

# Farmington Observer

Volume 85 Number 79

Thursday, July 12, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

72 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

©1984 Bell & Howell Information Company. All rights reserved.

## Council leaves millage hike up to voters

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

With the city charter just a decade old, Farmington Hills City Council will attempt to raise the millage limit from 10 mills to 11.5.

Farmington Hills voters will be asked to approve a charter amendment in November asking for an additional 1.5 mills for 20 years, earmarked specifically for capital improvements.

Establishing a millage limit was one of the most controversial clauses of the

city's charter debate in the early '70s. The 10-mill limit was a compromise to garner enough support from the township electorate for passage.

With a 4-0 vote Monday, the Farmington Hills City Council committed itself to placing the charter amendment on the general election ballot in November. Councilman Donn Wolf was absent.

Council members are expected to take a final vote on Monday, July 23, when city administrators provide them with the ballot's official wording.

After months of discussing a six-year capital improvements plan and its financing, as well as adoption of the city's \$15.3-million 1984-85 budget in June, the decision to proceed with a charter amendment came as no surprise.

Although raising the charter's tax limit would be the bottom line of the council's action, both council members and administrators are not committed to levying the total 11.5 mills, if the amendment was approved by voters.

But Councilwoman Jan Dolan later

confirmed that if the amendment is approved, residents will pay at least 9.5 mills next year.

That would be based on the current 8 mills plus the additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements. The additional 1.5 mills would not be levied until next July. But in June, council would have the option of increasing or decreasing the operating tax levy when they adopt the 1985-86 city budget.

"A charter amendment is a lot more serious than asking for special millage," said Councilman Joe Alkatech,

cooperated about the apparent need for a charter amendment.

An amendment is necessary because of the charter's maximum 10-mill tax levy, said City Manager William Costick.

With the current 8-mill levy that council approved last month, the additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements would bring the total tax levy to 9.5 mills.

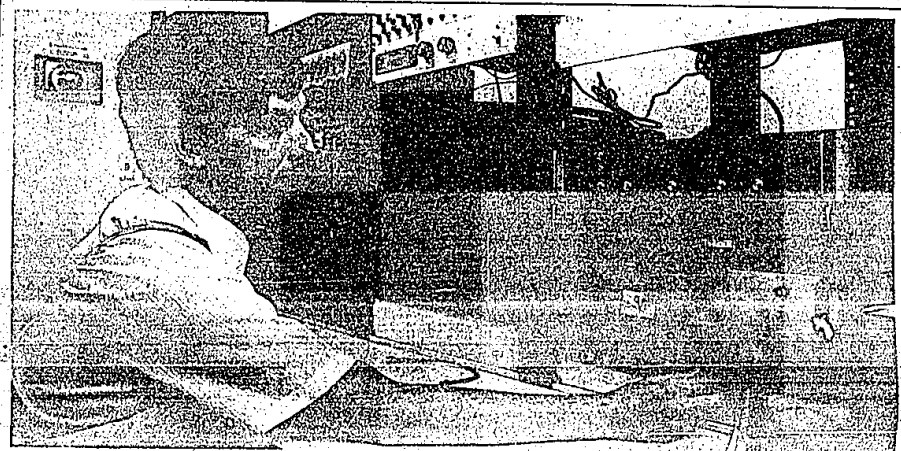
That would leave future councils with only a "5-mill leeway," said Councilwoman Joan Dudley. "I just

wouldn't want to commit 1.5 mills within the 10-mill limit."

Without a charter amendment extending the maximum tax rate council may levy, future councils would have to ask for a charter amendment when general millage (operating and debt) needs to be increased, Dudley said.

The other side of the coin, Costick said, is that council already has the authority (according to city charter) to levy the additional 1.5 mills and there

Please turn to Page 4



James Bridgewater, electronics engineer, adjusts a radio receiver in the monitoring room of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau in Farmington Hills.

## Appointments spawn discord on the council

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Mayor Charles Williams' unsuccessful attempt to appoint two political unknowns to the Farmington Hills Planning Commission this week led to criticism from council colleagues.

After council members voted 3-3 in two separate ballots, Williams' move to appoint Susan Higgins and Robert Primeau was withdrawn.

"I am not too excited about two appointments to the planning commission," said Councilman Joe Alkatech. "I would like to at least consider in these appointments someone who has paid their dues to the city."

Alkatech and council members Robert Anzovar and Joan Dudley voted against the appointments.

Council members Jan Dolan, Jodi Soronen and Williams voted to confirm the appointments. Councilman Donn Wolf was absent.

Both Higgins and Primeau in January unsuccessfully tried for an appointment to the council to fill a vacancy

left by the resignation of then-recently re-elected Fred Hughes.

Williams must now come back with two more appointments to fill the planning commission vacancies left by former councilman Robert Anzovar's council appointment in January, as well as the recent resignation of Ben Marks who is pending for council.

"CALLING DEPOSITION of his appointments 'a case of sour grapes,'" Williams said some council members were angry that he did not appoint their favorite candidates for a commission. "Of those by whom I have been encouraged and urged by sides of this council one way or another for basically political means," Williams said. "What my colleagues are failing to see are the qualifications of these people (Higgins and Primeau)."

Alkatech and Councilwoman Joan Dudley argued that both appointees were too inexperienced to serve on the planning commission.

Please turn to Page 11

## Ferreting out interference for federal agency in town

By Jean Adamczak  
staff writer

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has moved its Field Operations Bureau (FOB) from downtown Detroit to Farmington Hills.

Originally in the Federal Building downtown, the FCC was forced to move due to the expansion of the bankruptcy court. The FCC is now housed at 24097 Hathaway north of 10 Mile.

