

City eyes similar tax levy for new budget

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Despite probable federal budget cuts and a wholesale increase in water rates, Farmington's city administration has proposed a budget to maintain the city's current millage rate for 1988-89.

A total levy of 10.76 mills for operation and .98 mill to fund the General Fund Debt Service is expected to continue, according to information from City Manager Robert Deadman presented to the city council Monday.

"It is projected that the revenues will be sufficient to fund anticipated expenditures without the necessity of an increase in the local operating tax rate."

A 6-percent projected increase in state shared revenues "should help offset the loss of federally shared funds," according to Deadman's administrative report to council.

The city council has scheduled budget review sessions 7-9 p.m. May 6, 13 and 15 in council chambers, in addition to a May 1 budget session in Farmington Hills to discuss departments that receive funding from both municipalities. The city's budget must be adopted by the first Monday in June. A public hearing on the budget is tentatively scheduled for the third Monday in May.

THE PROPOSED budget calls for 90.3 percent of the \$3.7 million General Fund to be used for operating expenses, 4 percent used to meet the debt service obligations and 4.8 percent used to purchase capital equipment and for construction.

The General Fund is comprised of 55 percent in property taxes and 18 percent state shared revenues, which derive from state income and sales taxes, based directly on the state's economy, according to Deadman. The remaining 11 percent is obtained from service fees and 16 percent from fund transfers and miscellaneous revenues — due to a proposed 3.6 percent increase in General Fund expenditures.

The remainder of the proposed \$6 million budget includes \$1.23 million for the Water and Sewer Fund and \$1 million for the Highway Fund.

Operating tax millage rates and other fees have remained stable in Farmington. However, if the city of Detroit raises water rates again next year, an increase will probably be passed along to consumers, Deadman said. This year, a net water and sewerage increase of 6.8 percent will occur, which the city plans to absorb.

DEADMAN is also proposing "we do away with the minimum billing" of \$17.60, and institute a service

charge of \$4.50 to cover meter readings, quarterly billings and other costs. The change would have dramatic impact on senior citizens and others on a fixed income, he added.

This year's proposed Water and Sewer Fund will provide for improvement of water pressure in an area near Gill Road and Grand River — a low-pressure area during peak usage times — at a cost of about \$350,000.

Several other major purchases and construction programs are planned and budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year, according to the report.

The Cadell Drain project (in the Grand River/M-102 area), for which Farmington's share will be \$654,000, is scheduled to begin this summer. A total of \$86,335 is in the proposed budget for the city's share of service on the Oakland County drain construction bonds.

Road improvements, including re-

construction of Farmington Road north of Shawasssee, portions of Shawasssee east to Power Road, and repair of the of the Power Road bridge over the upper branch of the Rouge River, are slated for early 1987. Gas and weight tax highway bonds are proposed to finance the \$600,000 program, according to the report. Debt service would be \$73,000 annually for 15 years.

Since "all previous bonds issued for highway construction have been retired, the new debt should not create an undue burden on the Highway Fund," Deadman said in his report.

PROPOSED CAPITAL expenditures for the Department of Public Safety include replacing four patrol vehicles, home alerting monitors with mobile units, and of 2,800 feet of fire hose.

The Department of Public Services proposes replacement of a four-wheel drive pickup truck with snow plow and purchase of a new

leaf machine with a 20-cubic-yard storage trailer.

Also included in the budget are proposed salary recommendations, as estimated by the city manager's office.

Two contracts involving the city's public services workers and the public safety clerk/dispatchers expire June 30. Negotiations with those groups will begin shortly, Deadman added.

Screening is focus

A program is planned for area physicians and related persons to discuss the Farmington Public School's program of Child Find — evaluating children who might qualify for special education services, according to Marjorie Poland, program coordinator.

From 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at the Fairview Early Childhood Center, 28500 Oakcrest, Child Find team members will present the program and project activities, followed by a tour of the facility.

Screening for special education services is done by a committee

comprised of a teacher, speech pathologist, psychologist, occupational therapist, social worker, nurse and parent.

"Occasionally, you have contact with a child who may require some special education services because of a physical, mental or other problem," Poland said in a letter of invitation to the professionals.

The Fairview center is at 28500 Oakcrest, off of Old Franklin Drive, northeast of Middlebelt Road and Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills.



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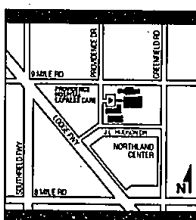
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