

Tax payment agreement is reached

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A tentative agreement was reached between the city of Farmington Hills and Farmington Public Schools for disbursement of school taxes collected by the city.

The agreement would financially benefit both taxing authorities, according to city and school officials. "Everyone wins — it's one of those situations," Farmington's deputy superintendent, Michael Flanagan, said. "We're going to come out ahead by at least \$100,000."

Hills City Manager William Costick concurred: "In concept, it's ben-

eficial to both. I don't have any problem with it (the agreement)."

The largest portion of school taxes, collected in the summer by the Hills, would be paid in advance to the school district through the financing of a consolidated tax anticipation note. Collected winter taxes would be disbursed to the district each Friday, within five business days of collection, according to the plan.

THE AGREEMENT was approved June 3 by the Farmington Board of Education, and is being reviewed by city attorneys before being taken before the council for a

bond resolution approval, according to Costick. The city council has approved the hiring of financial advisers and an underwriter, and passed a resolution of intent to issue the notes.

With the note, the city would borrow money at a low rate to pay the school district its summer taxes in advance, and in full, on July 20, then sell the note at a higher rate, allowing both the city and school district to earn money, officials said.

The city of Farmington and West Bloomfield Township also collect taxes for the school district, but don't qualify for the issuance of tax anticipation notes. They are allowed

under a 1984 amendment of Public Act 202 of 1943 for Michigan municipalities with populations of more than 50,000. Separate contracts must be negotiated with Farmington and the township, Flanagan said.

The agreement calls for "accelerated turnover of funds forever," Flanagan said, until one of the parties chooses to utilize the 50-day cancellation provision. It also assigns the district's right, title and interest to delinquent taxes after March 1, 1987.

MORE IMPORTANTLY for the city, the district will forgive any claim it has to interest on previously

collected taxes prior to November 4, 1985 — totaling an estimated half million dollars by school officials. School districts could go back no further than six years, due to the statute of limitations.

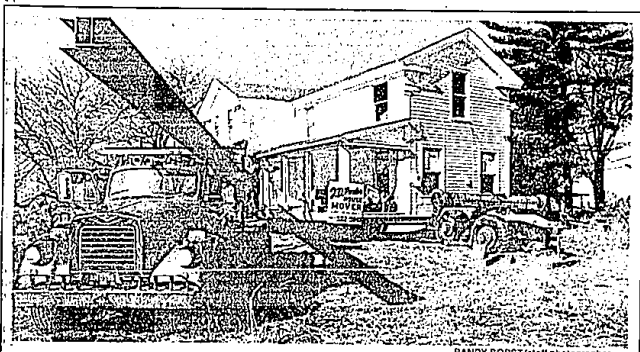
In a wash, the city will pay the schools about \$54,000 in interest earned since the Dec. 1, 1985, tax levy, while the schools will finance about \$48,000 in underwriting costs for the note.

The agreement is being negotiated due to a Nov. 4, 1985, Michigan Court of Appeals decision involving the Grand Rapids school district. The court ruled the district had a right to interest earned by collecting

governmental units before the money is transferred to the district.

It triggered a rash of litigation involving West Bloomfield, Commerce and White Lake townships, the city of Walled Lake, and the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association, which are challenging the ruling.

All the units collect taxes for Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, which has countersued, asking not only for future tax interest earnings, but the interest going back six years. Farmington Hills also collects taxes for the Walled Lake schools, but is not involved in the litigation.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Historic house

A Farmington Hills City Council resolution June 2 has made official the inclusion of the more-than-100-year-old Gravin house into the Farmington Hills Historic District. The Greek revival-style house (above) was moved from its longstanding site at Northwestern Highway and 13 Mile to 30757 Inkster, south of

13 Mile. The historic farmhouse still contains its original windows, frames, sills across the front porch and interior woodwork. Interior and exterior restoration will begin this summer with expected completion within five-10 years.

Y lauds Farmington man

Allan Kenerson of Farmington received the John W. Armstrong Humanitarian Award at the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit's 15th annual Heritage Club Recognition Dinner June 3.

Club members, through their estate planning, have taken a stand to help assure that YMCA programs continue in the years ahead. It is estimated that the deferred amount totals over \$14 million.

The John W. Armstrong Award goes to a Detroit-area individual who has demonstrated unselfish contribution to the community's betterment.

Kenerson has been active in Little League, in the Boy Scouts, at Purdue University, at Ward Presbyterian Church, in the Jaycees and at the Farmington YMCA.

In 1982, he was recognized as the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

His YMCA contributions include eight years as board chairman and 20 years on the Farmington YMCA board of directors. He was a key leader in the 1980 building campaign.

"Without Al Kenerson's leadership, the Farmington facility would not have been a reality," said Gary

Unruh, YMCA vice president. "That is why he is affectionately known to his friends as the chief."

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