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not understand why his bid price had been increased.

Hobbs said the method to "equalize" bids used by the consultant is a model used nationwide. Bid amounts are increased or decreased to reflect differences in services and specific components offered by the individual companies. The bid process is reviewed by a committee of staff members; three finalists from 16 valid bids were selected.

"While there may be specific questions, we have to reject any hint of anything being wired or inappropriate," Hobbs said, adding that allegations of unfairness were totally out of bounds.

Councilman Jon Grant, who was the council's representative on the technology committee that worked on the project over a two-year period, said the complaints sounded like sour grapes.

"I have been involved from the beginning," he said of the process

that was spurred by a management study that pointed out the city's technology deficiencies.

Grant said Grayson was both the lowest bidder and the best qualified. "This is simply a case where someone is unhappy that they didn't get the award. I'm in business, I do bids and I don't always get bids (accepted). To question the consultant is in very poor taste."

City Attorney John Donohue said the comments went beyond poor taste. "The allegations I've heard this evening are very serious, indeed," Donohue said. "They go to the very heart of the process."

"If the allegations are erroneous, they are slanderous on the technology committee where they alleged a violation of fiduciary duties, which is illegal conduct," he said.

At Donohue's request, Grievance and Molnar agreed to back up

their charges concerning the process in writing.

Councilman Terry Sever said he found computer technology issues complicated and asked for a better explanation of what the city's getting for spending more than \$1 million.

The city's technology committee has worked on the issue for the past two years, Grant said. "We didn't do it quickly," Grant said.

A January 1995 management audit praised the city's overall operation, but said the computer system "has not kept pace with the advances in office technology."

On April 24, 1996, the city council authorized a task force comprised of Grant, the city manager, a resident and representatives from the police, fire, public services and other departments to study the issue.

On Oct. 9, 1996, the city hired Information Strategies as a consultant.

In November 1996, the city received bids for a computer system, but re-bid the project because the bids weren't complete. On Jan. 20, 1997, the city council awarded a contract to Allied Communications to link its computers.

The technology committee met 16 times to direct implementation of the project.

Play from page A1

The Thills said they also heard complaints from some neighbors who saw the production. Both regularly attend North Farmington High productions and said they're usually very good and entertaining.

"Pippin" features one number "Dance of the Flesh," where the main character is enticed by a group of female dancers going ballet. There are a lot of arm and leg extensions, said a teacher involved in the production.

Five males join the females on stage as the music rhythm changes. At one point, "Pippin" is lifted by the males as female dancers take turns rolling underneath.

"That's where the imagination can do what it wants," said Lucy Koviak, a teacher at Harrison High.

However, "Pippin" rejects the overtures. After the dance, the main character says he feels empty. Along with temptation of the flesh, his experiences include war and revolution.

He eventually finds contentment with a woman and her child.

"When I hear people complain about the 'Dance of the Flesh,' I want to know why they didn't complain when they throw body parts on the stage during the war scenes," said Sue Cobb, who produces the plays with her husband, Dean.

Along with the PG-13 rating, students received information sheets to take home that explained what was involved. After auditions, parents of those students chosen to perform the "Dance of the Flesh" were invited to a special rehearsal.

Five parents turned up and, "Not one of those parents objected," Koviak said.

Some parts involving simulated spanking and drug use were taken out from the original Bob Fosse production, Koviak said. Choreography used is from the original play.

"We felt his style of dance is so unique; we copied it from the master," Koviak said. "We didn't make it up."

Dean Cobb also oversaw the production of "Pippin" at North Farmington High 14 years ago.

Principal Deb Clarke gave permission for the recent production, Koviak said. Few school administrators would bother taking the risk, she added.

"We all felt strongly about it; it was a story that had to be told," Sue Cobb said.

"We can't do 'Annie' every year or do 'Wizard of Oz' every year. We have to stretch these kids in their acting ability. Does life automatically change when they go to college?"

"If we make them a munchkin every year, what are they going to do when they go to college?"

Youth center hosts spaghetti, event

The public is invited to a spaghetti dinner and activities at the William Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile beginning at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 8.

The Farmington Hills Youth and Family Services Program dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m.

Billiards, swimming, board games, the learning center and line dancing will be featured.

The event is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth, and Families.

The commission will meet the same night beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Costick Center's Bellnet Room.

A special performance by the "Country Kickers" exhibition group will be featured.

The event is free, but donations will be accepted.

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