

School Board Approves Early Starting Time

By LYNNE LUTHER

The board authorized school hours from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the school and ordered bus transportation be generally restricted to a main pick-up point in a subdivision rather than at numerous stops throughout the residential area. The pilot program was approved unanimously after several weeks of discussion, with provision that evaluations of the program be submitted to the schools Supt. Dr. Roderick Smith, about Feb. 1, and May 1. Ronald Bennett was absent from Monday's meeting.

A SPLIT VOTE killed a proposal to send a letter of inquiry to residents of Section 5, in the northwest corner of the township bounded by 13 Mile, Haggerty Road, 14 Mile and Halsted Road, asking whether they would join in a petition to the County Board of Education to have the section transferred to the Farmington Public School District.

Opposed were Gary Lichtman, Aldo Vagnozzi and Richard Peters; proponents were Katherine Stirling, Kenneth Perrin and John Washburn III.

Lichtman said he will not support a move that would take over part of the Walled Lake School District when officials of that school district have not been contacted. Vagnozzi called the move an "out-and-out land grab attempt" when the board was aware that a shopping center was planned for that area.

Proponents, on the other hand, pointed to a "substantial tax benefit" resulting from the transfer.

Board members also took action Monday to join other school districts which process their work over line printing terminals at the Oakland Intermediate School District Data Processing Center.

Total cost for the data processing terminal is estimated at \$30,920 to be paid with funds from the sale of surplus school property.

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City Officials Backing Down On Earlier Positions — FFA

With the proposal for annexation of 12 square miles of Farmington Township by the City of Farmington up for a vote Tuesday, it is time to set the record straight on promises by annexation supporters that have been public throughout the Farmington community during the past month.

Several recent statements indicate this indeed may be the case.

GEORGE VONDRAK, in his article which appeared in this paper earlier, said: "Street lighting will be immediately ordered for every intersection in the affected area to afford basic protection and eliminate traffic hazards. According to Detroit Edison Co., it will take three to six months to complete total installation of street light throughout the area."

(Following is the last in a series of articles submitted by the Future Farmington Association urging Farmington Area residents to vote "NO" on annexation Nov. 3.)

This past Monday, at a meeting of the Spring Valley Association, Mayor Wilbur Brotherton said, when listing the services the city would provide: "and street lights will be installed at intersections where they are wanted."

Within the past two weeks, city officials suddenly produced a drawing of a proposed drainage system for the area between 8 and 9 Mile Rds. Tuesday evening of this week, when speaking at the annexation meeting of the Farmington Jaycees, Councilman John Richardson admitted that the plan had not been prepared by the consulting engineers for the city until this month.

We maintain good drainage for this area cannot be planned in a few days, no matter how competent the engineers assigned to the task. Perhaps the fact that the drainage system suddenly proposed by the city is similar to the drainage study made by the township's consulting engineers explains how the city's plans could be prepared so quickly.

A SPEAKER FOR annexation at the Jaycees meeting charged that township residents would have to wait indefinitely for drains if they turned down annexation because the township could not finance a \$1,250,000 drainage system.

Obviously, the speaker did not do his homework. Either the city or township can request Oakland County to establish a drainage district and sell long-term bonds to finance the construction. In other words,

financing by either government could be handled in the same way.

Residents in the southern portion of the city, who have been plagued with unsolved drainage problems for years, must wonder why the city government is now making promises to solve the drainage problems in part of the area proposed to be annexed.

The city has made much of the fact that the officers in its Public Safety Department are trained as police officers and firemen while the township has only a volunteer fire department. They also point out that the 80 volunteer township firemen are not always available when a fire breaks out.

They, of course, have not pointed out that even if the city department is expanded, as Director Robert Deadman promised in this newspaper earlier this month, many of the 25 to 40 officers trained for fire duty would not be on duty at the time of a fire.

Perhaps that is why it was stated "this week" that in the south end, if annexed, the public safety officers would be augmented by the township's trained volunteers who happen to live in that area.

THE CITY HAS promised parks for the south end but the township's master plan for future land use provides for parks not only in the south end but throughout the entire township. Matching funds from the state for such parks are available to both the township and city.

PETITIONS FOR annexation


proposed to the Farmington Public School District.

And yet it was not until Tuesday night of this week at the Jaycees meeting that a city budget for the many promised services was finally prepared, but not in a form that could be studied, except for the few minutes it was exposed to the audience.


Was the presentation of the budget deliberately delayed, so that people might forget some of the earlier figures used to prove that the promises of additional services could be fulfilled without tax increases for city residents?

For example, about two weeks ago at a public meeting, when asked how much it would cost to add 25 people to the Public Safety Department, the city manager replied the cost would be \$250,000. At a subsequent meeting, it was admitted that public safety officers earn more than \$10,000 a year.

Simple arithmetic, proves that the 36 additional people would cost a minimum of \$360,000 and that would not include additional police cars and equipment.



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READERS' FORUM

Woodcroft Happy With Annexation

EDITOR: I have been a resident of Woodcroft Subdivision for more than six years. We originally lived in the township on poorly maintained gravel roads, utilizing septic tanks and wells with the subdivision being particularly developed because of sanitary health conditions.

In the fall of 1966, there was a campaign to annex the Woodcroft area into the City of Farmington. The city made certain promises such as construction of sewer and water facilities for \$10 per front foot.

Lot values have more than doubled since our annexing to the City of Farmington and the services that we receive for the small differential between township and city taxes far exceeds differences in cost.

I believe that I can speak for the majority of the residents in the Woodcroft Subdivision and attest that we are certainly glad that we are part of the City of Farmington.

ROBERT CHESLEY
Farmington

installation of street lighting and good road maintenance, including grading, graveling, oiling, snow-plowing and increasing police and fire protection.

The city lived up to every commitment and promise they made regarding these programs and services. Within a year, sewer and water were installed, and the following year the residents petitioned to have seven-inch deep strength asphalt streets paved, which was accomplished through a special assessment program at a very economical cost of \$5 per front foot.

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10:15 a.m. Church School
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6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
7:30 p.m. The Evening Service
Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service
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GR 4-2563 GR 4-4992

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Parsonage GR 6-0487
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Grand River at Warner
Worship Service, Church School and Nursery
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Ministers
Rev. Hugh C. White
Rev. B. Bryce Swiler
Parsonage GR 4-7568
Office GR 4-6573

