

Bargaining Procedures

Bargaining procedures conducted by public agencies differ from those carried out by private concerns.

This was pointed out recently by Al Leggett, official bargainer for the City of Detroit. Cities, school districts, townships, counties and the State, all have established policies, ordinances and laws. They have a maximum income.

Bargainers must keep all of these formulations in mind when they are bargaining. In conducting negotiating sessions, many unions, which have been granted sole bargaining rights under the new state law, are demanding that after secrecy be maintained. This is contrary to public policy which demands that citizens be kept informed of what government officials are doing.

Here is where public negotiations differ from private. Public officials hold a trust and are performing their duties for the public. However, in the school district of South Redford and Redford Union, school superintendents, with the approval of their boards, have agreed to seal their lips as requested by the education associations.

The boards, themselves, bear progress reports in closed-door meetings. In Howell, a school board member who wanted to attend negotiating sessions was barred by his own board from observing them.

By the way on contracts, respect for the public has been shown in Livingston County where negotiations between the Road Commission and the road employees are wide open to the public.

The new law was adopted to help employees but belligerent attitudes are leading to the kind of recent action that took place in Garden City. City employees want an hourly increase of 35 cents while the city says it will give 10.

The union wanted negotiating the fringe benefits and the city wanted to talk wages first so when the city team walked out the union bellowed, "Unfair labor practice."

"We were of the opinion we couldn't negotiate the fringe until we knew the cost of the entire package," Councilman Robert Wildish said.

In both South Redford and Redford Union the teachers haven't presented their whole package yet, according to the information available.

How can negotiations be carried on, if it is not known what the whole package is? And yet negotiations are spending valuable time and many long hours—and on what?

Redford Union is hiring substitute teachers, at a cost of \$1,000 to date, so the seven-man bargaining team can meet from 10 to 4:30 p.m. in Friday afternoons.

South Redford, just starting negotiations, will let six teachers off for Tuesday afternoon meetings at a cost of \$750 each.

The picture painted here, shows bargaining sessions ranging from completely closed to completely open.

If any citizens have feelings pro or con, they should express them, but the plea of this writer to public agencies is: Don't surrender the public trust!

BILL GAIL

Signals Need Changing

Traffic signals are considered aids in helping to regulate the flow of traffic and not as devices by the State Highway Commission.

At least that is what residents of Farmington Township heard last week when they attended a public hearing on the proposed installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of 13 Mile Road and Middlebelt.

We can't help agreeing with the Farmington Township people who called this idea "a bad idea."

However, we really can't argue with the Oakland County Road Commission due to the fact that they don't follow the state requirements for installing traffic signals and the intersection already does not meet the requirements according to the latest traffic count—the state gasoline and weight taxes refunded to the county will be cut off.

What's needed then, is a change in policy. A test case might be made for the necessity of a signal at this corner in the Oakland County Circuit Court. Many other communities would undoubtedly watch the proceedings carefully. This takes time and money—a great deal of money.

The legislature might be able to do something under the new administrative setup of

state government. Governor Romney might even be able to bring pressure to bear on the Legislature to change the law so that all proposed petitions calling for a traffic signal which were forwarded to the Governor's office. He in turn would refer the proper person at the Oakland County Road Commission for action.

The Road Commission told residents of the area at a public hearing last week that they knew of no answer.

As we said, a change in policy. Unfortunately the intersection in Farmington Township is not unique. There are many such dangerous spots in the booming suburban areas.

To us the most logical means to effect a change in policy is by making the public's views known to the legislature and the governor.

Lobbying is not an intrinsically dirty word. We would like to see the people's views made known through use of letters, post cards, etc. to state representatives and senators and the governor. Maybe, for good measure, the State Highway Department should be informed of our feelings about this outdated policy. All can be contacted through the Lansing postoffice.

SUE SHAUGHNESSY

A Bouquet for Hard Work

PTA groups in this area might do well to take a good, long look at the accomplishments of the Ten Mile Elementary School PTA in Farmington.

This group, long one of the most active in the Farmington School District, boasts a large, hard-working core of parents who come to PTA not for sociability, coffee and doughnuts—but to work hard at good communication between themselves and school personnel, and at bettering opportunities and horizons for their children.