The Farmington Hills location was chosen using computer data which indicated fewer transmitters in the area said Irby Tallant, chief engineer in charge of the Detroit District FOB.

This improves the commission's ability to monitor the electromagnetic spectrum (frequencies occupied by television and radio signals) and make sure that radio and TV stations don't interfere with each other.

The FCC is responsible for the supervision and regulation of wire, radio, and television communication, said Rochester resident Tallant.

"The signals that occupy the spec-

trum kept increasing in power to the point that our monitoring systems were ineffective at the Detroit location," he said.

The fewer number of transmitters in the Farmington Hills area is partly due to the fact that the Hills does not allow antennas to exceed 55 feet in height, Tallant said.

THE FCC obtained a zoning variance from the city council permitting installation of one 57-foot antenna. The other ten antennas are erected all fall under the 55-foot limit.

As chief engineer of the Detroit district, Tallant is responsible for monitoring three states: Michigan, Ohio and eastern Kentucky.

He has 14 employees on his staff, including six technicians, four engineers and two electronic technicians all of whom have extensive military electronic backgrounds.

Responsibilities of the FOB include monitoring the radio spectrum to see that station operation meets technical requirements, inspecting all types of

stations, conducting amateur and commercial operator examinations and issuing permits or licenses to qualified operators.

It also locates and closes unauthorized transmitters, furnishes radio bearings for aircraft or ships in distress, locates sources of interference and suggests remedial measures.

Interference to home electronic equipment is one of the biggest complaints to the FCC Tallant said.

"We receive about 10,000 complaints a year from people who are experiencing interference in their home stereos, TVs, telephones and radios," said Tallant.

WHEN SUCH a complaint is filed, engineers use automatic radio detection equipment which acts as a bombing device enabling the FCC to go directly to the source of interference.

Radio-frequency interference results from a wide range of home electronic products and appliances.

"Light dimmers, fluorescent lights, even doorbell transformers are inci-

dental radiation devices — they radiate energy although that is not their specific function," Tallant said.

Any device which emits radio-frequency energy automatically falls under the jurisdiction of the FCC and is subject to FCC regulations.

"Every case we go out on we handle as if we were going to court with it, so we obtain enough evidence to back up our findings," Tallant said.

Violators of FCC regulations are usually issued a warning first by the FOB, but can be slapped with a fine up to \$2,000.

"In cases where people are taken to court the violator can be fined \$10,000 and a year in jail for a first offense," Tallant said.

The FCC can issue fines as high as \$20,000 without taking any judicial action, he added.

The public is welcome to come into the FOB to obtain information about the FCC or to file radio frequency interference complaints Tallant said, although they prefer to have complaints filed in writing.

By Diane Gale  
and Jean Adamczak  
staff writer

Salary increases for the seven Farmington Hills department heads averaged 7.7 percent for 1984-85. But salaries are still lower than those in cities of similar size, according to a study conducted by Farmington Hills in May 1984.

The raises ranged from a low of 2.8 percent for the city manager's post to a high of 13.8 for the public services director.

The Farmington Hills City Council recently approved the 1984-85 budget boosting the salaries.

"We needed department heads and salaries with communities of similar size, and ours were way out of whack, so we decided to adjust them," explained Bill Costick, city manager.

"Otherwise we'll start losing employees," Costick said. "If we want to retain quality people, we have to compensate them."

Costick, who took over as city manager July 1, will make \$59,000. In comparison, the Royal Oak city manager makes \$64,000, followed by Southfield at \$62,500, Livonia \$60,000 and Birmingham \$44,000.

Farmington Hills special services director will be increased from \$31,500 to \$34,000. Previously in consultation with

followed by Livonia at \$42,000 and Birmingham at \$41,000.

THE FINANCE director/treasurer of Farmington Hills will earn a slightly lower 13.7 percent raise, increasing his salary from \$37,823 to \$43,000. This is about \$9,000 less than Livonia's finance director, who earns \$52,000.

Royal Oak follows at \$48,000, Southfield at \$46,000 and Birmingham at \$45,000.

Farmington Hills fire chief salary rose 3.8 percent, from \$64,771 to \$67,374. In comparison, the fire chief of Southfield earns 49,000 followed by Livonia at \$48,000.

The police chief of Farmington Hills will get a 1.3 percent increase in his salary going from \$41,172 to \$41,590. This is approximately \$2,000 less than that of Royal Oak's chief who earns \$43,000.

Livonia's police chief makes \$48,000, followed by Southfield at \$45,000 and Birmingham at \$40,000.

The city clerk of Farmington Hills will receive a 7.0 percent increase in pay from \$45,000 to \$48,000. His colleague in Royal Oak earns \$47,000 followed by Southfield at \$45,000, Livonia at \$42,000 and Birmingham at \$38,000.

"You can see from the study that we have taken salaries in comparison

### oral quarrel

## How would you vote on charter change?

At this week's Farmington Hills Council meeting, the city's legislators took the initial steps to place a charter amendment on the ballot which would raise the millage limit from 10 to 11.5.

How would you vote on a pro-

posed charter amendment to raise the millage limit from 10 to 11.5?

How would you vote on a pro-

### what's inside

Amusements	7-10C
Business	5C
Cable Connection	4A
Classifieds	Sections D-E
Club Circuit	3B
Community Calendar	2B
Crossword puzzle	7E
Editorial Page	12A
Engagements	7B
Obituaries	5A
Sports	3-10C
Suburban Life	1-12B
Travel	8C

Call 477-5555 for more information.

**CREATIVE LIVING**

REAL ESTATE SECTION

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO APARTMENT LIVING

IN TODAY'S EDITION OF THE

Call 477-5555 for more information.

Call 477-5555 for more information.

Call 477-5555 for more information.