

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OAKLAND AND WAYNE COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Regular Election of Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties, Michigan, will be held in the said School District on Monday, June 1, 1970.

TAKE NOTICE THEREFORE, that any qualified elector of said school District who is not already registered upon the books of the said school District may register at the following places on the days and hours indicated:

PLACES: For those persons living within the School District and living within the City of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 3300 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48152

For those persons living within the School District and within the Township of Redford: Redford Township Hall, 5140 Beech Road, Redford Township, Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan 48229

For those persons living within the School District and within Farmington Township: Farmington Township Hall, 13225 Elmwood Road, Farmington, Michigan 48024

DAYS AND HOURS: Each day during office hours until May 8, 1970, until five o'clock p.m., Local Time

LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION: May 8, 1970, but not after five o'clock p.m., Local Time on said date.

TAKE NOTICE that those qualified electors who have not heretofore registered with the Clerk of the City of Livonia or the Clerk of the Township of Redford, or the Clerk of the Township of Farmington, must do so to be eligible to vote in the forthcoming election. Those qualified electors who are now duly registered to vote in the area in which they reside within this School District need not re-register.

TAKE NOTICE, ALIKE, that at said Election there are to be elected two members of the Clarenceville Board of Education for terms of four years. By order of the Board of Education NORMAN L. HUNT, Secretary

PUBLISHED: April 29 & May 6, 1970

First Tax Clinic Held Merchants Question Rising Taxes

A group of FARMINGTON businessmen Wednesday afternoon spent over two hours peppering questions at a panel of tax experts from the local, county and state level.

The merchants were attending a taxation clinic held in the Redford Inn and sponsored by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

Members of the panel were: Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis Hall; Farmington City Manager John Dinan; Christian Powell, Oakland County Board of Commissioners; Robert Purnell, chairman of the State Taxation Commission; and William Wickham, attorney and lobbyist for the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce.

WICKHAM BEGAN the discussion by summarizing efforts by the State Chamber to obtain legislation to close loopholes in the sales and use tax, obtain statewide certification of assessors, reform assessing practices, lead up to the State Tax Commission staff, and campaign for expenditure reform on the state level.

Wickham predicted there will definitely be new taxes enacted next year, following the fall elections. He foresees a hot, wide open election in November with great impact on the next session.

Stressing the need for expenditure reform, Wickham said if the state spending level remains the same, Michigan will be \$59 million in the red at the end of the '70 legislative session, \$217 million in the red by the end of '71, and \$600 million in the red by the end of the '72 legislative session.

He argued that educational reform legislation is not really reform, but just more money. Cutting the state budget is tough, he added, because 80% goes for social services, health and education.

DINAN AND HALL were then asked what part of the tax base is residential for the city and township.

Hall said about 75% of the township's tax base is now residential. He added the township is shooting for a tax base which is 40% other than single-family homes.

Dinan said the city's ratio is about 70% residential and 30%

commercial and industrial. He added that state-reformed revenues accounts for about 15-20% of the city's total budget.

Purnell observed that of the 1,800 tax assessors in the state about 25% have less than ten years' experience and only a few have over 10 years.

Purnell said that is important because the real problems of equitable assessing begin at the local level.

"If local assessments are not uniform," he stressed, "whatever you do with equalization it won't come out right."

Purnell argued that millage rates are the determining factor in causing higher tax bills, not assessments.

He pointed out that total state equalized valuation (SEV) in Michigan has increased three times since 1960 but because of more voted millage actual taxes collected has gone up five times.

RIISING ASSESSMENTS are due to population growth more than anything else, added Purnell.

"People must realize they must watch local budgets if they think taxes are too high. If assessments are intelligently arrived at and uniformly applied, he said, appeals will not help and the only approach is to reduce local millage by holding the reins on the budget."

Dinan agreed saying the legislative intent in establishing the 50% market value for assessing was to provide uniformity and not a built-in tax increase because of inflation.

Dinan criticized Oakland County's practice of determining market value by checking sales prices on recorded deeds.

Home sales are abnormally high, Dinan claimed, because of the exodus from the Detroit to the suburbs, higher interest rates, points and other inflationary factors having little bearing on true market value of the property.

