

# City report says Marks received no favors

By Jeanne Hladczewski  
staff writer

Questions continue despite a report to the Farmington Hills City Council detailing the 1988 sanitary sewer connection to councilman Ben Marks' office building on the northwest corner of Orchard Lake Road and 11 Mile.

"I don't believe Mr. Marks received any advantage any other builder would have received," Councilman Paul Soverby said.

"That's exactly how I feel about it," City Manager William Costick said when asked if he agreed.

The report was presented to the City Council April 24, a week after Soverby publicly asked for information. Several residents had presented their concerns about the sewer connection to Soverby before he was appointed to the council March 27.

Soverby said he was satisfied with the report and that Marks apparently did not receive a financial break or special treatment when his building was connected to a public sewer line running west along 11 Mile to the Farmington Hills police building, immediately west of city hall.

"THE RECORD proves that there's nothing being done on this building that's not done on other buildings (by other developers in the city)," Marks said. "I think the public has a right to know. But it's unusual this is the only building going through this process."

Copies of the report were mailed to residents Lucila Hempel and Rosa Flum, who both have long questioned Marks' sewer connection.

But Flum last week presented Soverby with several more questions on the issue. The sewer be-

came a whitewash. I don't know whether they are going to answer my questions," she said last week.

But Costick told Soverby he would have another report prepared to answer Flum's additional questions, such as who, if anyone, authorized financing from the city sewer fund for the sewer line to the police building. "Does an employee have the right to take money out of the sewer fund?" she asked.

Also to be included in the second report is an answer to councilwoman Jean Fox's inquiry about why the parking lot at Marks' building is used as the required retention pond.

"This is what engineering wanted in that parking lot. I didn't invent it," Marks said, adding the building's plans were part of a consent judgment.

THE SEWER connection report details how a sewer line was built west along 11 Mile to the police building and how a lead was built from the major line to Marks' office building, as recommended by city engineering staff.

"This is the normal place to design a sewer so that it could be extended west along 11 Mile to serve additional properties in the future," according to the report.

But residents Flum and Hempel became suspicious of the sewer connection when they saw earlier council plans that showed a connection option across the Orchard Lake Road-11 Mile intersection.

Because of possible traffic conflicts if the connection had been made at the intersection, city officials preferred the connection used by Marks, which is west of the intersection.

"Given these circumstances, the

city would not allow any developer to make the crossing at the Orchard Lake Road intersection with the more direct connection option available," according to the report.

AS POINTED out by Hempel and Flum, however, city staff failed to pick up a construction permit from the county for the sanitary sewer connection to the police building. "It was an oversight; but the only thing the city didn't do was send someone to physically pick up the permit, probably because it was our own project," according to the report.

The plan for the lead to the office

building was approved in the spring of 1985 by both the county and the state Department of Natural Resources. And the city issued a plumbing permit for the work, the report said. But as reported by Hempel and Flum, the county has no record that the sewer contractor who built the lead picked up the required permit.

The report concludes with an answer to Flum's and Flum's inquiry about why there was no standard payback agreement for Marks' sewer connection. A payback was unnecessary because Marks made a direct connection into the public sanitary sewer and paid all appropriate fees for the connection, the report said.

## State approves \$11.5 million to improve Haggerty Road

By Carolyn DeMarco  
staff writer

A \$11.5-million state grant has been approved to begin the long-anticipated "Haggerty Road Connector" that could eventually turn the two-lane roadway into a six- or eight-lane boulevard.

The project would improve the flow of traffic in the five-mile stretch of Haggerty from I-96 to the Novi/Farmington Hills border north to Pontiac Trail on the Commerce/West Bloomfield township border.

Total cost of the project is expected to be \$75 million. Additional grants are expected in future years. An application approved in the Transportation Economic Development Fund process for the Michigan Department of Transportation suggests that "time savings and operation-cost reductions should be worth between \$5,000-\$10,000 per day to users." An estimated 25,000 cars travel the two-lane stretch daily. An estimated 80,000 cars a day will use the corridor by 2010.

Mike Flajole, MDOT manager for the Haggerty Road Connector project, said, "We're still in the

study stage." A public hearing to discuss the three options available for the project is tentatively scheduled for the first week of June in Novi High School. Residents of affected communities will be invited to attend and provide input.

FLAJOLE SAID the first of the three alternatives is to do nothing. The second and third are to connect I-96, I-696 and I-275, providing local access. That can be done, he said, either by running the connector along existing Haggerty or locating it one-half mile to the west in Commerce. Traffic estimates suggest a six-to-eight-lane boulevard is required.

West Bloomfield has gone on the record as opposing widening of the existing roadway, preferring relocation in Commerce. Commerce has taken no official stand.

During the June public hearing, Flajole said, "People will have a

chance to ask questions, an opportunity to have their questions answered and speak for the record. In one segment we will discuss the right-of-way practices."

Flajole explained the timeline on the project: A 15-day period will follow the hearing when interested parties can submit written comments to the MDOT.

It will take three-four weeks to obtain the complete transcripts from the public hearing. Those transcripts and written comments will be reviewed by a Chicago consultant who will write the environmental impact statement.

With the consultant's advice and that of MDOT members and a local policy group and a technical group, the MDOT management will make a recommendation on the project approximately one month after the hearing.

That recommendation will be ap-

proved or disapproved by the Federal Highway Administration.

FINAL DECISION will come in late fall or early winter, he said. The MDOT is now working on the bidding process. "We're aiming toward December" for letting the bids, he said, "with the assumption that everything goes well." Actual construction could start in segments as early as spring 1990.

