

Township Gets 7 % Tax Break

By FRED DELANO

The property tax pendulum in Farmington Township swung violently on a reverse course this week and brought a seven per cent benefit to owners of the township's more than 18,000 pieces of land.

This unexpected bonanza comes in the face of unparalleled protests against increased 1968 assessments, and makes it appear that the township has been over-assessed in a rare quirk of governmental devotion to statutory requirements.

The Oakland County Equalization Board has informed Supervisor Curtis H. Hall that it has recommended for Farmington Township a tentative tax

factor of 0.93 on the basis of an actual assessment; total in excess of \$177 million.

In simplest terms, this means that when the actual tax rate is settled, a piece of township property assessed locally at \$10,000 will have its tax statement calculated at though the assessment were \$9,300.

Meanwhile, the City of Farmington has been informed by the county that its tentative factor again has been established at 1.0, so that the levy per \$1,000 in equalized valuation will be in exact proportion to the local assessment. A home assessed at \$10,000 will be calculated at \$10,000.

The equalization department's recommendation still must be passed on by the entire board of supervisors, but no hitch is expected there. Approval of the state tax commission will make the factor final.

Last year the township carried a real assessment of \$59,562,975 and the equalization factor was 2.01.

This year the county ordered the township assessing staff to bring figures in line with the state constitutional requirement that assessments be at 50 per cent of true cash value, and the total soared to \$177,313,800. It is this figure which the county

has said, in effect, now is seven per cent too high instead of being far too low.

Major immediate effect is in relation to the likelihood of a millage increase request by the Board of Education.

The equalized valuation of the school district now appears to be in the neighborhood of \$202 million, and Monday night the board is expected to reveal whether it anticipates this will yield enough tax revenue to operate the school system for 1968-69.

If not, a request for added operating millage will go before the voters at the regular school election June 10.

today's hot line observerland

REDFORD — The Planning Commission delayed a decision to amend the township zoning ordinance to include a high rise classification because three of nine commission members did not attend Thursday's public hearing. A petition signed by 3,000 persons was entered in opposition.

REDFORD — Subcommittee hearings of the Senate Elections Committee attracted only two of an expected 50 township clerks. As expected, testimony condemning the 1968 Republican primary election in Redford was heard. Sen. Anthony Stamm said he, too, had doubts about the security of Shoup voting machines, but that legislative correction would not be considered. He contended the complaint should have gone to the county prosecutor.

LIVONIA — The Board of Education has instructed its administrative staff to explore ways to "improve upon children's understanding of differences of attitudes toward each other" as a contribution toward "dealing with the social issues of our time." The board expects to implement a program in the fall—but said "the racial problem is so broad, and so old, that it cannot be solved overnight." White suburbs, it was added, "must recognize their responsibility."

LIVONIA — An attorney defending a Negro client in Municipal Court here requested a change of venue on the grounds that racial prejudice in Livonia raises the probability his client will not receive a fair and impartial jury trial. The attorney termed policies of segregation in all-white Livonia a parallel of racism "as is practiced, or is being attempted in Dearborn." Visiting Judge John Seiler, of Wayne, in denying the motion, raised in his decision the question, "What if all whites in Detroit charged with a crime asked to be tried only in all-white communities?" The attorney had requested that the trial be changed to a Detroit court because no Negroes could be empaneled on a jury in Livonia.

PLYMOUTH — Joining in the nationwide strike against the Bell Telephone Company, 895 members of the Communication Workers of America walked off their jobs Thursday at two Plymouth plants—Michigan Bell and its subsidiary, Western Electric.

PLYMOUTH — The Township Planning Commission which is involved in a running battle with the builders and developers, refused to give any ground this week and tabled three requests for a change of zoning that would permit apartments.

What's Inside

Suburban officials and the Wayne County Board of Supervisors think the local communities should set up their own rumor control centers. Page 8A.

You don't have to go north to fish for trout; many local lakes and streams have been stocked with Michigan's sportiest fish. Page 14A.

Michigan will go on Daylight Saving Time again this year; state and local news roundup. Page 4B.

Richard Adler, who wrote "Damn Yankees" and other Broadway hits, tells what it's like to produce a presidential special—and what his newest work will be. Page 5B.

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PONDER RACIAL PROBLEMS — This is a portion of the crowd of 85 which turned out Wednesday night for a meeting of the recently created New Farmington Committee to evaluate

the area's civil rights issues. Eventual racial integration of greater Farmington was indicated by the chairman as the goal of the organization.

Group Circulates Road Petitions

Farmington Township Volunteer Road Committee members next plan to develop sources north of 10 Mile Rd. in their petition drive for remedial repairs of township roads.

William E. Hutton, co-chairman of the group's petition circulation committee, made this statement at a road meeting Tuesday night in East Junior High School.

Hutton said that the group hopes to obtain a minimum of 3,000 signatures on its petitions and now has one-third of these.

Satellite Village Public Hearing Set

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Farmington Township planners will hold a public hearing Thursday, April 25, on a proposal which, if adopted, would almost double the density ratio for one section of the township.

At issue is the proposed Pulte Satellite Village which would be located on 320 acres north of 12 Mile Rd. on both sides of Drake Rd.

