

School Board Tackles Ethics, Committees

By DOUG JOHNSON

FARMINGTON
A proposed ethics code and appointment of committees occupied much of the Farmington school board's time last week at its annual reorganization meeting.

The board set aside a move by new board member Emma Makinen to have an ethics code adopted immediately and instead agreed to study it at a special meeting in the near future.

The code is a standard document adopted by the Michigan Association of

School Administrators and the Michigan Association of School Boards.

The trustees also agreed to study the possibility of re-instating the committee structure for the board's tasks—a structure that hasn't been used in several months.

The committee question is expected to be discussed at a special board meeting Monday, July 16. The board will hold its regular Tuesday meeting the next day, July 17.

The ethics code will not be discussed until sometime in August.

Farmington school Supt. Marinus VanAmeyde cautioned trustees against adopting the code too quickly.

"Don't vote now. This should be studied carefully because you make some commitments and you give up some prerogatives."

The code lists several things separately each board member and the superintendent must do to conform to the code.

Trustee Ronald W. Emmitt said he favored the code but that it might require some policy manual changes and the approval of the superintendent. He suggested the board refer the discussion to a study session.

William Corliss agreed, noting that some areas could even be "strengthened." "Some areas in the code are compromises because this is a document that must serve many boards. I don't

think we should delete items nor dilute them. Instead, we should fix those items in the code that are deliberately vague and strengthen them to fit the Farmington situation."

New board member Gary Lichtman disagreed, noting the code was not meant to be specific and the code "would only be as strong as the people who use it." Lichtman voted no on sending the code

into an August study session, but others on the board decided they needed more time.

Board members also discussed possible methods of enforcement of the code but did not get into specifics.

Turning to the question of intra-board committees, Lichtman asked new board President Maynor how to re-establish the group's committee system.

"I think this system is invaluable. The Senate, the House, the State Legislature and our cities all use it, and it is the most efficient use of time," Lichtman said.

Many legislative groups use the committee structure to study an issue, iron out difficulties and then make a recommendation to the entire body.

Emmitt said he approved, but some committees in the past "have not contributed."

"Committees need a policy to guide them so they stay out of administrative activities," he added.

On a final organizational matter, the board agreed to make their open meeting procedure a matter of formal board policy.

Lichtman said all meetings, including study sessions, should be open to the public "unless land acquisitions or personnel were being discussed."

Former board member Aldo Vagnozzi, who was in the audience, said that the board had agreed to the policy but it had never been put in writing.

"I'm not trying to be a wise guy, but I can't find this in my policy manual. If it is here, then I'll apologize," Lichtman said.

The board voted unanimously to enter the open meeting rule in the policy manual of the district.

Vagnozzi had led the fight last year while still on the board to get such a commitment from the school board.

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The Stroller: Control Land Use?



By W. W. EDGAR

For years we have been told that the free enterprise system was responsible for America's growth and that under this system a man had every right to go broke if he wanted to risk his capital.

But that isn't exactly true. There are several quirks in the system that could cause some interesting debates if ever they were challenged.

For instance, few persons realize that the state has placed a limit on the number of drinking parlors in any community. Under the rules of the State Liquor Control Commission only one "table top" license can be issued for every 1,500 persons in any city or township.

So, if you had any thought of opening a liquor emporium, you had better check and see if there are any licenses available in the community.

If you find there are no Class C or tavern licenses available you are just out of luck—regardless of the free enterprise system.

That's just one of the quirks.

Here is another. Suppose you would like to organize a new bank in your community—like some have been hoping to do in Plymouth.

The first stumbling block would come when they applied before the federal banking folks.

They would be told that before any favorable action could be taken in granting permission you would have to prove a need for the financial institution.

If they couldn't prove a need, the application would be denied—period.

So, if you had any thought of opening a liquor emporium, you had better check and see if there are any licenses available in the community.

a gas station on each of the four corners of an intersection.

By the same token, we decided that under the liquor license precedent set by the state, it would curb the mushrooming of shopping centers every square mile.

What would happen, we asked ourselves, if the developers had to prove a need for a center before one could be built?

If that policy holds true for banking institutions, why shouldn't it hold for shopping centers, gas stations, dry cleaning establishments, and discount drug stores? Why couldn't the liquor quota be followed?

The Stroller recalls some of the problems that could have been avoided in the early days of the City of Livonia.

At one time there were five cleaning establishments in a single mile on Five-Mile Road. It was only natural that several of them would fail—and at a time when every effort was being made to lure industry into the community.

Three or four boarded up business places didn't present a very favorable picture—and several companies lost interest in locating in Livonia.

This never would have happened if the state precedent on liquor licenses could have been applied.

The same situation developed with plans for a home-town bank. It was several years after the city came into being and after many hours of hard work that a new bank was permitted.

Now a similar attempt is being made in Farmington. And it will be interesting to watch what progress is being made. Can they prove a need for a new bank?

Our sovereign state has set some interesting precedents, and The Stroller is looking to the day when some brave city officials will attempt to apply them to all segments of business activity.

Community Calendar

BUSINESSMEN'S COMMITTEE
July 7, 7:30 a.m.—The Western Wayne County Businessmen's Committee will meet in Uncle John's Pancake House, Plymouth Rd. at Telegraph, for breakfast. Speaker will be Fidel Cashero, president of the Grunwell-Cashero Co. of Detroit. Businessmen and wives are welcome. Contact Herbert Katuz for information.

BAND CONCERT
July 9, 7 p.m.—The Clarenceville High School band will give a preview of the program it will perform for the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City. The free concert is at the athletic field, Middle Belt south of Eight Mile.

TRAVEL MEETING
July 10, 10 a.m.—Senior citizens are invited to a travel meeting in the Senior Citizens Activity Center, Farmington Rd. at Five Mile. Come out and learn plans for trips in the making and indicate the trips you would like to take.

CHILDREN'S FILM
Tuesday, July 10, at 2 p.m. in the Farmington Public Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile, there will be a 35-minute film program for very young viewers based on popular picture book characters, "Curious George Rides a Bike," "The Five Chinese Brothers," and "Georgie."

KIWANIS CLUB
Tuesdays, 7:30 a.m.—The Livonia Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday morning in the Gold Key restaurant, Plymouth Rd. east of Newburgh.

FILM CLASSIC
Thursday, July 12, at 7 p.m. in the Farmington Public Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd., the Humphrey Bogart classic, "Treasure of the Sierra Madre," will be shown. Admission is free.

OTHELLO TRIP
Wednesday, July 11, the Farmington Community Center is planning a trip to Stratford, Ontario, to see a 2 p.m. performance of "Othello" at the Shakespearean Festival. The cost of the trip is \$24, including bus transportation, theater seats and dinner at the Victorian Inn. Reservations may be made by calling the community center.

SENIOR CITIZENS
Friday, July 13, at noon, the Senior Citizens Social Club of Farmington will meet in the First United Methodist Church social room, Warner and Grand River. Cards and games will follow the lunch.

Kids Sent To Camp

FARMINGTON
The Farmington Youth Assistance Camp Committee will be sending 42 children and teens to six different camps in Michigan this summer.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Pat Kulba, chairman, the committee had to choose from 116 camp applicants.

Camps to be attended by the youths are Camp Oakland; Nissokone, Ohivesa, Au Sable, Far Oak, and Kiddie Kamp.

Those on the committee aiding camp recruitment were Sue McInar, Irene Vogan, Cherie Latona, Nancy Neil, Norma Robinette, Rita Heenan, Eva Spudick, Janet Frederick, Kay Gates, and Pastor Ervin Thompson.

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