

Water chief applies pressure to increase suburban rates

The director of the Detroit Metro Water Department doesn't deny cutting water pressure to suburban communities to elicit suburban water board members' support for an \$8 million capital improvements budget. Livonia Mayor Edward H. McNamara said.

The water board approved the budget 5-1 Monday afternoon, with McNamara opposed. The water board vote came after McNamara hosted a meeting of suburban officials Monday morning to discuss charges of lowered water pressure.

McNamara was appointed by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young to the water board two years ago. He has backed increased suburban representation on the board. The suburbs generate 80 per cent of the department's revenue, he said.

He voted against the capital improvements budget, McNamara said, because it provides service above what is required by present residents. McNamara has opposed expansion of the water system into new areas because present customers must finance the improvements.

The water board had a lengthy discussion about whether pressure was deliberately lowered last week. McNamara said. Other suburban communities were told pressure was cut 10 per cent to encourage support of the capital improvement budget.

"The director did not deny it," McNamara said.

Water board members were "pretty harsh" with acting director Ernest Cedroni, McNamara said.

Monday morning, suburban officials decided to gather reports of problems with water service. Later, another meeting will be held with political leaders to discuss possible united action.

Representatives of Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield Township, Westland, Garden City and Bloomfield Township were among those attending the meeting.

McNamara said he called the Monday morning meeting to discuss local solutions to low water pressure, such as a lawn sprinkling ban. He also

asked for a suburban group to continue pressing for changes in the department's operation.

The suburbs should have representation based on financial contributions; an outside audit of water department books; and public hearings before rate increases.

Several area communities reported water pressure problems at Monday's meeting, although others said they had no problems. Canton Township, Northville, Westland, Dearborn Heights and Bloomfield Township reported the most problems while Garden City said it had enough water pressure.

Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager, said said water pressure was below normal but Farmington had the same problem two years ago.

"More importantly, we should attempt to find out if they are reducing the pressure deliberately," Deadman said.

JAKE DINGELDAY, Canton Township public works director, said he found great differences in pressure between Detroit and Canton checkpoints.

While Detroit reported 31 pounds of water pressure, Canton Township had eight pounds at one location and six pounds at Meijer's Thrifty Acres.

"People couldn't even flush their toilets," he said.

Bill Engle, Westland representative, said Livonia had good pressure but "we didn't have anything."

Bloomfield Township's John Vanatter said it had to go to well water to supplement supplies from the Detroit system.

Joe Miller, representative of the South Oakland County Water Author-

ity, said pressures "weren't adequate" along the Eight Mile water main from July 27 through Aug. 2.

Suggested solutions to low water pressure ranged from a sprinkling ban to finding a new source of water other than the Detroit system.

McNamara said a voluntary agreement to stop sprinkling might help communities with low pressure.

IF COMMUNITIES to the west have low water pressure, "obviously we should be curtailing our water usage."

Edward Bivens, mayor of Inkster, suggested the suburbs find a new source of water. He called the Detroit water department "a bag of thieves."

Suburbs might involve state and federal officials in finding a new water supply. Working with Detroit won't help, Bivens said.

"Getridof ColemanYoung and you're going to have the same damn problem," Bivens said.

The officials also discussed whether water service should be expanded. McNamara said expansion should be stopped because it takes taxpayers and water customers from developed areas to finance it.

A new line which will run across Oakland County, McNamara said, will take water into uninhabited areas.

"That kind of urban sprawl should stop," McNamara said.

Detroit officials, he added, are "dangling suburban improvements in order to get their own."

One suburban representative, however, said his community is "limping along" on a ground water system while getting greater and greater demands.

"The people are there already," he commented.

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NOTICE OF LAST DAY FOR FILING NOMINATING PETITIONS AND NUMBER OF PERSONS TO BE ELECTED

TAKE NOTICE THAT FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1975 AT 5:00 P.M. IS THE LAST DAY PERMITTED FOR FILING NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1975. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE NUMBER OF PERSONS TO BE ELECTED TO OFFICE AT SAID ELECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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NEDRA VIANE, City Clerk

Published August 7, 1975

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HELPS THINGS GROW

Go north, young men--they went

By SUSAN AVERILL

They took only \$50 spending money, but Peter and Eric Dalton of Farmington Hills brought back more in memories than money could buy.

The pair, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Dalton of 3170 Coronet, recently returned from a trip to Alaska. They earned one-third of the journey's expense, as stipulated by the sponsor, Edward Kuhn of Pontiac.

Traveling experience is not the sole intent of the trip. It is not even the major intent, according to an explanation written by Kuhn for prospective fellow travelers.

"Who may go? Any good boy anywhere in the United States and Canada, who has or is willing to earn and save at least one-third of the cost by his own efforts is eligible to go," Kuhn writes.

"THE PARENTS supply the balance. The purpose of the trip is to save for things worthwhile in life."

Speaking enthusiastically, both boys say it was worthwhile.

"I liked the part about being on a ship, being on a cruise," says 12-year-old Peter.

"The train was a new experience. I like the Amtrak train better than Canadian National," says Eric, a 14-year-old student at Dunckel Junior High School.

He pulled out a sheaf of postcards and then opened a map. Traced perfectly in felt-tip pen was the route across land and water. Peter took one look and said he had the original map with all its mistakes.

"But I don't care. It was the one that went with us," he said.

Personal finance class is offered

A course in personal finances will be offered during the fall semester at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College (OCC).

The class will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. for 15 weeks, beginning Sept. 9.

Topics include income taxes and tax shelters, stocks and bonds, buying a car, home and furniture, life, auto and home insurance and home mortgages.

Also included will be discussions on installment loans and credit ratings, savings and checking accounts, estate planning, investing in land, family budgets and consumer legal rights.

Registration begins Sept. 2. Tuition and fees for the three-credit class are \$29 for in-county residents. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

For further information, call Harvey Bronstein at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus.

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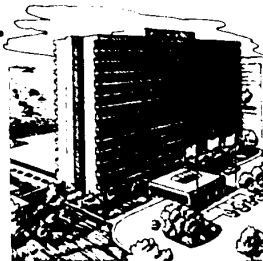


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