

C'ville candidates quizzed on views

By Sue Mason
staff writer

Muggy summer-like weather didn't keep some Clarenceville residents from turning out Monday evening to quiz four school board candidates on a variety of topics.

The candidates' forum was held at Grandview Elementary School and attracted about 30 residents of the district, which includes portions of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township.

The four candidates — incumbent Barry Sherman and challengers Sharon Pommerville, Timothy Wiggle and Vernice Dunklee — expressed their views on issues such as current events in the district, whether they are pro-life or pro-choice and support sex clinics, and what they think needs to be changed in the district.

Of the candidates, Dunklee was the only one to say she was pro-life, garnering a plaudit from one member of the audience.

Sherman, Pommerville and Wiggle said they believed the decision was a personal one, with Wiggle adding that such a question was inappropriate for a candidates' forum.

The candidates were opposed to clinics in the schools and voiced support for the district's sex education program. Dunklee added that while the program is good, she would like to see it offered to younger students.

The foursome also favored parental review of instructional materials, with Wiggle saying "I think parents

should have some input into what their children learn."

"Irville added.

AS FOR changes in the school district, Pommerville said she would like to see stronger discipline in the schools as well as a return to respect for teachers.

Sherman, on the other hand, expressed "whole-hearted support" for the goals that already have been established in the district. He added that those changes he would like to see "take money and aren't so realistic." He didn't elaborate on what those changes were.

Wiggle pointed out that changes don't necessarily mean the "better of two ways" of doing things and that changes have to be made by "listening to the people."

Dunklee also expressed support for discipline and said that long-term she would like to see the district put more stress on helping students be successful in school.

The candidates also were asked where they thought the district was headed and all agreed that the direction was forward.

"I see us going forward," Pommerville said. "What has happened in the last few years has been terrific and the district has earned a reputation for being progressive."

When asked about how the board should deal with problems, Wiggle

pointed out that the board sets up the guidelines and policies, but can't be "too rigid" in dealing with exceptions.

Pommerville said board members must look at each issue comprehensively and talk to all sides, but Dunklee and Sherman said they supported school policies.

"I STAND pretty firmly behind it, but I hope we always have a just end to problems," Dunklee said.

"It's incumbent on the board to stick with its policies," Sherman added. "If there's problems, they should get together and change it."

Pommerville, who described herself as self-motivated, also told residents that as a member of the board she would "maintain and expand the open lines of communication" between the district and residents and work for full-time learning centers (libraries) in the schools.

Wiggle who said his main interest is in the children's education, said he would like to be a member of the board to help the district "continue

and further its educational excellence."

"The education of students has to be number one, and it's got to be a quality education," he said.

Dunklee, who would like to contribute to the effort to improve the schools, said that "if we can teach children in a way where they always experience success, we'll graduate not only an educated person, but a person who will be a success in life."

"Clarenceville is trying to meet the needs of a wide variety of students," she added. "I would like to try to add what I know about the district to that effort."

Sherman, who has found his tenure on the school board "extremely rewarding," said his main interest is to keep the school district viable, both educationally sound and financially solvent.

"Clarenceville is a community with an identity and whatever I do in the next four years, it will have an underlying consideration — what's in the best interest of the children."

Editorial endorsements, 16A

City eyes better radio

Farmington Department of Public Safety dispatchers will have better radio equipment and safer working quarters as part of \$68,228 in improvements approved by the city council Monday.

Acting on city manager Robert Deadman's recommendation, the council waived formal bidding. Waiver was deemed in the best interest of the city.

The new Motorola radio console will cost about \$59,068. By the end of the year, 86 percent of Oakland County's law enforcement agencies will use Motorola radio consoles, Deadman said.

Motorola's success stems from its innovative technology, reliable equipment and professional service, he said. Farmington has used Motorola dispatch center equipment for 30 years.

The new console will be equipped to handle the Enhanced-911 emergency system, which will be installed in early 1988.

"All of the equipment or features presently contained in our current console will be in the new equipment," Deadman said.

The new equipment will be slight-

ly larger because it will provide a second position to be used by a supervisor or second dispatcher to assist in emergencies. It also will serve as a backup during equipment malfunctions.

The dispatch room will be renovated to accommodate the new equipment. Work will include a new riot glass doorwall that locks, new track lighting and other electrical service additions, and new surfaces to the floor, walls and ceiling to com-

pel noise. A new floor also will be laid in a small office off the dispatch room.

"The proposed improvements will increase the security of the dispatcher during the evening hours and reduce the noise generated from this room during normal radio transmissions," Deadman said.

The city will oversee the renovation, a move Deadman believes will save the city money. The work will cost about \$9,160, Deadman said.

BZA change in works

Farmington City Council Monday introduced a city code amendment liberalizing the use of alternate members on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

State statutes have been amended to allow more liberal use of alternate zoning board members. They now allow an alternate member to serve as provided in local ordinance.

"All of the equipment or features presently contained in our current console will be in the new equipment," Deadman said.

He recommended allowing the zoning board chairman or vice chairman to call alternate members to serve in the absence of a regular member or when a regular member may have a conflict of interest on a particular appeal.

An alternate member appointed to serve on a case before the board would serve until a final decision has been made. The alternate would have the voting rights of a regular board member.

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