The planning commission session will begin at 8 p.m. in the O.E. Dinckel Junior High School.

While the proponents of the development, the William J. Pulte Co. of Birmingham, have met with the residents of surrounding subdivisions and contend that they have met no opposition, some complaints to the proposal have been heard. The most telling of the formal opposition to date has come from the Farmington Board of Education which has gone on record as opposed to any change in the density of the township.

It is through the density restrictions that the township controls the population growth of the area and the schools are affected by how many people will be moving into an area.

An increase in density or the number of units allowed for each acre would affect the number of schoolchildren. Thus the stance of the Board of Education.

INCLUDED in the proposal would be a self-contained shop-

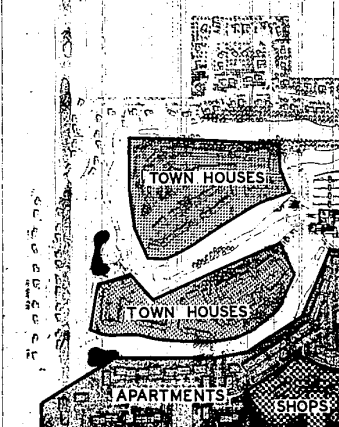
New Farmington Group Vows Action

Racial integration of the Farmington area was defined Wednesday night by the chairman of a self-initiated New Farmington Committee as "the ultimate goal" as he addressed a turnout of 85 persons on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College.

"What we are aiming at here is to allow us to prepare ourselves to be acceptable neighbors," amplified Dr. E.C. McIrvine, a Ford Motor Co. physician of 34055 Moore Dr., the chairman.

The only other positive step taken was voice adoption of a resolution suggesting the committee ask Superintendent of Schools Roderick J. Smith to arrange a meeting of all teachers prior to the fall semester when they can devote a full day to the study of racism.

The only member of any local governmental unit who attended the meeting was City Councilman John Allen.



SCALE MAP — This scale drawing of the proposed satellite village on the north side of 12 Mile Rd. and both sides of Drake Rd. shows the location of the various units. The proposed shopping center would be located at the northwest corner of Drake and 12 Mile. The northeast corner is not owned by the developer. A total of

Tax Protest Group Visits Farmington

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Glenn Swindler's session with the Farmington Township Volunteer Road Committee Tuesday night in East Junior High School became something of mutual commiseration on the so-called "sins" of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

The chairman of the Oakland County Homeowners and Taxpayers Association is appearing before local groups within the county to gain support for his organization's effort to have a public hearing on the supervisors' 1969 budget.

SWINDLER's county-level information did not have as much impact as his township-level information on the 12 persons from the road group present at the meeting.

He received his strongest response with a statement that Michigan law provides that an annual township meeting be held the first Saturday in April during which any legal resolution adopted by a majority of the public-at-large can become law.

Township Supervisor Curtis Hall told The Enterprise & Observer on Wednesday that this law's effect was removed in Farmington Township by a vote of the people in 1963. Hall stated that the law was outmoded and originally designed for rural areas with small populations.

He said, "What would we do in Farmington Township with over 40,000 people? We'd have a lion by the tail. And where would we hold a meeting with all those people?"

SWINDLER also got an interested response when he said that his home township of Avon received \$80,000 in matching funds from the county in contrast to the \$40,000 Farmington Township receives.

Swindler's association was defeated in its move to have a public hearing when supervisors adopted the tentative county budget on Monday. He said that being included on the supervisor's agenda, it must be approved by a vote of all the supervisors.

Questions the homeowners planned to ask included one where \$1.6 million in surplus funds from 1967 is being used and why this surplus is not being used to finance the 1969 budget.

Swindler's math has the county budget up \$4.3 million over 1967. This year's budget is pegged at \$26.4 million, which Swindler maintains is a "60 per cent increase."

ALSO A BONE of contention with the homeowners is the \$1.8 million the county received in rebate from state income tax which the supervisors' budget lists as "top-tax revenue."

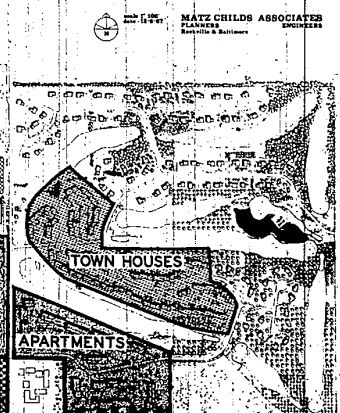
Swindler said, "It all comes out of our pockets."

He was vehement in his condemnation of the new county jail, where construction cost he put at "over \$6 million."

"The jail," Swindler said, "goes along with the other county structures out there—extremely fancy. It cost \$1 million just to draw the plans for it, and it's fully air-conditioned."

SWINDLER's organization, maintains that although county voters rejected extra millage for county building projects, the Board of Supervisors has taken monies out of the 15 mill property tax for "millions of dollars of new buildings."

The group also maintains that the Building Authority created by the supervisors a year ago manages to exceed the 15 mill tax limitation.



163 single family homes, 495 town houses and 568 apartments are projected for the development. The single family homes rim the outer perimeter of the village, while an 18-hole championship golf course runs throughout the development.