

City Vs. Township - A Lot of Pros & Cons

Discussion about the proposed incorporation of Farmington Township as a home rule city is now beginning to step up and some of the opposing points of view are beginning to be expressed publicly.

One point that has been made a couple of times during the last two or three weeks and was emphasized strongly by a citizen in a "letter to the editor" last week was with regard to the fact that the incorporation or rejection of it would have no effect on the present Farmington school system situation.

This is a point that has to be emphasized repeatedly so that every citizen will have it firmly in mind before going to the polls. The boundaries of the local or any other public school system in Michigan do not necessarily follow any governmental boundaries. Regardless of whether the township is incorporated as a city, joins with the City of Farmington into one large city or is cut away by annexation moves by other communities in the future, the public school system's boundaries will not be affected.

The point that the letter writer made was that "over 90% of the property taxes presently paid by township property owners go for schools, county, special education and community college" and would not be unaffected even if the township was cut up through annexation by other communities. This, he emphasized, would mean that there would be no sufficient tax loss to residents in the remainder of the township, even if some sections of the present township were annexed away by other communities.

The local township property tax situation would only be affected by what the charter commission would do with regard to setting a tax levy ceiling in the proposed new city charter within which officials of the proposed new city would have to operate. The entire charter, including tax levy ceiling provisions, must be approved by the voters before a city can actually be formed. A vote to become a city alone without approval

of an operating charter as well is not enough.

Those who feel the incorporation is necessary to protect the township's present boundaries and permit future development under the township's present master plan state that a very low tax levy ceiling will be set since most township voters have made it clear they want a limited amount of local governmental control. This fact remains to be seen and voted on as well.

One point that those who favor the incorporation make that is very important to keep in mind as a truth is the fact that as a city the present township area would receive a substantial amount of money back from state sales taxes collected and other state funds with which to help finance services for property owners. These state funds are presently going to the county to be used at the discretion of county officials for services to township land owners throughout the county. The amount received yearly from this source would be substantial, there is no denying.

The local property tax limit for local governing body operations must be set in the charter but what the actual levy would be within this limit would be up to the local governing board from year to year. The City of Farmington limit, as set in its charter, is \$20 per \$1,000 assessed valuation but, to the best of our knowledge, that much has never been called for to be levied. The present City of Farmington tax rate within the \$20 per \$1,000 limit is only \$11.50 per \$1,000.

These are only a couple of the pros and cons. There are many, many others. Every township property owner and citizen has a serious obligation to themselves to weigh all these pros and cons carefully before going to the polls to vote.

The Farmington Enterprise will continue to point out all the pro and con views expressed or that can be obtained. Then it will be squarely up to each and every township voter to go to the polls and register his or her "yes" or "no" decision at the only time and place it really counts.

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Is A Cost That High Really Necessary?

We received an audited statement on the expenses for operations of the North Farmington and West Farmington Baseball for Boys program for 1965 last week and must admit that we were somewhat shocked at the figures we saw.

Total expenditures for the summer baseball program for boys in the northern portion of our community and a part of West Farmington Township ran into \$12,000. Perhaps when you figure it out on a per-boy-participating basis it isn't quite as shocking but the total figure still tends to scare us a little.

A breakdown showed that \$6,576 had been spent for uniforms and equipment; \$1,500 for umpires; \$1,800 for insurance and \$1,200 for field maintenance and upkeep making up most of the major expenses but not all in the total operating budget.

Over \$6,500 for uniforms and equipment seems quite high to us. This is particularly true in the view of the fact that we learned all the basic points about the game of baseball and had a good time too as a youth in a uniform worn by two other brothers before us. Grant-

ed there were patched knees and rips that had been patched in a couple of other places as well but we learned the game well just the same and had fun too.

Our diamond repair and maintenance costs were at most under \$100.00 for a season since all the maintenance and repair work was done on a volunteer basis. The fields we played on were as good as our fathers, other adult baseball enthusiasts and we ourselves cared to devote time and effort to make them.

As for umpiring, we took what we could get in the way of volunteers and nobody who umpired ever made a dime. I can't recall a time when we played an official game when we didn't have an umpire either.

In the case of insurance for the players, our recollection is that if there ever was any it was paid for by the parents of a player or by ourselves from money earned doing odd jobs.

