

Foursome Leads Discussion

Debate Airs Both Sides Of Annexation

FARMINGTON Labeling the annexation question a "six-sided problem," John Richardson, Farmington city councilman, started off another debate at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce annual dinner meeting in the Botstorf Inn.

Richardson to present the "pro" side. He cited six major problem areas:
• Taxes and an increased millage rate
• Future of government in general
• Potential importance of township government
• Alleged "land grab" charges (referring to increased revenue for the city from the Industrial Park in the south part of the township.)
• "Landlocking" of the township similar to Lathrup Village, Southfield and West Bloomfield.
• What incorporation would mean.

"TAXES will rise \$3.75 per \$1,000, state equalized valuation, or 8.5 mills.
• "One disadvantage is that we don't receive gas and weight tax refunds; they go to the county," he said.
McConnell proposed that if annexation should succeed, the rest of the township would have to incorporate "to protect its interest and boundaries."

area is developed, yielding about \$10 million per year.
DINAN ESTIMATED about \$50-75 million revenue in the next five to 10 years.
Dinan said: "An annexation bill is on the governor's desk right now" that would permit 25% of the population in the area to be annexed to permit for a vote on the decision of the State Boundary Commission where the population of the area to be annexed is over 100.
Dinan predicted "this will probably be the last annexation vote for a long time."
FRITZ WENSON, manager of the Farmington Little League team honored at the Chamber dinner, asked about future development of park in the area.
Dinan said the city plans to build 12 parks in a five-year capital improvement program. The new parks will adjoin William Grace Elementary School, Westbrook and two west side schools, doubling the size of school sites, Dinan said.

HE RECALLED how it started back in October 1969, when a petition for joining the city and the south end of the township drew signatures "from both sides of the city line."



ON THE 'CON' SIDE -- Fred Fairfield teamed up with Robert McConnell, president of the Future Farmington Assn., to oppose annexation at the annual Farmington Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting. (Evert photo)

"There's a leaf missing," he began. "We're all interested in one total community but not under the city's present plan.
• "Consolidation failed last year by 245 'no' votes from the city."
He said the city promised to pave a total of 4 1/2 miles of roads in five different areas at a cost of \$12,000 per mile, sharing the cost with the Oakland County Road Commission.

That would mean leveling off the degree of services, but in three, four or five years we would have another election in which consolidation would probably pass," he told the crowd.

City Residents Should Defeat Merger -- FFA

One week from today, we are confident that the record will show the move by the City of Farmington to annex nearly 12 square miles of Farmington Township has been defeated.

Why are we confident? First, because it has become evident that the city does not have much to offer the residents of the township's southern area. Second, because it must be increasingly clear to the residents of the city that they will be worse off if annexation is approved.
THE CITY OFFICIALS who have been making all kinds of promises to the south end, have been strangely quiet about the benefits that annexation will bring to the residents of the present city.
And no wonder, because it would take all of the city's resources, plus new revenue from higher taxes, to make good on all the promises.

It is extremely difficult to maintain existing services with less money per person, to say nothing of having to use part of that same money to establish new services over a larger area.
The only conclusion that can be drawn are: (1) if annexation is approved, taxes for residents of the south end will be increased more than \$4 per \$1,000 of evaluation and present city residents will face a higher tax rate; or, (2) the planning is being done by a City government which does not have sufficient experience to cope with the problems of administering an area five times as large as the present City.

Richardson ACCUSED township officials of neglecting the needs of residents here. "The powers that run the township do not listen to citizens," he said. "and now these people want to get to an area that's concerned about them."

McConnell took a swing at Farmington's City Council which recently passed a resolution to change the city charter to expand the City Council from five to seven members.

With its existing tax revenues, the city has done a fairly good job of maintaining its streets and providing other services within the confines of its small area.
The city does talk about building a new civic arena, skating rink and municipal swimming pool, but has admitted that this couldn't be done until some unspecified time in the future.

Why hasn't the city proposed that the present charter be reviewed by an objective citizens' group to see if it meets the needs of a city of 30,000 in the 1970's? Is the lack of such a proposal further evidence of insufficient thought and hasty planning? Or is it simply one more indication of the confused state of the city council?

McConnell's debate partner, Fred Fairfield, FFA vice president, said he agreed with Richardson's figures on SEV. "But the revenue per person in the city is \$43.45 from property tax, a sum that will drop to \$37.40 if annexation succeeds."

John Dinan speculated on the growth of the controversial 900-acre Industrial Park at 10 Mile and Grand River in the township. He said 25% of the

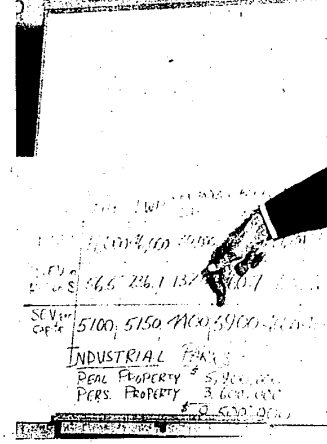
YET WITH LESS revenue per person, the city attempted to provide and maintain entirely new services in an area four times as large as the present city.
The city would find it ex-

JOHN ALLEN has quite properly remained silent on the present annexation proposal which contradicts everything he said a year ago.
Yoder, however, now says that he really didn't have very much to do with the defeat of consolidation and is currently working to make the city larger through annexation.

