

Myers aims for board

Continued from Page 1

ALTHOUGH SHE knows the district faces some tough times ahead financially, she believes some of the cutbacks can be a positive for the district as it streamlines operations. "I'm unhappy about certain spots that are going to be cut," she said. "But we're cutting things that other districts have never even dreamed of having. It might turn out to be the best thing in the long run."

She calls many of the middle level administrators some of the "best talent" in the district and believes putting them back into the classroom if others are laid off would be nothing but positive. "I want them teaching my son," she added.

In addition to her school involvement, Myers stays active on the home front as well.

She is the bookkeeper for the family-owned Jimco Realty and for the Nature's Kitchen Food Co-op, was the Heritage Home Tour



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Lawsuit threatened over tainted ground

By Casey Hays
staff writer

Tom DeWard hopes he's done counting.

Seven leaking underground gasoline and oil storage tanks have now been removed from beneath his property and building at 33604 Grand River since August of 1989, and he wants the city to pay for his lost time, that of his lost tenant, and for back property taxes because he said the land is now "worth nothing."

Though DeWard and his company, Professional Realty Investments of Farmington Hills, appears to be heading toward a lawsuit, he said Monday he doesn't know when he might take action.

City officials have warned him they accept no responsibility, are not liable and will consider any legal action against the city frivolous. Monday, the city council voted to deny DeWard's request for the city to pay, and directed city attorney John Donohue to send a letter refusing any responsibility on the part of the city.

"It's destroyed my property and it's nearly destroyed my life," DeWard said Monday, one of several times he has come before the city council to request financial help. "It's 20 years that this contamination has spread, and now I'm stuck with it. There's no excuse for it."

The site is that of a former corner gasoline station — one of many which dotted street corners across the state years ago.

DEWARD ASKED Monday for \$30,000 in personal losses incurred since the building was listed for sale, \$10,000 in "excessive property taxes" \$20,000 for personal time spent handling the matter and reimbursement to the Zimm's Vacuum Cleaner Co. for about 9 months of business losses and sales commissions.

Zimm's moved out of the building in March because the store's showroom had to be removed for excavation.

He is trying to sell the building, but cannot effectively market it until he knows any soil contaminants are gone. To date, \$347,000 has been spent on the cleanup, most of which has been paid through a state cleanup fund and by Unical, the former owner of the gasoline station, he said.

DeWard contends the city knew about the underground tank situation through its building records in 1970, and should have ensured the tanks were properly handled before construction was done over them. The city contends they were handled according to laws in place at the time.

MAYOR SHIRLEY Richardson said Monday she was sorry for DeWard's situation. "However," she said, "I feel there is certainly no negligence on the part of the city. I personally could not become involved in spending city funds for anything involving private property."

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CITY OF FARMINGTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES AND TO REVIEW 1991-92 PROPOSED BUDGET

The City Council of the City of Farmington will hold a Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 1991, in the Council Chambers in City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, on the proposed 1991 city tax levy and on the proposed 1991-92 city operating and debt service millage rates.

In the previous year the city levied 10.5941 mills (\$10.5941 per \$1,000 of State Equalized Valuation, SEV) for city operation and Charter limited debt service and an additional .4359 mills (\$4359 per \$1,000 SEV) was levied for city unlimited debt service for a total millage rate of 11.03 mills (\$11.03 per \$1,000 SEV). State law, (Act 5 of 1982) provides that the base tax rate for 1991 city operating taxes be reduced to 10.0951 mills (\$10.0951 per SEV). This is a .4990 mill (\$4990 per \$1,000 SEV) lower tax rate than the 1990 operating tax rate.

The recommended budget will increase the cost of delivering city services this year. The cost of personnel, solid waste removal and disposal, health insurance, employee salaries and fringe benefits, and general inflationary increases in goods and services purchased by the city will increase the General Fund operating expenditures in Fiscal Year 1991-92. Michigan's inflation rate was 5.4 percent in the prior year. Revenues from other sources will not be adequate to offset the increased cost of providing services.

The increased cost of essential services will make it necessary to restore the reduction in the base rate for 1991. The debt service for the voter approved sewer improvement bonds will require 2.69 mills of additional millage to be levied this year for a total debt service millage rate of \$3.67 per \$1,000 SEV. The total proposed millage rate for operational and debt service will be 13.67 mills (\$13.67 per \$1,000 SEV). The millage rate provides a 4.93 percent increase in the operating and limited debt service property tax revenues.

Public comments, oral or written, are welcome at the hearing on the proposed millage rate and on the proposed budget for FY 1991-92.

Summary of the FY 1991-92 budget follows:

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Local Taxes	\$2,526,500
Intergovernmental Revenues	1,104,515
State Shared Revenues	791,285
Federal Revenues	39,000
Transfers from Other Funds	202,515
Appropriation from Unappropriated Funds	7,470
Total General Fund Revenues:	\$4,671,285

HIGHWAY FUND REVENUES

Gas & Weight Taxes	\$309,940
Contracts & Grants	66,050
Transfers & Assessments	935,280
Total Highway Fund Revenues:	\$1,311,270

DEBT SERVICE FUND REVENUES

General Debt Service	\$979,290
Special Assessment Debt Service	611,305
Total Debt Service Fund Revenues:	\$1,590,595

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND REVENUES

Investment & Interest Income	\$65,000
Appropriation, Fund Equity	65,000
Total Capital Improvement Fund Revenues:	\$130,000

WATER & SEWER FUND REVENUES

Water & Sewer Sales	\$1,530,275
Service Fees	21,800
Miscellaneous Revenues	61,700
Total Water & Sewer Fund Revenues:	\$1,613,775

TOTAL REVENUES — ALL FUNDS \$9,316,925

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

General Government	\$ 966,170
Public Safety	1,524,400
Public Services	808,720
Parks & Recreation	118,645
Library	191,595
Miscellaneous	79,935
Insurance, Fixed Expenditures	810,920
Interfund & Debt Service Transfers	170,900
Total General Fund Expenditures:	\$4,671,285

HIGHWAY FUND EXPENDITURES

Construction	\$ 545,800
Operating & Maintenance	688,580
Debt Service	76,890
Total Highway Fund Expenditures:	\$1,311,270

DEBT SERVICE FUND EXPENDITURES

General Debt Service	\$ 979,290
Special Assessment Debt Service	611,305
Total Debt Service Fund Expenditures:	\$1,590,595

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND EXPENDITURES

Transfers — Other Funds	\$130,000
Total Capital Improvement Fund Expenditures:	\$ 130,000

WATER & SEWER FUND EXPENDITURES

Operating & Maintenance	\$1,542,845
Transfer to Capital Replacement	70,930
Total Water & Sewer Fund Expenditures:	\$1,613,775

TOTAL EXPENDITURES — ALL FUNDS: \$9,316,925

JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY,
City Clerk

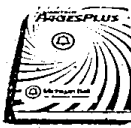
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