmly believe that every community should have a planning consultant that the local planners and officials can call on for professional advice. We also see real value in having a county coordinating committee to review proposed re-zoning requests from the various communities in the county.

But, we also firmly believe that the final decisions on both zoning and rezoning matters in any community should rest squarely with the planning commission members and the officials elected to conduct local governmental business.

The theory of good planning and zoning can best be set forth by the professional planners. But, the implementation of this theory as it applies to local situations and circumstances must remain under the jurisdiction and control of the local officials and planners, in our opinion.

Those who bought the property in question knew full well what the parcel was zoned for when they bought it or at least should have. If it is zoning so totally unreasonable that development will never be possible or practical then it should be changed. But, to the best of our knowledge, this fact has not yet been clearly proven by the proponents. At least it has apparently not been done to the satisfaction of the members of the Farmington Township Planning Commission.

Township officials have put great faith in members of their former zoning board and present planning commission in the past and now feel they should continue to do so now.

Is It Really And Truly Prosperity?

We have now read and are trying to digest all the varied opinions and predictions for 1966 that have been made by the "so called" experts.

It is our conviction that the majority of these experts are predicting another prosperous year equally as good if not better than we had in 1965 on two basic premises. One of these is the premise that the war in Viet Nam will be continued at its present rate of action or perhaps even be accelerated. The other is that the general public in the United States will continue to spend at a peak rate requiring more heavy financing to "obtain what they want when they want it."

While this may be the way to another year or more of prosperity, as most think prosperity today, it is still disturbing to us. Prosperity that requires heavy military spending by our government and large armed forces is undesirable in our mind. So also is prosperity that must be obtained and be dependent upon people spending substantially more than they can assuredly repay within a short period of time without heavy financial strain month in and month out. We can't help but be concerned

about the sorry mess we could find ourselves in if wartime expenditures were all at once drastically curtailed and most people decided at about the same time to stop financing for nearly everything they had started to purchase must things on a cash basis only. The more we think about it the more frightened we become.

Naturally, we would be foolish to feel that our country would ever be able to almost completely demobilize and not have to continue to spend in pretty substantial amounts to be prepared for war. We would also be foolish to feel that there is not value in financing some things. There is real value in being able to finance a new home for one's self and his family as well as for a new car when it is needed.

Our concern really is with the extremes. Are we really spending more than we should or have to spend to maintain military strength just to keep a prosperous economy? Are the heavy credit burdens that many individual citizens and families presently saddling themselves with going to be able to be continued indefinitely?

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago JANUARY 19, 1961 Given New Term John Clonipson was re-appointed to another three-year term on the Farmington City Board of Review by unanimous action of the City Council. New Home Building A total of 412 residential building permits were taken out in the Township during 1960. There were 416 new home permits issued by the Township in 1959. The City of Farmington declined in new home construction over the two-year period from 149 permits issued in 1959 to just 87 permits in 1960. FIS Cagers Bow The Farmington High School basketball team rolled to a 47-2 victory over the Waterford Skippers in an Inter-Lakes Conference cage tilt to even its league record at 2-2. Bud Jones led the Falcon scoring with 18 points while Don Robinson netted 12 and Don MacDonald added 10 points. McCracken Honored Long-time Farmington Township Clerk Howard McCracken was honored by friends and neighbors at a banquet staged in the Botaford Inn. McCracken retired this month after 50 years of faithful service to the Township. City Taxes A total of \$184,786 has been collected so far of the City of Farmington's winter tax bill. This is 63 percent of the total tax bill of \$291,873.

The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal of Progress" Established 1888 GR. 4-6222 P.O. Box 435 23623 Farmington Road, Farmington THOMAS F. ISLEY DONALD R. STEWART WINONA WOODS EDITOR ADVERTISING MANAGER GENERAL MANAGER RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND MICHAEL J. KILEY VICTOR HOWARD PUBLISHER Executive Asst. to the Publisher PLANT SUPERINTENDENT Member of MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION Represented Nationally by AMERICAN NEWSPAPER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be held upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

Dear Sir: One of the results of the meeting held December 2, between the Board of Directors of the Farmington Human Relations Council and representatives from the Farmington City Council, Farmington Township Board, Farmington School Board, and the various Farmington organizations was that a clear definition be given of the activities of the Farmington Human Relations Council, its Citizens' Advisory Board and the proposed Farmington Human Relations Commission.

In order to point up the need for a joint city-township commission, this definition is clearly essential. The Farmington Human Relations Council (formerly Farmington Citizens for Better Human Relations) is a voluntary citizens group organized in 1963 now having 200 members for the purpose of: 1. Promoting goodwill, understanding and respect for human dignity, and respect for the law among present and future members of this community regardless of race, color, religion and national origin.