Among the latest accomplishments of this group is its Saturday morning French and Spanish classes. They have a total of 155 students—better than last year's 156. Two more teachers in addition to the original two had to be hired.

This program is not a school requirement. Parents must pay \$8 a child for 10 Saturday morning sessions of 45 minutes each. The venture will be expanded next year to include the beginning classes as well as a more advanced program for children enrolled this year.

Aim of the Ten Mile PTA is two-fold. They don't intend to teach the children grammar but rather "expose" them to a foreign language early in their school years so that it will not be such a fearsome mystery later on. Secondly, they hope the success of the program will continue to impress upon the Board of Education and Superintendent's office that children and their parents want languages taught in at least the sixth grade.

They also hope that PTA officers will recognize the pros and cons of such a program but feel the obstacles could be overcome.

The Ten Mile PTA is modest about their program, which President Donald McGregor says was started because it was the best of several projects they had considered for the year. Yet, this is only one of their many successes.

Other projects include a carnival which was

put on three years in a row, pancake supper which served 583 in three hours, and an annual fund-raising book fair prior to Christmas. Most recent undertaking is a plan to spend \$240 on landscaping the school grounds and plantings around the flagpole.

An organizational structure of Ten Mile PTA which other PTA groups would do well to adopt is their communication system between the Board of Education and themselves.

At every regular board meeting, the PTA has a representative (Mrs. Lillian Allen, chairman of the PTA legislative committee) who sits through the meeting and takes notes so that she can report pertinent news back to the PTA Board of Directors. This is the only parent group in the Farmington system that has such communication. We urge others to adopt the same and let what is going on in their school district. It would be an evening well spent.

JOY STINSON

Involvement

Some way must be found to curb the rising number of traffic accidents.

Attempts to blame the rising accident toll on design of automobiles or absence of safety features is a feeble attack on the problem. Better car designs and more safety features may reduce accidents, but not much. The core is reached when you begin discussing the human contributions towards safety and prevention. It is about time courts, prosecutors and citizens become a little more "involved" with those motorists having little or no concern for the life of the driver in front. Involvement is the best defense against death and needless injury and will do far more to decrease the rising accident toll than the automobile corporations are being asked to do.

EMORY DANIELS

Gourmet Nite

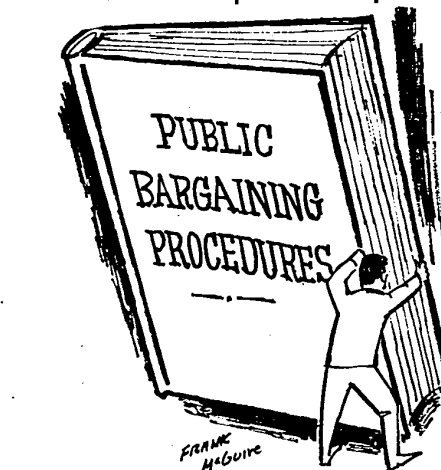
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Readers Speak Civil Service Commission Answers Fire Fighters

Editor:

The Civil Service Commission has directed me to transmit the following statement to you:

The Civil Service Commission wishes to comment on several statements made by the Livonia Fire Fighters Association in their advertisement of March 23, 1968, in the Livonian. Since March 1, 1965, five (5) Firemen have left the department, four leaving the City service and one transferring in a promotion to another department in the City. Three men, in leaving, cited as one of the reasons the seniority system of promotion in the Fire Department in which promotions are made strictly by seniority and without regard for individual merit. Since March 1, 1965, seven (7) men have been hired for positions in the department. An eighth man will start shortly since he has just passed his physical examination. In addition we have six (6) men more on the eligible list to be considered for appointment and also have eleven (11) applicants to be examined for placement on the eligible list. At this point, it appears that we will be able to fill all budgeted positions in the department. Further, we have been advised by Fire Chief Roberts that 4 engines (not 2) are in service and that the 1 ladder truck is also in service and not lost as the Association asserts.

The Civil Service Commission, in considering the matter of such importance as this to the public, statements made should be as factually correct as possible. The Commission is expanding needs and manpower shortages there are certainly real problems which hopefully can be resolved without adding to the burden of these problems statements which can only confuse the public.

