

Beverly to seek millage boost

By ALICE COLLINS

BEVERLY HILLS—The council decided unanimously Monday night to go for a two and one half mill increase in its taxing limit on the March 10 village election ballot.

"The outlook for 1975-76 is still cloudy, with the present limit we could end up anywhere from \$150,000 in the red all the way to being in the black," said president pro tem Allan E. Hoover.

"We'd be foolish to let this election deadline go by and find out next year that we're way in the red and have to start laying off public safety officers."

Listed as Proposal 1 on the ballot, the request will be for permission to raise the taxing limit from seven and one half to 10 mills for 10 years, 1975 to 1984, inclusive.

It would permit the village to levy up to \$10 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

"WE'LL COLLECT the additional revenue only to prevent any cutbacks in the limited services we now provide," Hoover said. "We won't be adding programs. We pledge to continue operating at the same level as we do now."

Another proposition on the election ballot will be a charter amendment to

make all seven council terms two years in length and all expiring at the same time on even numbered years.

As the charter reads now, four council terms expire each year. The top three vote getters win two-year terms and the fourth is elected for one year.

If voters approve the amendment, council members elected March 10 will all serve one year terms in order to implement the plan by 1978.

THE TWO-YEAR election proposal was a recommendation of the advisory group representing homeowner associations in Beverly Hills.

"When the recommendation first reached the council it wasn't well received," said councilman Leo Linsen-

meyer, "but I think when we realized so many citizens favor it, we were impressed with their interest."

"I like the system as it is," agreed Councilwoman Marilyn Quick. "It works well. But if the citizens would like a change, they should have a chance to vote on it."

When homeowner group chairman Dennis Caravanagh presented the recommendation to council in December, he said the main purpose would be to eliminate the cost of annual elections.

The major objection to the change, as voiced by council members, was that it would be possible to have a total changeover at one time on the council, thus losing continuity and experience.

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O'Brien resigns Beverly Hills post

BEVERLY HILLS—John J. O'Brien, sworn in Jan. 1 for a six-year term as judge of the Oakland County probate court, resigned Monday night from his seat on the village council.

In a letter to the council, O'Brien said the move was to avoid any possible conflict of interest in holding the two positions. Since his term on the council would not normally expire until 1978, Beverly Hills voters will elect five, instead of four, council members on March 10.

In other matters, the council indicated it wasn't happy about a Metro Water Department request to construct and operate a 72-inch water line along the south side of Fourteen Mile Road in the village. The request was tabled for further study.

"After having experienced the want on destruction in the path of the Nichols drain that went right down the middle of Fourteen Mile Road," said Councilman Robert Stanberry, "we

shouldn't make a move until we find out the exact depth, and just what they intend to do about restoration and all the evergreen trees."

The Metro department does not service the village which is a part of the Southeastern Oakland Water Authority. "Sometime in the future," said village consulting engineer Oleh R. Clepy, "the Oakland water authority plans to put a 36-inch line through the same area."

Village manager Thomas Good asked the council to consider purchasing a mini-computer accounting system to replace "antiquated equipment the Burroughs Company says is so old it can't get parts for it any more."

Good said cost quotations from several firms for the bookkeeping system are between \$22,000 and \$23,000. The only alternative, he said, would be to have the village billings done by a private firm.

No action was taken on the request.

Optimists to get high level awards

BIRMINGHAM—The two highest awards made at the club level by Optimist International will be received by the Optimist Club of Birmingham and its 1973-74 president, Edward J. Roddy, Jr.

Roddy will receive the Distinguished President Award, while the club will be presented the Honor Club Award, said Larry Gutowsky, president of the group for 1974-75.

Notification of the two honors for outstanding work as a community service organization came from Ralph Glascock, president of Optimist International.

The Birmingham club chartered in 1960 with 13 members, now has 59 members.

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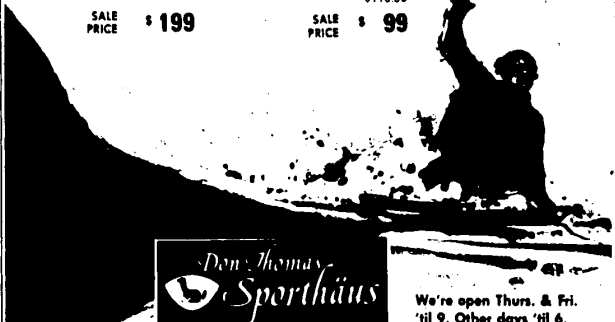
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