"We're looking for support," Flajole said. "If people want the road this is the time to get out and support it."

The Transportation Economic Development Fund was created in 1987 to fund highway, street and road construction to encourage economic development. Through the fund, county roads like Haggerty will be turned into major trunklines in areas of burgeoning development.

## 12 Mile will be widened

Continued from Page 1

"(Michigan Department of Transportation) officials said they would not connect the Haggerty Road connector to 12 Mile with an interchange if plans to widen 12 Mile were not under way," Call said. "I think the state sees they have to go hand in hand."

The matching grant will finance the 12 Mile widening from Farmington Road to about 800 feet past the Drake Road intersection. As now planned, the second phase would be from Haggerty through Halsted and the third from Drake to Halsted. The fourth phase in Novi would run from Haggerty to Dixon, Call said.

AT A closed session Monday night, city administrators discussed right-of-way acquisition along 12 Mile with the city council.

The city's share of the costs includes right-of-way acquisition. But if the property needed to expand the thoroughfare is dedicated, the city's share will be reduced from 46.6 percent to about 29 percent, Call said.

Though city officials believe the Oakland County Road Commission has some responsibility in the project connecting Farmington Hills

and Novi, they cannot legally force their financial involvement. Twelve Mile is not part of the road commission's five-year project plan, Call said.

City officials will have to apply each year for each phase of construction. But each subsequent application does not have to be for the next continuous mile of construction. "State funding is not based on continuous construction, but on economic growth," Call said.

CITY OFFICIALS applied for the grant under the state fund's economic growth category for areas experiencing growth along a major road

that is incapable of handling the growth.

"(The phase applied for) will depend on where the most economic growth on 12 Mile is," Call said.

"The feeling is we know Nissan Research and Development (in the Country Club Corporate Park at 12 Mile and Haggerty) is coming in. We know the corporate park at 12 and Haggerty will develop. We feel like 'this is the foot in the door,'" Call said.

There is no assurance the city will continue to receive grants for widening 12 Mile. But Call expects applications can be made under the state economic funds' other categories, such as for congestion, rather than economic growth.

### How can a multiple car family minimize insurance costs? No problem.

Auto-Owners gives families with two or more cars a reduced insurance rate. That makes their exceptional auto coverage and claims service even more attractive.

So if you're a multiple car family trying to minimize insurance costs—call your "no problem" Auto-Owners agent and find out how this discount can be "no problem" for you.



**Auto-Owners Insurance**  
The No Problem People™  
**Frank Hand**  
Insurance Agency

39930 Eight Mile Rd.  
Farmington • 478-1177

☉ The pulse of your community ☉ The pulse of you

### THE ROMAN TERRACE

Business Luncheon Specials  
Beginning at \$3.95

**OPEN MOTHER'S DAY**  
3-8 P.M.  
Reservations Suggested

#### EARLY BIRD DINING SPECIALS

- Spaghetti with Meat Sauce.....\$4.95
- Lasagna.....\$4.95
- Includes: Soup, Tossed Garden Salad, Garlic Sticks
- Chicken Piccanti.....\$5.95
- Swiss Steak Jardenalre.....\$5.95
- Includes: Soup, Garden Salad, Vegetable, Garlic Sticks

12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road • Farm. Hills • 851-4094

**IGA ORCHARD-10 IGA**  
24065 Orchard Lake Rd.  
MON.-SAT. 8-9; SUN. 9-5

### DOUBLE COUPON DOUBLE COUPON DOUBLE COUPON

ORCHARD-10 gives you 100% more on all (cents off) manufacturer's coupons up to and including 50¢ face value. All coupons 50¢ or lower will be doubled. Coupons above 50¢ will be cashed at face value. Limit one coupon for any one product. Coupon plus 100% bonus cannot exceed price of the item. Other retailer and free coupons excluded. All cigarette coupons at face value. This offer in effect now through Sunday, May 7, 1989.

IGA Taberlite Boneless Beef  
**Chuck Roast**  
Sold as Roast Only  
**1.39** lb.  
Save .50 lb.

Crisp  
**Granny Smith Apples**  
**.69** lb.

IGA Taberlite Hamburger From  
**Ground Chuck**  
5 lbs. or more  
**1.39** lb.  
Save .50 lb.

Pepsi Cola, Diet or Regular,  
Mpsl Free, Caffeine Free,  
Mt. Dew or Slice  
8 Pak 1/2 Liter  
**1.99** +dep.

White or Prints • Angel Soft  
**Bath Tissue**  
4 Pack  
**.99**

IGA Taberlite • Whole  
**Chicken Leg Quarters**  
**.49** lb.  
Save .20 lb.

Treesweet  
**Orange Juice**  
12 Oz.  
**.89**

IGA Taberlite Boneless Beef  
**Chuck Steaks**  
**1.49** lb.  
Save .50 lb.

Light Spread, Regular or Unsalted Quarters  
**Fleischmann's Margarine**  
**.99** 1 lb.

**PLAY IT COOL THIS SUMMER**  
• QUINTE POOLS  
• LINER POOLS  
• CHANGEOLES  
• POOL ACCESSORIES  
• PARTS • SPAS  
• SOLAR HEATERS  
• PROMPT INSTALLATION  
**WAGNER POOLS**  
32212 W. EIGHT MILE • FARMINGTON HILLS  
JUST EAST OF FARMINGTON RD. • 471-4577  
State License #22408 Our 36th Year

**Imaginations & Images Too!**  
CUTOUT PHOTO  
661-9100  
**Mothers Are For Loving.**  
We have Custom cards, gift wrap, trays and buttons, for showing her how much you care.  
Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14.  
Call us