2. Assembling and disseminating pertinent information. 3. Encouraging and assisting governmental agencies and other groups, and seeking assistance from such groups in achieving this purpose. These purposes are accomplished by arousing the interest of citizens to these needs and problems through bi-monthly public meetings featuring guest speakers and discussion groups. It acts in close cooperation with the clergy of Farmington and human relations activities of local and interfaith organizations such as the Detroit Council on Religion and Race, the Archbishop's Committee on Human Relations, etc. Its prime function is the alleviation of racial tension by moral suasion.

Its Board of Directors is composed of: Robert M. Laidlein, Chairman, a local building contractor; Mrs. David N. Mills, Vice-chairman, a homemaker; Roger Round, Secretary, a teacher; Edward J. Orman, Treasurer, attorney; John B. Milhore, editor; Fr. James P. O'Hagan, pastor St. Gerald's Church; Mrs. Walter Grimala, homemaker; Carl E. Harwood, businessman; Richard H. Hargreaves, machinery inspector; and Milton P. Lilley, automotive styling modeler.

The Farmington Human Relations Council is an area-wide group of prominent, responsible community leaders who have agreed to meet once a year with the Board of Directors of the Human Relations Council to give the benefit of their wide experience in human relations community activities by advising the Board on the most effective means of stimulating public interest and programs in which the community has the most acceptance to insure community harmony.

Members of the Advisory Board are: John Allen, Mayor; Thomas P. Beshan, WLBur v. Brotherton, Wade B. Brown, Mrs. Edge Cope, Rev. Frank A. Cozard, Mrs. Stephen E. Eddy, Rev. Robert M. Eddy, Rev. P. C. Fox, Charles D. Hannan, Gerald V. Harrison, Rev. William Holmes, Rev. Elsie A. Jones, Rev. Carl F. Kaltrider, Michael J. Kiley, Fr. Edward Konopka, Rev. Richard T. Markham, David N. Mills, George A. Nahstoll, Jr., Fr. Joseph A. O'Hagan, Rev. Joseph A. Pelham, Rev. George Ramsey, Sen. Farrell E. Roberts, Rev. W. Rutkowski, Fr. Joseph F. Ryder, Rev. Robert Sawyer, Rev. Carl H. Schultz, Miss Sue Shaughnessy, Rev. Frank Smith, Charles V. Stevenson, Rev. David R. Stone, Rev. Robert E. Stroh, Aldo Vagnozzi, Robert Sherwin Will, and Rev. Albert E. Zoeller.

The proposed Farmington Human Relations Commission will be an appointive board under the auspices of the Farmington City Council and the Farmington Township Board of Trustees composed of members to be drawn from the widest possible cross of representation, such as the City Council, Township Board, Farmington and Clareneville School Boards, Board of Commerce and Junior Chamber Commerce, and Farmington Clergy Fellowship, High School Student Councils, and the service clubs. All members are to be appointed by the City Council and Township Board and the Commission is to be directly responsible to these two bodies.

It will have as its prime purposes fact-finding, conciliation, and education and is intended to act in an impartial, bilateral fashion. 1. A Counseling, Conciliation, and Mediation board to deal with complaints on a local level in the area of human rights.

2. An educational facility to eliminate conflict between economic, religious, racial and social groups. 3. Encouragement for equal opportunities in housing and employment. 4. A public commitment of a favorable climate community-wide for welcoming all persons regardless of race, creed or color.

5. An investigative board for the remedy of problems of Farmington economically and socially deprived. The formation of such a commission is in line with the pleas of the Governor Romney in 1963, The Southland Conference of Religion and Race (co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Detroit, and the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit), and the Oakland County Human Relations Commission (appointed by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors). Legally for its creation has been approved by Attorney General Kelley's opinion of November 18, 1963 as long as its duties are those as outlined above.

Robert M. Laidlein, Chairman Mr. Thomas F. Isley, ... Dear Mr. Isley, ... very kind of you to send me "The Enterprise" of which I was the editor and man-of-all-work 60 years ago. The growth of the town astonishes me and the Enterprise is a paper of which you and your associates may well be proud. Your change of office has enabled you to greatly improve the appearance of the paper with illustrations and the ads. The making of the paper is very attractive and workmanlike and the presswork leaves nothing to be desired. I trust the people of Farmington realize the value of a thoroughly high class newspaper they have. I congratulate you upon the amount and well displayed advertising. The growth of Farmington 60 years ago was a quiet "retired farmers' town" and today it is a city and a beautiful and growing one and I am happy for you. With sincere appreciation for the kindness you have shown in sending me the Enterprise and for the interest and interest staff for the continued success of the Enterprise. Cordially yours, Walter T. Richards, We editor of 60 years ago

ANNOUNCEMENT BOWLERS NEEDED Bowling league needs bowlers. Bowling on Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 p.m. There is a free nursery provided for the preschoolers. Ladies interested in joining or wishing more information please call the Sec., Mrs. Finlay, at 474-0601.

