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Fifteen Cents

Gill Road paving--it's the principle of the thing

By SUSAN AVERILL

The Farmington School Board will have to decide whether to keep its principles or its money when it comes to paving Gill Road.

The board learned Tuesday that its share in the project, to be undertaken by the City of Farmington Hills, would be \$32,000, more than twice the expected amount.

Floored with chuckholes and rutted, the dirt and gravel road has been recommended for pavement for several years.

A portion of the road has already been paved between Eight Mile Road and the entrance to Power Junior High School. Parents and school officials had worried that the condition of the road would hinder emergency vehicles and school buses.

The City of Farmington Hills has agreed to do the job, with financial backing from the school district, which owns frontage along the road.

District officials were originally quoted \$6,000 as their share of the \$90,000 asphalt work, but the amount was amended to \$16,500 be-

cause of the depth of the school property.

POWER JUNIOR HIGH school and Gill Elementary School are just off of Gill Road.

Farmington Hills' mayor Fred Lichtman attended the Tuesday meeting of the board to tell if the share had been further amended to \$32,000.

The change is partly because the city decided to pave the road with concrete instead of asphalt and partly because of general inflation. The total

cost of the project is estimated at \$200,000.

Lichtman said there was no assessment levied against the area's residents because "it was assumed they'd have no benefit."

The board promised the city to help with the financing if the millage was successful.

"We indicated we'd contribute to the project if the millage was successful," said board president Gary Lichtman, brother of the Farmington Hills mayor.

A legal contract for financial back-

ing was never made between the school board and the city.

"This is not an assessment, it is an agreement made in principle," Gary Lichtman said. "We have no legal obligation, but we do have an ethical obligation."

Board vice president William Corliss suggested the board wait until it knows what the state aid loss will be. Business Manager William Prisk estimated the district may lose \$150,000 in state aid next year.

Trustee Ann Rodewig asked what

precedent had been set in similar cases.

"PRACTICALLY always where we've had buildings on the road, we've participated," Gary Lichtman said.

Discussing the original share ascribed to the school district and its inflated amendment, Lichtman said, "Somewhere inbetween there's a reasonable figure."

"In the future," Mayor Fred Lichtman said, "my recommendation would be to make a firm and binding contract for payment."



Burnt bread

Loaves of bread line the shelves of the Mid-Nine Market on Middlebelt, near Nine Mile where a fire early Thursday morning destroyed the store. Fire officials said there were no

injuries. The Farmington Hills fire department had six pieces of equipment at the fire which took three and a half hours to put out. (Photo by Craig Newman)

Schools will collect \$4 million more

Farmington School District will receive \$4 million more from taxpayers because residents April 23 approved a four-mill tax increase.

Of the \$23 million budget now being considered by the school board, \$15.8 is generated by local taxes. Last year, the district operated on \$19.9 million, with \$12.9 million paid by district property owners.

Besides the extra millage, the district's tax base has increased \$23 million, bringing it to \$42 million.

The City of Farmington's state equalized valuation is \$37.5 million. Farmington Hills' valuation in the Farmington School District is \$33.2 million. West Bloomfield's part of the tax base is \$21.4 million.

Undermining the larger tax base and tax rate increase is a \$23,000 loss in state aid. The loss is because of decreasing enrollment and cuts in state payments.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS billed the four-mill tax increase as enough to reinstate educational programs cut between 1973 and 1975.

The district will spend more for transportation. Business Manager William Prisk estimated an allowance of \$44,000, or \$37,000 more than this past school year.

By doubling the number of room aides at the elementaries from 17 to 34, the district has increased its expenditure in this category from \$26,000 to \$54,000.

Expenditures for books and supplies at the elementaries will more than double. Spending for books increase half again as much at the high school level.

Allocation for new and replacement texts for elementary school students is \$30,000. Last year, the school had \$12,000 to spend in this category.

Secondary schools received \$32,000 this year for books and supplies, compared to last year's \$20,000.

Outdoor education, which had been cut because of money shortages, will be reinstated at a cost of \$2,000.