JAMES E. MILLER
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR
CIVIL SERVICE
COMMISSION

A Brashear Booster
Editor:
During the past 24 years, I have had many occasions to work with one of the candidates pursuing a political office—Lonnie Brashear, a member of the Livonia Board of Education.

Mr. Brashear, candidate for Mayor of Livonia, has always dealt forthrightly and fairly with all problems. He has always held an open view on any issue, taking the time to examine all aspects of a given problem before making up his mind. Mr. Brashear has worked hard as a board member and citizen to bring about greater cooperation between the school and all other governmental bodies. It was Lonnie Brashear who made the motion that the Livonia Board of Education support the Parks Issue last year!

I urge all citizens interested in improving inter-governmental relationships to vote for Lonnie Brashear.

Finally, a vote for the Parks Issue will certainly be in the

interest of good community planning. All voters should heed this city need before it's too late.

LYNN GILMORE,
Livonia.

Confused on '65

Editor:
I was just reading in the Livonia paper that taxpayers cannot deduct our property taxes from our income tax due to a king-size blunder by our Mayor. Further suggestion was made that the immediate residents. The general consensus was that the City was doing a poor job of maintaining our present park sites without taking on the additional burden of another park site plus small boulevards within the Subdivision. Further suggestion was made that the immediate residents form a Civic Association, assess the entire Subdivision, and have them contract for the upkeep of this park site. Now therefore by their own discussion and admission I would rather that we don't need more parks if no one is going to maintain them as they should be.

It's not our fault that the taxes didn't get paid—we paid them in good faith. Possibly if we would have had a full-time mayor this possibly wouldn't have happened. He would have had more time to see that the statements were sent out.

At least maybe we'll be able to vote in a full time mayor in this next election. They should not be allowed to take a mayor's office and hold down a business too. They cannot devote full interest to the good of the people.

Perhaps this letter will do no good but I feel a little better after writing it.

SHIRLEY PING
Livonia

Ed. Note: The reason you cannot deduct your interest on mortgage payments from your income tax is because several large companies in Livonia filed a complaint against the City Assessor's charge. The tax rolls could not be computed by the Treasurer until the State Board of Assessors heard the complaints of the companies.

Mayor Moelke wired Governor Romney, Congressman Humphrey to see if they could assist the taxpayers of Livonia in getting the deduction this year. Congressman Humphrey promised to initiate a law that would permit the deduction when the State, not the local area, is at fault as was the case in Livonia. No matter what you hear, these are the honest facts. Bear in mind this is election year in Livonia.

Against Parks
Editor:
I would appreciate very much if you would publish this letter. I feel it is very important to the Citizens of Livonia.

I was in attendance at the 228th Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia. At this meeting a Developer presented a Colored Site Picture for viewing by the Council and the other people in attendance. This site showed a approximate 8 acre site made into a park. The Developer stated that he would

grade, plant trees, and seed the lawn. Immediately a discussion arose among the Council members as to who would maintain this park site, the City or the Residents in the immediate Subdivision as it was apparent that this park site would only be beneficial to the immediate residents. The general consensus was that the City was doing a poor job of maintaining our present park sites without taking on the additional burden of another park site plus small boulevards within the Subdivision. Further suggestion was made that the immediate residents form a Civic Association, assess the entire Subdivision, and have them contract for the upkeep of this park site. Now therefore by their own discussion and admission I would rather that we don't need more parks if no one is going to maintain them as they should be.

If all we are worried about in Livonia is an additional 1400 acres of land for park sites, let's forget it, and vote an EMPHATIC NO and then give all our port necessary to the Planning Commission and have them consider all vacant land that is developed in Livonia be Zoned to Large Lots which would use up the 1400 acres thereby eliminating additional homes and at the same time relieve the burden upon our School System.

JOHN MOLNAR,
President
Marlman Estates Civic Association.

G.C. Fathers O.K.
Editor:
After attending the Public Hearing on the City's proposed budget and witnessing the belligerent attitude exhibited by several citizens, I say "Hoory" to the administration who has the total citizens' consideration in mind.