We can't help but raise this point in view of the \$12,000 operating expenditure. Are we becoming too professional and going too far overboard in our summer baseball program for young boys today?

10 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 2, 1951
Vacant Post
A total of 27 applications have been received by the City of Farmington for the vacancy of City Manager.

New Church
The first services to be conducted in the new North Farmington Baptist Church are scheduled this Sunday.

March of Dimes
The March of Dimes Mothers' March in March succeeded in raising \$4,300 to help fight polio. More than 500 volunteer workers from the community took part in the fund-raising.

Office Remodeling
Work is expected to start Friday on the remodeling of the Farmington Township offices in the Town Hall to make way for the enlargement of the Township Building Department.

15 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 1, 1931
Falcon's Bow
Farmington High School lost its second league basketball game as the Kestrel Harbor quintet they defeated earlier in the season gained a 36-31 decision in the Falcon gym. High point men in a losing cause for Farmington were Al Hallaman, Don Bunge and Doug Thompson, each with seven points.

Charter Sessions
The Farmington City Charter Commission completed the City's new Charter after a round-the-clock session which lasted until 1 a.m. on Wednesday.

Township Election
A contest is assured for the main offices which will be decided in the Farmington Township Primary Election February 19 as 15 candidates met the filing deadline for nominating petitions.

This Is Kimberley

By VERA R. KERASTAS

Those snowy, inviting slopes have a way of being sneaky and treacherous. Scott Kalgren, 7, son of the new Kimberley residents, Mr. and Mrs. Rod Kalgren of Wicklow, was happily tobogganing with his family on the ravine slopes when a sudden stop put an end to his winter sports. Both bones in his right leg broken, Scott is now confined to being a spectator for this season. His sympathetic second grade classmates sent get-well cards to cheer him up.

The first gala affair of the new school year for Mercy High School was the "Pop Hop" last Friday, January 28 at Roma Hall. Lasses from Kimberley who were escorted by their fathers to the semi-formal dance included Evelyn Allen, Karen Kenney, a representative of the student council, and Regina Tighe, now of North Kimberley.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Beaufort of Fiddlers Green proudly grandchild, the son of their daughter Sharon. The first offspring of Mr. and Mrs. Charles

Ashley of Mount Clemens, Michigan, "Charles Lymman" checked in on December 19, weighing 7 pounds 15 ounces.

RECENTLY, Mr. Beaufort accepted a promotion to production manager and assistant plant manager at the Chrysler Sterling Plant which is the largest stamping plant in the world. Congratulations!

Now the Lars Jensen, formerly a student from Denmark residing with the Fred Sevin family on Westington for five months, he is more surprised at the similarities rather than the differences in our lives.

Christmas customs here, except for the lack of real candles on our trees, resemble those back home. However, Lars still experienced a wave of nostalgia when his parents phoned from Copenhagen to wish him a merry holiday. New Year's Eve in Europe is celebrated with fireworks even though now illegal City life in Copenhagen is more active than our suburban country life with these extra frigid days. Surprisingly, Lars hasn't had any

difficulty with the change in food—must be Mrs. Sevin is a great cook.

ALTHOUGH LARS graduated from a Copenhagen High School last June, he is now attending Farmington High. A few divisions are easily noted here: boys wear blue jeans and girls wear slacks at the Danish schools; the high schools are tall apartment-like structures; pupils carry class books and attend each class once a week; the school year is from early August to the end of June; teenagers have to be eighteen to apply for drivers' licenses; lastly, although colleges are free, very few, in contrast to our youths, plan to further their education. Lars, of the exceptions, plans to matriculate this coming fall.

Soccer is the great European sport but Lars has been enjoying ice-hockey and basketball here. Last week's chilly weather found him out with the scouts. He found a trip up north last October with his adopted family to Mackinac Island an event to remember. The Sevin and he are now anticipating attending the Indianapolis 500 race in May and camping out west this summer before his return boat trip home in July.

