

Hills faces major expenditure for flood control

Continued from Page 1

flooding problem by allowing the overflow to spill into the M-103 right-of-way.

"This is a temporary solution to a permanent flooding problem," said Thomas Biassell, Farmington Hills director of public services.

Biassell said that MDOT can, according to the agreement, stop the cities from allowing M-103 to flood. Or MDOT can refuse to wait any longer and order completion of the drain.

MDOT would then guarantee the cities' Act 51 funds — money from state gas and weight taxes that is used to pay for local road improvements, Biassell said.

The three cities had petitioned to sell unlimited general-obligation bonds to pay for the drain.

THE STATE Municipal Finance Commission, however, denied the request to sell the general-obligation bonds and instead approved the sale of limited-obligation bonds.

The Novi City Council has already

approved the sale of limited bonds to pay Novi's \$152,000 share. Farmington Hills has a \$476,000 share and Farmington Hills have yet to take action.

General-obligation bonds, which would allow the city to levy beyond its present 10-mill maximum, are considered by bond buyers to be preferable to limited-obligation bonds which allow the city to retire the bonds only within its present approved maximum of 10 mills.

Finance Director Charles Rosch said the general-obligation bonds are better because interest rates are one-half to 1 percent less than on limited bonds.

"We may very well have to bring the public into this kind of thing," Mayor Charles Williams said at the study meeting. "The problem is: What if the people say no? This is a project that has to be done."

COUNCILMAN Joe Alkatieb said all capital-improvement projects should be placed before the voters to see how they will be financed. "We're doing it piecemeal," Alkatieb complained.

Councilman Donna Wolf agreed say-

ing, "I'm not going to go for a tax increase in this city without going to the people."

Wolf also suggested that council members should consider a 3 percent cut in expenses of all city departments to pay for capital improvements.

Councilwoman Jodi Soronen disagreed. "With the critical needs we have we are not going to do it with 3-

percent cuts across the board," she said.

"We have delayed, delayed and delayed. There is no more to be cut. We're fooling ourselves to ask the administration to come up with alternatives," Soronen added.

COUNCILWOMAN Jean Dudley said: "Instead of cutting city employ-

ees' pay, we'll cut garbage service instead. Let the people who won't pay run short not the people who are here to serve."

Williams pointed out that Farmington Hills has a lower city tax rate than the five neighboring communities.

"I'm very sensitive that we have two council members (Wolf and Alkatieb) that have pledged themselves to no tax

increase," Williams said. "I want to be able to come up with a plan we can all support this year."

Meanwhile, Dudley asked council to avoid making any financing commitments for any capital improvements "until we know the whole picture."

But she suggested that "we put this (Caddell Drain) on our front page of all our considerations."

Health issues are addressed

Issues in health and human services will be offered in short-term classes through the continuing education department at Madonna College in February.

Holistic health perspectives will consist of three sessions which introduce the health perspective to holistic science. It will meet 1-4:30 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 17, March 1 and April 6. The fee is \$40 for three sessions or \$15 per session.

For information, call 591-5188. Professional staff development is de-

signed to provide the health care manager with the tools and techniques to get the most out of their staff personnel. It meets Friday evening and Saturday, Feb. 17-18. The fee is \$65 CR or \$35 CEU.

Another workshop, activities for the impaired elderly do with activities for the homebound, bedbound and wheelchair impaired elderly. It consists of three Saturday sessions beginning Feb. 18. The cost is \$130 for three sessions or \$55 per session.

Merging depts. is contemplated

Continued from Page 1

BUT RATHER than just pronounce the plan with a resounding no, the firefighters picked up one of Livonia Public Safety Commissioner Robert Turner's alternatives to a volunteer system and tossed it back to him.

To save money for nearby cities as well as for Livonia, the firefighters have proposed combining the five fire departments into one umbrella fire department. Livonia would be in charge of the whole system.

"They gave us a plan (using volunteers) that would have cut services," said union president Frances Howell. "We have given them a plan which will work if they can surmount politics. It is a better plan."

"If they can't politically get together and do something about fire and EMS service in these communities, then they don't have the citizen in mind at all. It's up to (Mayor Edward H.) McNamara to sell the plan to the other mayors."

TURNER raised the idea of some form of regional fire fighting system in January when he outlined the plan to place in volunteers. At that time, Turner told the firefighters some changes would be forced on them if they didn't agree to reopen their contract.

"One of the things we see is some change of parochial, political lines," Turner said. "We might have to stretch into other areas. We are forced to do this."