Allowances were made for three new programs at the elementaries, including mandatory metrics, a sci-

ence program and a language program.

ALTOGETHER, these programs will cost \$102,000.

Three art consultants and three music consultants have been added to the elementary staff, at an additional cost of \$133,000. There are now eight art and eight music consultants in the district.

At the secondary level, expenditure for athletics have increased from \$63,000 during 1974-75, to next year's projected \$119,000. The bulk of the expenditure (\$32,000) is allotted to football.

Not everything has increased funding, however.

Cuts have been made in the allotment for substitute teachers. The district will pay \$10,000 less for substitutes at the elementary level.

Reductions will not be quite as severe for secondary substitute who will be paid \$3,000 less.

The "Earth Alive" program was terminated, for a \$500 savings for the district. Other terminated programs saved the district another \$7,000.

Widening won't harm them

Trees safe for now

FARMINGTON HILLS—Residents are worried that two large maple trees on 13 Mile west of Orchard Lake may be damaged by widening of the road. City officials, however, say the trees will be safe for the time being.

Although original plans left the trees unharmed, residents said engineers were considering changes because of a high-pressure natural gas line along 13 Mile.

In a letter to the city council, the residents said city engineer Tom Bissell said changes caused by the gas line "may necessitate the destruction of one and possibly both trees."

THE LETTER added that tree experts say any major tampering with the root structures of the trees will result in the eventual death.

"Unless handled with skill and ex-

perience, the trees will suffer an eventual death, if not an immediate one. We are convinced that those involved have not given adequate consideration to the long-term survival of these trees," the residents said.

Ralph Magid, department of public services director, assured the residents the trees will not be destroyed.

"Nevertheless, we are moved to publicly record our protest of the possible destruction of these grand and priceless old trees, and to question whether beauty, enjoyed by many, is a necessary sacrifice for the convenience of a few."

The letter was signed by Frank and Dorothy Hill, Ross and Jan Wilkins, and Ronald and Mary Zurilla.

A resolution stressing the city's concern that the trees be saved won city council approval. However, city man-

ager George Majors said many trees can be lost when major roads such as 13 Mile are widened to five lanes in the future.

IN A REPORT to Majors, Magid said the two trees are 41 and 43 feet north of the centerline of the road.

That is enough room for the widening from two to three lanes, and for installation of a storm sewer. Majors said the sewer will be 10 feet and 12 feet from the trees.

Although the council resolution supported the residents, one council member said the city could not guarantee the trees will live forever.

"I'd not ever want it to be thought we can guarantee what only the good Lord can guarantee," Councilman Mrs. Joan Dudley said.

Pinball arcade case still bouncing around in court

By MICHAEL CHARLES

FARMINGTON HILLS—A city zon-

ing ordinance which regulates the location of bowling alleys and other types of "indoor commercial recre-

ation" establishments remains under a legal cloud more than a year after it was challenged on constitutional grounds.

A law suit begun by Jerome Bischoff of Troy in June 1974 seeks to overturn a local ordinance requiring recreational businesses to get special permission to operate within 100 feet of a residential area.

Bischoff, who operates Abbey Road Amusements at 2918 Orchard Lake Road, sued Farmington Hills in Oakland Circuit Court last year to void the ordinance after the city denied him permission to operate a pinball arcade in a planned general business (B-4) zoning district.

The case is scheduled for trial be-

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Heel and soul

In these days of hustle and bustle, not too many people are dependent upon old world craftsmanship. There are some folks in downtown Farmington who still take pride in their work. At Farmington Shoe Repair on Grand

River Avenue near Farmington Road, an employee carefully glues a shoe. For more photographs and a story, turn to page 1B. (Photo by Craig Newman)

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Men's lib?

The term liberation can apply to both men and women. A course to be taught in Farmington has liberation for both sexes as its aim. Turn to Page 3A.

Farmington schools have decided to spend \$2,000 on outdoor education in elementary schools. School board members questioned whether \$2,000 is enough. Turn to Page 3A.