

The Farmington Enterprise

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PRACTICAL GOVERNMENT

The City of Farmington was saved a salary of between \$1,500 and \$2,000 a year this week when the City Commission approved the recommendation of Commissioners Clarence Bicking and Fred Staman, regarding the fire department. Faced with a problem that had bothered the Commission for several months, that of obtaining continuous night protection without hiring a full-time fireman, Messrs Bicking and Staman found a way out that instantly appealed to the other Commissioners.

Their plan of finishing the second floor as living quarters for occupancy by Fire Chief Blough, at no added salary, is as practical and sensible as any citizen could wish for. It is a good example of study and common sense solving a governmental problem.

THE WOMANS CLUB PLAY

Probably there are few who saw the Farmington Woman's Club's musical comedy, "Rosetta," played last Friday and Saturday evenings who were not agreeably surprised by the amount of talent revealed, and who have not wished that there could be some assurance of more performances in the future. Beyond the enjoyment of the plays because local residents made up their cast, remains the fact that the acting and singing was of a calibre rarely available in a small community.

It is too much to hope, perhaps, in view of the immense amount of work involved, that the Woman's Club might undertake to sponsor a series of plays. The time and effort of the clubwomen to make the event financially profitable, and of the players to assure its success as a presentation, are probably realized only by themselves. Few, if any, could spare the time again for another play.

With the effort however, of the Farmington Players, who will soon offer their first presentation, there is reason to look forward to the filling of a decided need in this community. It is certainly to be hoped that the young people interested will receive the same generous measure of public support as that accorded the Woman's Club.

FARMINGTON'S FIGHTING FOOTBALL TEAM

Even those who take but little interest in athletics cannot but be thrilled by the achievements of this year's high school gridiron squad — Farmington's fighting football team. Starting the season with slight hopes, because of loss of last year's stars by graduation, going into games heavily outweighed, the plucky 1928 squad has outwitted every opponent thus far and won every game. Among the teams they have defeated are schools which have beaten Farmington in previous seasons and one school in the class above Farmington.

Farmington's light team may not win every game ahead—but it is safe to say that Farmington will not be outwitted on any gridiron this year. Which means more than past or future victories.

Picked Up At Random

By Contributor

At the November election an amendment to the state constitution will be submitted which should be carefully studied before the voting booth is entered. Two often voters fail to inform themselves of the intent and purpose of questions submitted and register a "No," as a matter of safety, where a "Yes" would have been registered had a little study been given the question.

The proposition to amend Article XIII of the State Constitution by adding a section to be known as Section 5, should not be carelessly negated. Its adoption is an absolute necessity in economically carrying out the many street widening programs now being forced upon every section of the state by constantly increasing street and highway traffic due to radical changes in means of transportation for which the lanes of traffic, especially those at points of congestions in cities, are unsuited, but served fairly well under conditions prevailing two decades ago.

In exercising the powers of eminent domain under present laws municipalities can take by condemnation only such part of any lot or description of land as is actually necessary for the widening of a street.

It has been the experience in every city where a street widening has been proposed that land speculators get busy in securing options on property affected with the result that the municipality is forced to pay practically the full value of the property for the part taken and the balance which remains in the hands of the owner or speculator is often sold for more than the lot's original value.

With the adoption of the proposed amendment municipalities will be authorized to take land for street widening purposes and also that of adjacent property in excess of that actually required. The money realized by the municipality on a later sale of such excess property would, as has been demonstrated by past experiences, equal if not exceed that paid for lands taken and used in making the improvement.

A similar amendment was submitted to the voters two years ago and defeated by a small majority. Its defeat was due to ignorance on the part of many voters of the advantages that would accrue to the public if its provisions were incorporated in the constitution.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Regular meeting of the Commissioners of the City of Farmington, held October 15, 1928.

Called to order by Mayor Butterfield at 7:30 p. m. Commissioners present, Hogle, Staman, Bicking, Johnson and Gildemeister.

Minutes of the meeting of October 5 read and approved. Moved by Johnson, seconded by Hogle, that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign a note of \$9,000.00 for money borrowed from School District No. 5 for the purpose of paying for the new fire engine. Note payable in 5 years from date with interest at 5 per cent. Carried. Yeas, Staman, Bicking, Hogle, Johnson and the Mayor.