Township Board Proceedings A Regular Meeting of the Farmington Township Board was called to order on January 10th, A.D. 1966 at 8:08 p.m. by Mr. Curt Hall, Chairman. Members present were Hall, Avery, Cairns, Nolan, Bassette and Oppertbauer. Dues absent. Also present was Mr. Joseph T. Brennan, Township Attorney. Minutes of Public Hearing on necessary for sewers in Section 38, December 14th, 1965 stand approved as published. Minutes of Regular Meeting, December 27th, 1965 stand approved as published.

MOTION by Oppertbauer, supported by Bassette, that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission be advised that the Township objects to any renewal of the present existing liquor license held, or formerly held by the Parker House. Carried-unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF POLICE CAR BIDS. Bids received as follows: Police cars, per specifications, less car tax, 1966, Pontiac Retail Store, \$7,220.16; Bob Duseaux, \$7,524.60; Ford and Country Dodge, \$7,524.60. MOTION by Avery, supported by Nolan, that bids for four police cars, per specifications, be referred to committee of Vehicles for evaluating and recommendations. Carried - unanimous.

MOTION by Nolan, supported by Bassette, that the Township adopt the Pension Commission, as amended, as set forth in Resolution, subject to approval of State Pension Committee. Carried - unanimous.

RESOLUTION by Oppertbauer, supported by Nolan, that resolution requesting the Oakland County Department of Public Works to act as Agent for Farmington Township to construct, operate and maintain a North Farmington Water System be adopted as offered, and that the Township At-Large Roll Call Vote: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays. Carried-unanimous.

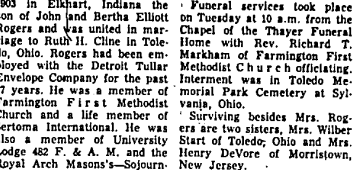
MOTION by Nolan, supported by Bassette, that the Request from the Great A & P Tea Stores, Inc. for new SDM license be located at 2935 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington, Michigan (Farmington

OBITUARIES

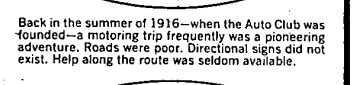
CLARA A. BAIRD Mrs. Clara A. Baird of 23750 Alta Loma Dr., Farmington passed away on Monday evening, January 10, in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia following an extended illness. Mrs. Baird was born October 30, 1890 in Lapeer County, Michigan the daughter of James F. Baird and Adeline Kriener Martus. On December 30, 1919 she was united in marriage to William Baird in Springwell, Michigan. Mrs. Baird was a tax teacher in the Detroit School for 42 years, retiring in 1956. She was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church and of the Altar Society. Mrs. Baird was also a Past President of the Farmington Newcomers Club. She had resided in Farmington for the past 7 years. Mrs. Baird rested in the Thayer Funeral Home until 10 a.m. Thursday when Requiem Mass was held from Our Lady of Sorrows Church with Monsignor Thomas P. Beshan officiating. Interment took place in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Reception of the body was held at 8 p.m. Wednesday from the funeral home. Surviving are her husband, Mrs. Baird's only daughter, Mrs. Addison (Helen) Kelley of Farmington and one son, William J. Baird of Taylor Township. She also leaves one brother, Arthur Martus of North Branch, Michigan, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

ELLIOTT S. ROGERS Elliott S. Rogers of 23601 Brittain Drive, Farmington passed away on Saturday morning, January 15, in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia following an extended illness. Rogers was born February 4, 1903 in Elkhart, Indiana the son of John and Bertha Elliott Rogers and was united in marriage to Ruth H. Cline in Toledo, Ohio. Rogers had been employed with the Detroit Tuller Envelope Company for the past 27 years. He was a member of Farmington First Methodist Church and a life member of Sorotoma International. He was also a member of University Lodge 482 F. & A. M. and the Royal Arch Masons—Sojourner

Chapter 164 R.A.M., both in Detroit. Rogers was on the Zoning Commission for Quakerston Village and was the first President of the League of Subdivisions. He had lived in Farmington Township for the past ten years. Funeral services took place on Tuesday at 10 a.m. from the Chapel of the Thayer Funeral Home with Rev. Richard T. Markham of Farmington First Methodist Church officiating. Interment was in Toledo Memorial Park Cemetery at Sylvania, Ohio. Surviving besides Mrs. Rogers are two sisters, Mrs. Wilber Start of Toledo, Ohio and Mrs. Henry DeVore of Morristown, New Jersey.



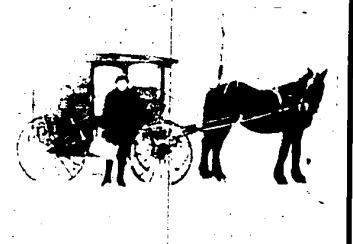
Back in the summer of 1916—when the Auto Club was founded—a motoring trip frequently was a pioneering help along the route was seldom available.



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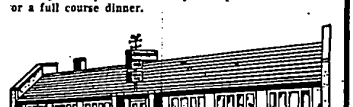
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