

Hills attorney's contract renewed for 1 year

By Joanna Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills city attorney Paul Bibeau will continue to represent the city for at least another year. But by the beginning of 1990, Farmington Hills will open the job to presentations from any interested law firms.

"I figured this is the time to do it," councilman Ben Marks said, referring to opening up the city attorney's job for bids or presentations from other firms. "It isn't because our attorney is or isn't doing something."

Marks said he raised the issue to keep faith with the promise the city

council made four years ago that all contracted services, including the city attorney and planning consultant, would be opened up for bids.

"It is not as if we have not done it," Marks said.

Councilwoman Jean Fox agreed. "Philosophically, this should be opened up every so often and based on for quite some time. If we are really on the ball, we can do it in six months."

Despite some debate by Bill Bibeau and his Farmington Hills firm, Larson, Wright, Harris & Bibeau, only a six-month contract, the majority prevailed with a one-year contract.

Presentations from other firms will begin within nine months and be completed by the first of the year.

"I THINK it's rather unfair at the point when the contract is up for renewal without previous indication this is going to happen," councilman Aldo Vaggonzi said, about a less-than-one-year contract.

Stockton Street resident Rosa Flum told the council it's time to open the position in light of some issues that have confronted the city in the past year. She called certain issues, such as troubles with manufac-

tured housing builder Howard Keating, the artwork ordinance and the agreement involving San Marino Golf Course "fiasco."

Under that title, Flum included the removal of trees on acreage owned by Bibeau's partner, Harold Larson, prior to the city's tree protection ordinance going into effect earlier this year.

"I object to the word fiasco by Mrs. Flum," councilwoman Jody Soroczen said. "I don't think any necessary decisions that were made should fall totally on the shoulders of the city attorney. The city council was here to do that job."

But Vaggonzi defended Flum, say-

ing that certain issues, such as the removal of trees by Larson, should be raised. Vaggonzi acknowledged that Larson apologized after residents and some city council members were angry.

"I am concerned and appalled (over) the tree issue," councilman Paul Sowerby said. "The council doesn't seem to ask if it's right or wrong."

FBISUES, SUCH as the tree removal, Sowerby said, points to the need for a municipal code of ethics. "If this council can't see that what Mr. Larson did was wrong, then we

need a code of ethics," he said, adding that he could not support renewing Bibeau's contract. "Let's let Mr. Bibeau know the thin ice he's on — not necessarily because of Mr. Bibeau's own doing."

In 1985, the city council heard presentations from five area law firms, including Bibeau's former firm, Brennan, Bibeau & Fochman, which was disbanded last year.

Despite the presentations and closed session meetings to discuss council's concerns about their legal representation, Bibeau's contract was continued that year and each year since.

Porn crackdown raises awareness

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"Maybe others will take a second thought, 'I'm not going to sell it,'" Dorrell said. "That would be good for the community."

Committee members were shocked when police returned after their undercover operation with soft- and hard-core pornographic magazines, ranging from Playboy and Hustler to 3-Way Lovex.

"The thing that bothered all of us was that it was not undercover," Nicolay said. "Now it just seems that this kind of thing is part of the literature in stores. And the problem is that these kids are so impressionable."

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer confirmed that the investigation, using an undercover police officer and two second operations using a 15-year-old undercover patron, stemmed from concern among crime advisory committee members.

"Our feelings are that we aren't going to tolerate this kind of trash in Farmington Hills," Dwyer said.

CONCERN ABOUT the sale of both soft- and hard-core pornography, Dwyer said, stems from the growing notion that there is a correlation between pornography and violent crimes, such as rape, and even homicide.

"We recognize pornography is in the eyes of the beholder. But people buy these things. If you are acquainted enough with this stuff, you begin to fantasize and then you begin to do these things," Dorrell said.

From the materials gathered in the undercover investigation, Dwyer said, there seems to be a trend toward more obscene material. "The materials seem to be becoming more hard-core. Five years ago, we wouldn't have seen these on the stands," he said.

The undercover police officer who investigated 38 party stores and

bookstores bought pornography ranging from Playboy to the more expensive hard-core materials, some selling for \$17.95 and \$20.

"These things are expensive. I finally had to tell him to stop because we were running out of money," Dwyer said.

WHAT BOTHERS Dwyer and committee members is that a majority of the materials gathered were not behind the counter or in a back room. "To me, it just shows, as an example, that our standards and morals have been degraded. That this kind of stuff is standard reading material," Nicolay said.

When charging the Farmington Hills party store owner, Dwyer said police preferred to rely on state laws rather than any local ordinances that might apply to selling obscene materials. "The local ordinance was too broad. We felt more comfortable with the state law," Dwyer said.

As the investigation continues, police may seize materials from the stores. "Under the rules of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, we can inspect the premises. But seizing the materials may be difficult because they can always replenish them," Dwyer said.



Police Chief William Dwyer

Man critically hurt repairing pool filter

A Farmington man was critically injured when a section of a swimming pool filter he was repairing exploded and struck him in the head Saturday in West Bloomfield, police said.

Kenneth Tuomi, 64, remained in intensive care Wednesday in Providence Hospital, Southfield.

Tuomi was repairing a leaking filter for an in-ground pool at a friend's house on Raney Drive, off Farmington Road, between Maple and Walnut Lake Road, at 3:35 p.m. Saturday.

A stripped bolt came loose, causing the top section of the filter to explode under pressure and strike Tuomi in the head. The filter was running at the time, police said.

West Bloomfield Fire Department medics treated Tuomi at the scene before he was transported to the hospital.

"We feel we know what caused the problem but we've turned our investigation over to the police for follow-up," said Lt. John Bliggers of the West Bloomfield Fire Department.

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