JOHN DINAN, Farmington city manager, teamed up with

REFERRING to politicians'

Richard Tupper, not a councilman but member of the city planning commission when he filed the annexation petition last October, has been strangely silent. Does he now have misgivings about the wisdom of taking on the problem of a much larger city?
Last year, Mayor Wilbur



Commerce dinner meeting. Voters will decide whether the south half of the township will become part of the City of Farmington on Nov. 3. (Evert photo)

City's Mayor Answers Queries On Annexation

By MAYOR WILBUR V. BROTHERTON
Following is the fourth in a series of articles written by City of Farmington officials urging voters to vote "YES" Nov. 2 on annexation. Today's article is submitted by Mayor Wilbur Brotherton.

In an effort to answer some of the more pertinent questions relating to the annexation proposed, we have attempted to give a candid view of what the results would be if a merger of the southern portion of the township and the city is accomplished.
These are basic questions that have arisen from our various discussions with the people in the township and we trust will be helpful in making your decision Nov. 3.
If you want more answers, call city offices at 474-5500.
Q. What is the city tax rate?
A. The city has the lowest city tax rate in Oakland County, \$8.50 per thousand S.E.V.
Q. How much more will it cost than present township taxes?
A. The present township tax is \$4.70 per thousand S.E.V. which presently re-evaluating to \$5.80 per thousand taxes, but the city provides weekly unlimited refuse collection and spends \$4.80 per thousand for police and fire protection compared to the township \$2 per thousand for police protection and no weekly refuse collection, which is evaluated at two mills.

we have just completed at the Drake Road Park, three watered and sodded ball diamonds and playground facilities. We complete four new locations, William Grace School, Westbrook School, Eight Mile-Haggerty school site, and Halstead-Drake school site.

Q. How long will it take to get city services to the affected area?
A. The city plans on providing basic city services within a 30-to-60-day period after the election which would include weekly unlimited rubbish collection, the first phase of expanding police and fire protection, snow plowing and road maintenance. Within a 90-day period the city should be in a position to have street lighting installed.
Q. What about representation from the affected area?
A. The city council has gone on record of placing on the ballot a charter amendment to expand the membership of the city council from five to seven members and give previous residency credit in the annexed area. This would mean that you could run for office or serve on the various boards and city commissions.
Q. What is the city's policy on special assessment districts for improvements?
A. The city's policy on special assessment districts for capital improvements such as sewer, water and paving, is that it has to be initiated by more than 50 percent of the property owners to be affected by the project. The city at large contributes approximately 20 percent of the cost of these improvements.

Farmington Calendar Of Events

GOODFELLOW DRESS DRIVE
For the third year Farmington Goodfellows are conducting a dress drive for Christmas dresses for needy children in the Farmington area. Handmade or purchased dresses, sizes five to 14, will be accepted. If you desire to sew a dress and do not have the material, call Mrs. John Richardson, 476-4320, and the material will be provided. Or if you prefer, a \$3 contribution will buy one little girl a dress.
CANDIDATES NIGHT
Oct. 29. The Christian Service Committee of St. Fabian Catholic Church will sponsor a candidates

night at 8:30 p.m. in the church social hall, 12 Mile near Farmington RD. No admission. Coffee served.
GOP CANDIDATES DAY
Oct. 31. The public is invited to meet national, state and local Republican candidates at the Farmington GOP headquarters, 33335 Farmington Rd. at Grand River from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the Farmington Teenage Republicans will provide Halloween fun and favors for the children.
LONGACRE SCHOOL PTA
Oct. 31. Longacre School PTA will present a Halloween magic show, "Fun Time Revue," starring Eddie Jay for Longacre pupils.

OLDE FRANKLIN TOWNE HOME OWNERS
Nov. 2. Olde Franklin Towne Home Owners Association will hold its annual meeting at 8 p.m. in Fairview School. Three trustees will be elected. Dr. Burton Levy, association secretary and candidate for township trustee, will discuss the Nov. 3 election.
FARMINGTON WOMAN'S CLUB
Nov. 4. The Farmington Woman's Club will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Guy Stevens, 33165 Cloverdale, Farmington. Mrs. Gertrude Chambers will review the book, "The Light From Many Lamps," by Sarah Flower Adams.

Q. What about the zoning in the affected area?
A. The City of Farmington will accept the master plan and existing zoning from Farmington Township and will make no changes unless there is drastic change in the character of the area such as the construction of an expressway which may change proper land use of adjacent property.
Q. Why is the city interested in the affected area and in forming a larger community?
A. The city is only 2.6 square miles, landlocked by 23-square miles of township area and needs the ability to grow in an orderly fashion with balanced land use. For a sound, vibrant community, there is need for industrial and commercial tax base to relieve the burden of cost of education and government from the residential taxpayer.
Q. What recreation and park programs would be implemented by a larger city?
A. The city could conceivably initiate a recreation complex including a civic arena (ice skating rink) and community pool facilities in the same location with balanced use year-round usage.
The city plans on expanding our park system similar to what