

Clerk Makes Her Point Stick

Township Won't Budge on \$100 Fee

A question, raised by Township Clerk, Mrs. Helen Richardson, as to whether the Township's Food Vendor ordinance applies to catering firms and vendors and for a clarification of the meaning of itinerant food vendors as mentioned in the ordinance, received an affirmative answer from the Township Trustees in the January meeting.

Mrs. Richardson earlier sent letters to the various caterers and food vendors notifying them that they would be subject to the \$100 license fee, prescribed in the ordinance, and not the \$5 fee as in the past.

The letters brought a storm of protests from vendors who felt they did not qualify under the itinerant vendor description and therefore should pay only \$5 instead of \$100.

Mrs. Richardson was told by the Trustees to have the complainants appear before the Board in a regular meeting and explain their complaints.

Two of the complainants, Melvin White and Patrick O'Hara, representing the O'Hara Catering Co., appeared and Mrs. Florence Mora, of Westland, wrote a letter explaining her views.

All three expressed a feeling that the \$100 license fee was too high and each felt the \$5 fee for restaurants should apply.

White said he had previously paid \$5 and protested the higher fee.

The matter was turned over to the Trustees for a decision and brought a comment from Trustee Ralph Garber that it was "simply a question of whether we decide to allow the ordinance to remain as is or to amend."

Trustee Dick Lauterbach broke the silence with a motion that the Board review the ordinance and decide whether to amend or allow to stand. The motion did not receive support and Lauterbach requested Supervisor John McEwen to go to the next item on the agenda.

This halted the action on the matter and left the vendors in the position that they will have to pay the \$100 in accordance with the ordinance or lose the right to operate in the Township.

And it also meant that Clerk Mrs. Richardson was right in her stand in telling the vendors they would have to pay the higher fee.

Pursell Is Re-elected President of Chamber

Carl Pursell, former owner of Western Office Supply who recently became a real estate salesman with the William Fehlig Co., has been elected to his second term as president of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.

Pursell guided the Chamber through one of its most successful years in history and was a unanimous choice for the second term.

Joseph Terantino, general manager of the Gaylord Container plant, was named vice president with William Harding, assistant superintendent of schools in charge of secondary education, treasurer and Dr. A. E. VanOrnum, secretary.

New Board members include: Edward Schelling, Earl Gibson and W. W. Loucks. Holdover members of the Board are: Dr. Ray Barber, William Fehlig, John Herb, Margaret Wilson and C. W. Copeland.

Retiring are: Wendell Lent, who served two terms as President; John Kamego, Cecil Sharrard, George Burrows and Harvey Ziel.

The 1986 accomplishments of the Chamber included:

- 1—Planned and programmed for the historic Hillside Conference which aimed and succeeded in bringing about increased understanding between community leaders, of community problems and started steps in correcting many.
- 2—Began the Central Business District study with the city commission, planners and staff.
- 3—Held an eight-week political action course taught by John Kamego.
- 4—Sponsored a Board of Education, candidate night with a full house in the City Commission chambers.
- 5—Reviewed and supported liquor by the glass in the City of Plymouth.
- 6—Reviewed and made positive proposals on city urban renewal projects.
- 7—Reviewed and supported apartment and building projects at City Commission meetings.

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Board Studies Expansion

The Plymouth Township Board is aware of the fact that it must expand the present Township Hall or the Department of Public Works building to secure additional office facilities and also additional space for DPW equipment.

But it hasn't been able to find a solution to its problem. There was a time when the Trustees had visions of adding another floor to the present quarters. But the Board advertised for bids, received only one offer and that was far above the estimates.

Even that contractor raised the question of whether a second floor could be added without additional support for the present structure.

The matter came up again at the January meeting when Trustee Louis Norman, who has been making a study for the Board, made two recommendations: (1) to expand to the north of the present DPW building and (2) to expand to the west and then add a section to the west for additional bays.

He estimated the cost of a northern expansion at \$8,000 and for a north and west addition at \$16,500.

All of which brought up the question of whether the Board shouldn't think of adding a second floor to the present DPW building for use as a Board meeting room and then use the present meeting hall for additional office space for the Township Treasurer and water department.

Norman pointed out that the need for additional space for vehicles and storage is getting more acute and the Board should take some action quickly.

"For instance," he pointed out, "the Township's 24 voting machines are in one of my buildings at the moment simply because I offered the facilities when space wasn't available. However, I find that I may have to use the space and the Board will have to make other arrangements."

"We need the space for the machines and for additional equipment which I'm sure the DPW will ask in the forthcoming budget meetings. I feel we should get some architect's plans and an estimate of costs as soon as possible."

With Norman's suggestion in mind, the Board authorized him to secure an architect for plans and an estimate of costs for an addition to the DPW building with the thoughts he would have a report ready for the February meeting.

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