THAT BELOW-zero temperature last Friday was the night of the winter meeting for the association and, understandably, the attendance was almost zero too. The nominating committee of Dave Wimmer, Gus Howser, Steve Martello, and Howard Phillips presented a proposed slate of nominees for officers for the association for 1966. Unanimously approved, the following slate will be offered for election at the spring meeting on March 9 at East Jr. High: president, Hugh McChesney; vice-president, Jim Renelli; recording secretary, Vera Kerastas; corresponding secretary, Lee Prover; treasurer, Ron Lord; and trustees, John Allen, Wally Edmonds, Carl Kilka and Doug Ziegel. Debbie Barach has accepted the position as social chairman. To clear some confusion, the free township trash pick-up is scheduled for the Thursday following the first Monday of each month so that for February, the pick-up will be on the tenth.

MR. LACHMANN, Past President of the FEA and President-elect of Region Seven of the NEA, led discussions and served as a resource person during the Conference sessions.

Speaking at last week's regular monthly meeting of the FEA at Farmington Junior High School were: Larry Haver speaking on Ethics; Robert Benjamin speaking on salaries; Gene Syverson, program chairman; Juanita Wilmoth, social committee; Douglas Cooper, negotiations; and Dale Robinson, NEA Field Representative, who led a discussion on professional improvement.

President Eberly stated that she is very pleased with the large attendance and interest in FEA meetings and activities, and urged all teachers to work toward continuing professional improvement with the end in mind of giving of one's "professional best" for the benefit of boys and girls.

Public Letterbox

To The Editor:

I must congratulate you on the excellent coverage you have given so far to the meeting held in various parts of the township as part of an overall program to fully inform the citizens on the pros and cons of incorporation.

As you know and reported I had proposed that such meetings be held in various parts of the township as part of an overall program to fully inform the citizens on the pros and cons of incorporation.

I had also proposed that a representative citizens study committee be named to carry out this information program. While a committee was named which included some divergent views it was not as representative as it should have been of the Farmington Township community.

For instance, there isn't a single woman on the committee. I felt that a representative of such groups as the League of Women Voters, which recently conducted a thorough study of Farmington Township government, and the American Association of University Women would have added immeasurably to the value of the committee.

The failure to name a single active member of the Farmington Democratic Club, whose candidates polled better than 40 per cent of the votes cast for township offices, makes me wonder whether the threat of annexation is as serious as our township officials make it out to be.

Despite these shortcomings the study committee has done a good job so far of giving citizens an opportunity to ask questions and give opinions on the incorporation issue.

Your paper has made it possible for those not attending these meetings to have the benefit of these discussions. Keep up the good coverage.

Aldo Vagnoni, Chairman

Farmington Democratic Club

Educators at MEA Meeting

Five Farmington educators attended the Michigan Education Association Mid-year Conference at the MEA Camp at St. Mary's Lake near Battle Creek, last Friday and Saturday, January 28 and 29. The Conference stressed the important role of the Building Representative in dealing with MEA communications relative to recent legislation.

Attending the Conference were FEA President, Marvel Eberly, Sharon Maher, Jack Cyr, Dale Smith, and Kenneth Lachmann.

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NOTICE

FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP TAXPAYERS

As a special service to taxpayers, The Farmington Township Treasurer's Office will be open to accept tax payments on Saturday, February 5, 1966, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Treasurer's office is located in the Township Hall at: 31555 Eleven Mile Road.

ELISE P. AVERY, Treasurer

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago
FEBRUARY 2, 1961
Elected MPA Head
James Tagg, former Publisher of the Farmington Enterprise and now Publisher of the Alma Record, has been elected President of the Michigan Press Association.

Falcons Lose
The Farmington High School basketball team bowed to Inter-Lakes Conference rival Pontiac Northern, 54 to 37 on the Huskies' hardwoods. High scorer in a losing cause for the Falcons was Bob Salay with 13 counters.

Keen Rivalry
Keen rivalry for City Council seats is expected with the Farmington City Biennial Spring Election still two months away as already seven sets of nominating petitions have been taken out from the City Clerk's office. There are three seats on the Council up for contention.

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Back in the summer of 1916—when the Auto Club was founded—a motoring trip frequently was a pioneering adventure. Road work, directional signs did not exist. Help along the route was seldom available.



Today a motoring trip is a carefree family affair. Good roads and signs speed you on your way, and if you need a helping hand the Auto Club is always nearby with Round-the-Clock Road Service. Personalized help is at hand: Planning; Broad Personal Accident Insurance; and Protective Bail Bonds.

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Now you know where to stop to get a winner. (Wouldn't you really rather have a Buick?)

The Farmington Enterprise

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