

Town Hall

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ing a month is because we need them 75 percent of the year," Inph said. "I'd almost rather have it considered we go to a third meeting trying the new format than trying to call off one of these meetings completely."

"I am not eager for a third meeting. . . I'm deeply concerned because I think the results before were completely abysmal. Others weren't as skeptical."

Trustee Helen Prutow was board president when the last time when it was tried. She's for it.

Said Prutow, "I think we should try it again. And we do have a different superintendent this time."

Superintendent Michael Flanagan, who was deputy superintendent at the time, assured board members there would be better organization from his office.

Flanagan also pointed out some issues — which have sometimes consumed regular board meetings — could be discussed more effectively in an informal setting. Flanagan cited the report card issue as an example.

"We would've heard early on some of the legitimate issues that came up," Flanagan said. " . . . so we don't accidentally get some of the feedback when it's almost too late."

The idea for the change emerged from the board's in-service Aug. 28. Flanagan presented a video, "Paradigm Pioneers."

Members emphasized they'll be looking at the new format on a month-by-month basis.

"I think we're going to experiment with this," Webb said. "I imagine each one is going to be a little different."

Kimco officer joins DDA board

Nadine Rafferty, Midwest regional marketing director for Kimco Realty, has been appointed to the Farmington Downtown Development Authority board.

Rafferty, who attended her first meeting Tuesday, fills the spot vacated by Larry Leuchner, who

resigned from the board in June. Rafferty's appointment was approved by Farmington City Council. Her term runs until February 1996.

Kimco Corporation bought Downtown Center Properties from Equitable One Management

in June.

The property includes 98,000 square feet of store space spanning the southeast area of Grand River and Farmington. Tenants include A&P, Dammann Hardware, Cargo Express, H&R Block and Dagwood's Deli.

In her initial letter of interest, Rafferty said she would not be able to attend every DDA meeting.

However, it was agreed a Kimco representative could attend in her place in an advisory role and not in a voting position.

Downtown

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ings. A draft will first be presented to the DDA board for review Tuesday, Oct. 5.

The state Legislature, which is grappling with how to replace school funding, hasn't addressed the effects on DDAs as a result of the tax cut.

"To wait and see what happens, Frank and I don't think that would be wise," said DDA director Judy Downey during Tuesday's meeting.

"I think we'd be wise to get our ducks in a row and protect what we've already done,"

Leuchner said. The assessment would pay for repairs and maintenance to the downtown business district. Other DDAs across the state are drawing up similar contingency plans.

Unlike other DDAs, though, Farmington's is not heavily in debt with bonded projects.

The Farmington DDA wants to

continue with such things as facade improvements and sidewalk repairs. Already, \$1.5 million in streetscape improvements have been completed.

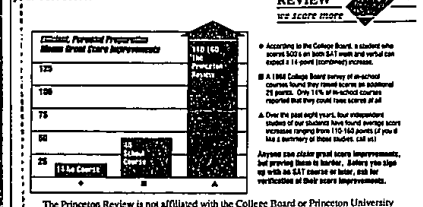
As a result, the DDA board agreed to scale back use of tax increment financing (TIF) money from 100 to 50 percent this year in its amended development plan, which switches to more of a marketing strategy.

When amending the plan, the DDA counted on the 50 percent of the TIF from the 31.5 mills levied by the schools. The DDA still gets TIF funding from the remaining 11.89 mills levied by the city and county.

TIF money is captured from annual increases in state equalized value on property, and then goes toward public improvement projects.

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