Powell, one of Farmington's representatives on the Board of Commissioners, said he was not totally in favor of using recorded information on deeds to determine assessments.

POWELL said the rising SEV factors applied by counties has been a "landslide and windfall for many governmental units, especially school districts."

Administrators plan expenditures, Powell said, not legislators. "And people don't support those legislators who try to hold down expenditures," Hall said he supported the 50% of market value yardstick.

"If it is uniformly assessed throughout the taxing district, it is the only way to get equity."

Purnell explained the only state constitutional change regarding assessments was the 50% yardstick. But the year the constitution was passed, he added, the state was already at 49%. What has happened is

the price of homes have gone up and so the valuation must also increase.

Powell commented that of the 63 governmental units in Oakland County he knew of only three that have made an adjustment in millage rates because of increased SEV.

Powell added that when a community receives its SEV factor from the county, it can either spread the factor over the entire community or reassess only those properties that are under-assessed.

"The easy way is to spread the factor over the community," he added, but that was not the fair method.

WHILE DISCUSSING appeals to the State Tax Commission, Purnell said in 1968 86% of the decisions were in favor of the taxpayer, about five to 10% of the taxpayers had their assessments raised, while the remainder were denied.

In 1968, Hall said, the Township Board of Review handled 10 appeals. Of these, one was lowered \$1,200, two remained the same, and the other property owners had their assessments raised - including one whose assessments were raised by \$5,000.

This year, Hall added, the review board spent over 90 hours listening to appeals from township property owners.

While discussing millage reductions, Dinan said an area's new growth will help raise the budget without relying on inflationary SEV increases.

Hall explained the township's tax collections have gone up about 500% since 1960. The assessed valuation in 1960 was about \$40 million and now is about \$238 million.

Part of the tax bill increase is because of extra voted millage for schools, Hall said, plus the fact that prices of homes have been rising about 10% a year.

"Every time the local tax base goes up we must collect more local revenue just to keep even with the previous year's budget," Smith added.

Collective bargaining rights for teachers has placed tremendous demands upon the district, Smith said.

"There is no way to control this. The public employer has his hands tied behind his back while the employee has a pretty fatal weapon with a threat to strike."

"If the schools don't open next fall, who will holler the most?"

Rep. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington), sitting in the audience, commented that for every letter he gets urging reduction in expenditures he gets 100 asking to spend more money.

Wickham said residents must write legislators urging

expenditure reform and criticism to get involved in local politics.

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Couple Named Club Officers

FARMINGTON Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Brauer of 24168 St. Mary's Court in Farmington have been named to the board of directors of the Marygrove College Parents Club for the 1970-71 term.

Mr. and Mrs. Brauer will represent parents of the college's junior class.

Assign Airmen

Two Navy airmen from Farmington have been assigned to Naval Air Stations.

Airman Apprentice Mark G. Brummel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard H. Brummel of 24024 Madison Ct. in Farmington, is serving at the US Naval Air Station at Lemoore, Calif.

Navy Airman Michael D. Howard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Howard of 24965 Ivywood Dr. in Farmington, is serving at the Naval Air Station at Kingsville, Tex.

Gets Masters

Niel Warriner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Warriner of 32600 11 Mile Rd., Farmington, has received his masters degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Warriner excelled in football, basketball and track while maintaining an A minus average at Farmington High School.

He entered Albion College upon his graduation in 1964. At Albion, he was captain of the basketball team and an all-conference shot putter for the track team.

He graduated from Albion in 1968 and undertook a two-year masters program at the University of Michigan.

He will be employed in the loan department of the main branch of the National Bank of Detroit.

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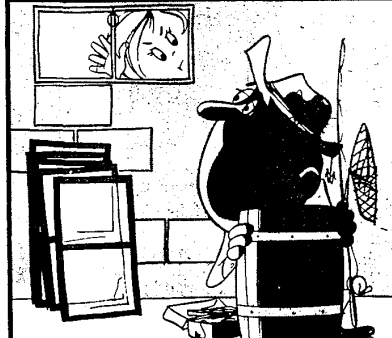
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