

Svoke elected school board chief

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER



Trustee Joe Svoke accepted the Farmington Board of Education gavel, but expects it to weigh like a sledgehammer for a while.

Svoke was elected to the 1995-96 school year at Monday's meeting. The responsibility may seem heavy after the glowing praise his predecessor received.

Cathy Webb concluded an unprecedented two-year term, which

has seen elimination and re-establishment of school aid and hiring of a new superintendent, Bob Masfield.

Webb was elected to a second consecutive term by board members to help with the incoming superintendent's transition. Webb is the best president the board has ever had, trustee Helen Prutow said.

"At this time I'd like to change chairs with you," Webb said to Svoke and added jokingly "I'm out of here."

David York is the new vice president while Bobbie Feldman is secretary and Webb treasurer

in the board's annual musical chairs session.

"Mrs. Webb has set nice examples for this board during the last couple of years," Svoke said. "Her leadership is a tribute to her effort. I won't profess to live up to Cathy's standards."

"One of the things I have found is that we're each different in our own way, but there is a common goal and a common interest."

Svoke, 51, who was elected to the board in 1992, was vice president during the past year. He also chaired the district's Safety & Operations Committee and served on Community Relations and Finance committees.

Linda Enberg was sworn in as the newest board member. She fills the seat vacated by longtime trustee Susan Lightner, who decided not to seek re-election.

Enberg defeated Jennifer Levin in the June 12 school election.

Costick: Ice arena budget cool

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick said even with a conservative budget projection, the city's new ice arena should more than break even in its first year of operation.

But some City Council members who supported the new facility at Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile remained a little skeptical at a recent council meeting.

Councilman Terry Sever questioned some of the projections for revenue and Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio said she wanted dry-floor activities included in the arena because that was how the \$6-million project was sold to the voters.

"We did present this as a multipurpose facility with dry-floor programs," Oliverio said.

Her question came because the budget was figured as if the

two sheets of ice would be operating year-round. But that was done, in part, because until dry-floor programs are developed for the summer months, it would be difficult to project a budget, Arena Manager Jerry Nelson said.

The budget includes expected revenues of \$1,831,050, operating expenditures of \$1,397,210, and \$404,425 in debt retirement to leave excess revenue of \$229,415.

Councilman Aldo Vagnoni said after the first year, the arena will have the additional expense of paying off the loan principal as well as debt retirement.

Councilman Larry Lichtman said in addition to current planned revenues, the arena will have a restaurant at some point that should also bring in money to the city.

The city projects the arena as

receiving \$1,149,570 in ice rental fees for the 30 weeks of fall and winter, and \$229,480 in rentals for 10 weeks of spring and summer. Other projected revenues include \$250,000 for the pro shop and skate sharpening, \$25,000 for skate rentals, \$100,000 for concessions, \$5,000 from vending machines, \$5,000 for locker rentals, \$15,000 from video machines, \$20,000 from advertising and \$2,000 from room rentals.

Expenditures include \$547,000 for salaries, wages, fringes, overtime and insurance; \$326,000 for operating supplies; \$493,310 for professional and contractual services; the debt retirement; and \$30,000 in capital outlay.

The council approved the budget 6-0. The arena, which will be named later this month, is scheduled to open in September.

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KATHRYN A. DORNAN
City Clerk

Mailed: July 17, 1995
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