

Levin's Rezoning Plea Gets Cool Reception

FARMINGTON Two rezoning requests got no action from the Farmington Township Board Monday despite pleas from the petitioners, one of whom was Sander Levin, former Democratic candidate for governor.

Levin, an attorney, spoke on behalf of developers seeking to rezone residential land for

an office building on Folsom, between Ruth and Lundy Streets. The property is just south of Freedom Rd., expressway service drive in the southern section of the township.

LEVIN ASKED that the township hear from the Oakland County Planning Commission before it turns down the request. Trustee L. David Stader (who also is on the planning commission) said that the planners had denied the request and that it was commission policy not to seek county opinions on denials.

"I feel it would be useful if the Oakland County planners could have their opinion heard," Levin said.

Township attorney J. T. Brennan said that "where the board is unimpressed with a presentation," the request can be denied out of hand — without county consultation or public hearing.

Either way, Brennan told the board and Levin, a public hearing would be necessary before the planners before the board could act.

Levin said he did not view

the state laws the same way. "We see the law as promoting input from regional (county) planners," he said.

TRUSTEE Stader then told Levin that the county was only a supplement to the local commission's ideas. "I don't think it has been the feeling that we want to have the county advise on rezoning we are against. If we do this — well, we'd have to almost have a rezoning public hearing on every issue."

The request had been turned down at a recent planning meeting by unanimous vote. Brennan said that "if you march to your drummer (use our procedures), you're asking the board to order the planning commission to hold a hearing."

Typically, the board does not overrule the planning commission.

The board took no actions, but attorneys Brennan and Levin agreed to consult each other on further action.

ANOTHER PETITIONER, attorney Edward Johnson, got no further with the board.

It turned down his request for a public hearing on rezoning from residential to multiple family use 61 acres at 3910 Nine Mile Rd.

Johnson suggested apartment would be a suitable buffer between the proposed I-275 freeway and the Industrial park to the north.

Trustees voted unanimously to deny the request. Then Supervisor Earl Teepees told Johnson to get in touch with Irving Keene, an attorney who reportedly represents a group who owns 360 acres nearby.

The two might agree on a combined development, Teepees suggested.

In other action, the board highly approved an "upgrading" rezoning for a "problem piece of land" — a triangular-shaped plot near County Lines Bowling Alley and the drive-in theater, at Tenth, Nine Mile and Shawasssee.

The zoning was changed from business to residential for condominiums.



EUGENE MILLER (left) of Wildwood Trail, Farmington, is shown with Apollo 13 Astronaut James Lovell after an appearance by Lovell at the 30th annual conference of the National Industrial Recreation Association in Chicago. Miller, recreation director for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. in Detroit, was toastmaster at the conference session at which Lovell spoke.

Longevity Wordings Unsettled Beautifiers Pick Slate

FARMINGTON The City of Farmington Beautification Committee elected its slate of officers at its annual meeting held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knauth.

Officers for the 1971-72 year are: Mrs. Carol Kurth, chairman; Walter Sundquist, vice-chairman; and James Pogue, recording secretary.

Summer activities for the committee included the annual report submitted to the city council, participation in the Founders' Festival Parade, and historic tree dedication at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Klinkman. Regular business meetings will resume in September.

Some trustees expressed unhappiness over the longevity section, which gives a bonus for extended service in the department.

No one is quite sure who agreed to what in that section of the contract. Exact wording will still have to be worked out, Brennan said.

The board agreed to approve the contract, pending final wording on the longevity section.

Musician Ends Tour

FARMINGTON Linda Springmeier of 2925 Birchwood was one of the 100 Michigan and Ohio youths in the Musical Youth and Chorus which recently completed its summer tour.

After touring Europe, Canada, New York City, Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg, Pa., the musicians performed their final concert at Whiting Auditorium in Flint on Aug. 1.

On the interest issue, Clerk Floyd Cairns told the residents that any interest returns to the fund itself, and not the township.

BILLS FOR the assessment district have recently been sent out without the refund figures. But, under pressure from the residents at the meeting Monday, township

GMI Graduate Lawrence C. Pederson of 2847 Thorry Brae graduated from General Motors Institute at commencement there July 30.

Pederson, who was sponsored by the Pontiac Motors Division, received a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering.

He will be working for General Motors at Warren, Mich.

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Audit Produces Large Refunds

FARMINGTON Refunds on two special assessment districts in Farmington Township got formal approval Monday night from the board of trustees.

The refunds had been talked of for several weeks, but official action was to wait for the annual audit by Plante and Moran, Auditors.

Lot owners in Springbrook (off I-11 between Middle Belt and Orchard Lake) and Springland (near I-11 and Orchard Lake) will receive either refunds or reduced annual payments as a result of heard action.

The auditors reported both sever projects had cost thousands less than projected.

IN SPRINGBROOK, a total of \$628,000 has been assessed, but only \$338,000 was needed, even when a five per cent reserve is included. It means a refund of about \$710 to each lot owner, if they paid in one lump sum. For those who still owe, their yearly payments will be reduced.

In Springland, \$374,000 was assessed, but the costs have been set at \$292,000. That means about \$580 returned to lot owners, in direct sum or in reduced payments.

Township attorney J. T. Brennan said the refunds must go to the "owners of record at the date of the board action," and could not go to homeowners who have paid, then since moved away.

Members of the audience asked questions about both the assessment fund reserves and the interest on funds the township had kept then planned to return.

ON THE reserves, Plante and Moran executive Robert Clarke told the board that it was "reasonable to keep the reserves in light of the present interest rates." He said the reserves could be wiped out, and that some reserves were needed to preserve the township's credit rating.

Brennan also told the residents that technically the state law did not provide for refunds until the end of the term of the assessment — several years from now. "But we are giving back all we need, less a reasonable reserve. And we are bending the law a little to do it."

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Treasurer Thomas Nolan agreed to refund the differences via the township clerk within a few days.

Nolan, however, told the residents they must pay the bills as prepared.

The township's entire audit report, as required by a 1968 state law, is on file at the clerk's office.

Auditor Clarke said the township's various funds were in good shape. "We didn't find any discrepancies. The books and records are more than adequate."

Clarke reported a \$70,000 surplus in the general operating fund for the period of the audit, March 1970 to March 1971.

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