"We might be closer to a fire in Westland or Farmington Hills. We might see these boundary lines stretched. Citizens may want their own fire department, but when their house is on fire, they don't look at what is printed on the side of the fire truck."

THE CITY'S firefighters tied those words together with Turner's assertion that nearby cities were founding financially and came up with their plan to regionalize.

"At the time he outlined the volunteer plan, Turner also said some nearby cities, such as Westland, Redford and Dearborn Heights, were facing financial chaos. "If they are not financially bailed, they are on the brink of it," Turner said.

Merging fire departments under one umbrella system would solve some of these financial problems, Howell said. The system would be patterned after the Los Angeles County system, which covers 50 square miles.

"THERE'S no reason why we can't do it here," Howell said. "Turner said Livonia's (financial) plight is shared by other nearby communities, that there are impending financial disasters in surrounding towns. We do have a concern for the firefighters and EMS protection in these communities."

"If Turner is correct, we propose providing EMS and fire protection by contract to all our surrounding cities who he claims are faltering."

"We can cut our budget by charging a fee for fire services to them. If they are going to be without jobs in a few years anyway, why not work for us?"

"IF IT'S not workable, its downfall will be that it cannot be politically implemented. It's not our fault, but the cities' fault."

Howell said it made sense for Livonia to head the centralized system because:

- Livonia has a modern computer system, with dispatching for police, fire, DPW and medical emergencies.

- Livonia has superior training facilities at Station No. 6, which is already used by nearby departments.

- Station No. 6 could also be expanded for centralized apparatus repairs and parts storage.

A REGIONALIZED system would eliminate duplicate police chiefs, secretaries, fire commissioners and other management personnel, along with the cars, offices and other fringe benefits these personnel now get, Howell said.

"All the money saved by not having to pay these salaries would pay for extra fire fighters and EMS service personnel," Howell said. "We can buy more equipment, hire extra personnel. We can increase services and still have money left over."

TURNER, in his presentation to firefighters, ticked off numerous reasons, all financial, why the city needed to switch to a partly volunteer fire department. The city faces a projected 13-percent decrease in assessed valuation in 1984-85, he said. Property taxes are based on assessed value, so if assessed valuation decreases, the amount of taxes collected decreases.

The fire department's budget has kept going up each year, while the number of firefighters declines, he said. The city expects no state or federal money in 1984-85 and no new tax money from residents, he said.

Nearby cities are in the red, the cost of running Livonia's fire department is "out of line" with its actual performance and the budgets of other fire departments proves that fire departments can be run on less money, he said.

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Liberty Bank — Oakland

of Troy, Michigan And Foreign and Domestic Subsidiaries, at the close of Business December 31, 1983, a state banking institution organized and operating under the banking laws of the State and a member of the Federal Reserve System. Published in accordance with a call made by the State Banking Authorities and by the Federal Reserve Bank of the District.

Assets	Liabilities
1. Cash and cash equivalents (Schedule 1, Item 1)	1. Deposits (Schedule 2, Item 1)
2. U.S. Treasury securities (Schedule 1, Item 2)	2. Loans (Schedule 2, Item 2)
3. Securities of U.S. Government and its agencies (Schedule 1, Item 3)	3. Other assets (Schedule 2, Item 3)
4. Securities of U.S. Government and its agencies (Schedule 1, Item 4)	4. Other liabilities (Schedule 2, Item 4)
5. Securities of U.S. Government and its agencies (Schedule 1, Item 5)	5. Other liabilities (Schedule 2, Item 5)
6. Securities of U.S. Government and its agencies (Schedule 1, Item 6)	6. Other liabilities (Schedule 2, Item 6)
7. Securities of U.S. Government and its agencies (Schedule 1, Item 7)	7. Other liabilities (Schedule 2, Item 7)
8. Securities of U.S. Government and its agencies (Schedule 1, Item 8)	8. Other liabilities (Schedule 2, Item 8)
9. Securities of U.S. Government and its agencies (Schedule 1, Item 9)	9. Other liabilities (Schedule 2, Item 9)
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Witness my hand and the seal of the State of Michigan, this 11th day of February, 1984.

William F. Latham, Vice President & Cashier

Notary Public for the State of Michigan

State of Michigan, County of Oakland

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of February, 1984, by the undersigned, a duly authorized officer of the Liberty Bank and Trust Company, a state banking institution organized and operating under the banking laws of the State and a member of the Federal Reserve System.

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