

Expanding library not in new budget

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff writer

Planned expansion of the Farmington Community Library's 12 Mile branch is not reflected in the new 1987-88 budget.

"The library board (of trustees) is not the appropriate body to dictate how it should be financed," said Beverly Papai, library director. "The proposed 25,000-square-foot expansion of the 12 Mile branch highlights the library board's five-year plan, requested by the Farmington and Farmington Hills city

councils, which finances the two-branch system.

"Our feeling was that we had identified a need (for the expansion). We are asking them (the city councils) assistance in developing a reasonable plan of financing," Papai said.

An expanded 12 Mile branch will be needed by the early 1990s if quality services are expected to be continued in the library system that now ranks number one in circulation of all library systems in the Wayne-Oakland Library Federation, according to the five-year plan.

The proposed expansion is expected to appear in the revised edition of the city's six-year capital improvement plan.

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THOUGH THE expansion is not reflected in the new budget — presented to both city councils recently — other capital improvements are.

Of \$70,750 in a capital reserve fund, about \$40,000 is expected to be allocated for improvements and equipment purchases. A major improvement is modified exterior lighting at the 12 Mile branch and recarpeting of the Farmington branch, 23550 Liberty.

The remainder of the capital reserve fund will be allocated for the future recarpeting of the Farmington branch, 23550 Liberty, and resurfacing of the Hills branch parking lot.

The proposed \$1.8 million 1987-88 budget reflects a 5 percent increase in requested tax dollars from the two cities. Farmington Hills is being asked to up its share by more than \$106,000 for a total of \$1.2 million. Farmington's share is expected to increase almost \$15,000 to \$160,000, according to the proposed budget.

The library budget will be adopted when both city councils adopt their individual operating budgets in early June.

While the cities are being asked for more, some of the library's other sources of revenue are expected to decline. Some decrease is anticipated in interest revenue because the market rate has decreased, as well as a drop in the amount of penal fines the state allocates to libraries.

"PENAL FINES are very difficult

for libraries to anticipate," Papai said.

Fines paid for state law violations are distributed on a population basis to library systems throughout the state.

The proposed budget also reflects a 7.6 percent increase in expenditures due in large part to anticipated increases in the cost of electricity, professional contracts and insurance. Papai said.

Library officials are requesting a 7.3 percent increase for salaries. That would provide regular full-time and part-time staff with a 3 percent increase. The increase also would allow the hiring of two part-time employees (a library assistant and typist). Officials also want to provide an additional 20 hours a week of help from students or senior citizens, Papai said.

Like last year, library officials have again asked for a book budget representing the greatest portion of the library materials request — of \$175,000.

"Both the public and staff recognize the improvement the book collection made possible by this size budget," said Papai in a report to the councils. "It is comparable to the amount for books expended in similar size local libraries."

Road proposals unveiled

More than \$600,000 in local improvements are proposed as part of Oakland County's 1987 tri-party road improvement program. Oakland County Board of Commissioners approval is still needed.

"The county provides the first one-third of funding and has control of its uses," said Fred Houghton, chairman of the Board of Oakland County Road Commissioners.

"We provide a matching one-third, and participating local units of government provide the final third for projects in their communities."

Projects submitted for approval are jointly selected by the communities and the road commission.

The 40 projects to be conducted in 1987 will cost \$3.5 million, of which \$2.9 million is tri-party financed. Several communities will contribute more than their one-third share, while accounts for the difference, said Houghton.

Following are the combined totals of 1987 and 1988 allocations, proposed projects by local communities to be done in 1987 and estimated costs of such projects.

• Farmington — (\$40,978), repair curbs and resurface Nine Mile from Grand River to Hawthorne; \$32,400.

• Farmington Hills — (\$355,334), extend turn lane on 12 Mile west of Orchard Lake Road and widen all legs of the intersection of Nine Mile and Haggerty; \$198,500.



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