Commissioners Staman and Bicking made a report on the fire hall and fire department. Moved by Hogle, seconded by Johnson that the recommendation made by the committee be adopted and the Superintendent of Public Works be authorized to complete the second floor over the fire hall. Carried.

Frank Seger asked for permission to erect a street sign. Moved by Johnson, seconded by Gildemeister, that the Mayor appoint a committee of two with power to act. Carried. The Mayor named Johnson and Gildemeister as the committee.

The following resolution was offered by Hogle, seconded by Bicking, that the Charter Amendment ballot to be voted on at the election of November 6, 1928 be submitted as follows:
Amendment No. 1: To permit the full cost of any street improvement to be assessed against the property fronting on that street.
Amendment No. 2: Relative to the number of candidates to be placed on the ballot at City elections. Carried.
Special fire committee Staman and Bicking continued and authorized to complete the second story of the fire hall.
Adjourned.
N. H. POWER, City Clerk.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:
I wish to thank my friends and business associates for their cooperation in the business-men's road petition. Although not ready to make a full report, we have 64 signers. (One got out of bed and came down in his night-robe to sign).
Three or four wanted a little more time so probably next week we can make a full report.
Thanking you again, I remain,
Your truly,
Henry T. Lee.

GENERAL ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Farmington:
Notice is hereby given that a general election will be held in said City on Tuesday, November 6, 1928 at the Town Hall for the purpose of voting for the election of the following officers:

President: Fifteen electors of the President and Vice-President of the United States.

State: Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney-General, State Treasurer, Justice of the Supreme Court (to fill vacancy) for the term ending December 31, 1929, Justice of the Supreme Court (to fill vacancy) for the term ending December 31, 1935.

Congressional: United States Senator for the term beginning March 4, 1929, United States Senator (to fill vacancy) for the term ending March 4, 1935, Representative in Congress for the Congressional District of which City forms a part.

Legislative: One Senator in the State Legislature for the Senatorial District of which said City forms a part. One Representative in the State Legislature for the Legislative District of which City forms a part. Circuit Judge to fill vacancy in the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

County: Judge of Probate, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, Circuit Court Commissioners, Drain Commissioner, Two Coroners and a County Surveyor as provided by Act 351, P. A. 1925, as amended.

Amendments to the City Charter:

I. RESOLVED: That the Charter of the City of Farmington as adopted on February 15, 1926 be amended as follows: Section 7 of Chapter 19 under Special Assessments which reads: "The cost and expense of any improvement which may be defrayed by special assessment shall include the cost of construction only, and in no case shall the whole amount levied upon any lot or premises for any one improvement exceed 25 per cent of the value of such lot or land as valued and assessed for State and County taxation in the last preceding tax roll. Any cost exceeding the per cent which would otherwise be chargeable upon such lot or premises shall be paid from the general funds of the City," shall be eliminated in its entirety and the following paragraph shall be substituted therefor:

"Section 7 of Chapter 19". Such part of the expense of the improving any street, lane or alley, by grading, paving, planing, gravelling, curbing, or otherwise, and of repairing the same as the Commission shall determine, may be paid from the general street fund or from the street district fund of the proper district, or in part from each, or the whole or such part of the expense of such improvement as the commissioners shall determine, may be defrayed by special assessments upon lots and premises included in a special assessment district, to be constituted on the lands fronting upon that part of the street or alley so improved or proposed so to be or constituted of lands fronting upon such improvement, and such other lands as in the opinion of the Council may be benefited by the improvement.

II. Section 5, paragraph 3 of Chapter 5 under nominations, which reads as follows: "If after the nominations are determined there are less than two candidates for any office, it shall be the duty of the Commission to complete the ballot by adding such names as may be necessary, as hereinafter provided, so that when the ballot shall be placed before the electors there shall be not less than two candidates for each and every office to be voted on at such election (to be amended to read):
If after checking the nominations and determining the results it shall appear that there are less than two candidates for any office, the Commission may complete the ballot by adding names so that there may be two candidates for each office.
The polls of this election will be open at 7 o'clock a. m., and will remain open until 8 p. m. of said day of election."
N. H. POWER, City Clerk.



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