The preparation of the budget must have been a considerable time and effort. It is unfortunate that a few people take pleasure in mocking the present City Fathers for their own political gains.

GINO A. GERVASI
Garden City.

Keep It Local
Editor:
Legislation has been proposed and already passed by the State Senate, under the guise of "streamlining county government and giving them more autonomy." The proponents of Senate Bill #112 conveniently avoid the question of what this legislation will do to the auto-

(In an effort to print all letters relative to the Livonia City Election April 4, "Observing The Scene" by Myra Chandler will not be printed this week.)

Editor:

I just finished reading, The Livonia Fact Finder, published by Concerned Livonia Residents. And, at the top, the publication stated, "For a Better Livonia." Do you really think, Concerned Livonia Residents, that this is the kind of material we want to read? No, indeed! Truthfully, the articles in the Fact Finder did not "grab me," as was quoted at the bottom of the last page. They just made me sick! Misery likes misery, you know. Evil caters to evil, and we do not want anyone in our city government who thinks, and especially acts, as you Concerned Livonia Residents, which is very indicative in your writing. Surely you must be mud slinging, and are no doubt candidates running for some office. Believe me, you will never get my vote.

The majority Livonia residents want men and women of fine character to represent our City. We live in a fine City and, therefore, need and want honest, trustworthy, mature, diplomatic dynamic representatives who are interested in fulfilling their positions to the best of their ability.

I have talked to several of our candidates in person and by telephone. I have attended various meetings, such as: The Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Education, Municipal Court, etc. Also, the church is another good place I have seen fine character traits in one of our representatives. This is how I have become to know for whom I am voting. Many of these whom I am voting with whom I have talked and seen in action are of fine character. I am not influenced by what I read because much of this is untrue.

We all like to exercise our right to vote. But, believe me, I do not know for whom I am voting. I will not vote for an individual. This is a great responsibility. When I began voting, I did not realize how important voting was. I had much prestige in going to my voting destination just because I was supposedly showing citizenship. This, however, was an incorrect endeavor, which has been corrected. Many times I would vote for a pretty or handsome face, or I would vote for a candidate whose name was like music to my ears, such as: Pat O'Malley, John O'Toole and James E. O'Brien. Many Irish names are pretty, aren't they? Books, however, are not judged by their covers, neither are candidates running for office. It is the results and actions that are the influencing factor in our voting.

If the good Lord's willing, we will have the finest men of good character representing our City after April 4th. Also, before election, I will not read any more mud slinging articles, for I know for whom I'm voting. Hope you do, too, good people!

MRS. MELVIN K. ZIMMER
Livonia

Write, at once, to Rep. Marvin Stempfen, House of Representatives, Lansing, Michigan ... opposing Senate Bill #112.
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WHAT CAN ORGANIC FOODS DO FOR YOU?
The top flight galler Billy Casper in the U.S. suffered most of adult life with sinus trouble (see bottle of aspirin per week) bad temper and fifty pounds overweight. His nine year old son "had" hypo gamma globulin anemia, sleep in school, hypersensitive, convulsions and fevers. His wife "had" migraines, swollen feet and ankles, "dizziness." After being tested by top flight allergist—a medical doctor (Dr. Randolph) who puts his patients on organic food diet—excluding, foods that he was allergic to, (even though organic), he was put on a well balanced diet of organically grown foods. Within a short time the father lost fifty pounds of flabby weight, and has control of sinus trouble. The swelling of feet and ankles on wife disappeared along with the migraines, and the son is normal in all respects to health including top grades in school.
See Sports Illustrated Feb. 7, 1966. (Copy available in store)
Get acquainted with Zerbo's organic foods — purple top lettuce, romain and butter lettuce, cucumbers, onions, celery, potatoes, sweet potatoes (like they used to taste thirty years ago) and other produce including top quality fruits of all kinds! Organic breads, eggs, meats, fish, food — yes, even pork if you are allergic to it — providing it is grown organically. Zerbo's is one of the most complete health food stores in the country! If you feel you're not living the full good life — try our nutritional program and see what it is really like to feel "like doing what comes naturally!"
Visit our store on Saturdays for free taste days! Come in for free interviews with no obligation on your part.
Call Garfield 7-3144 for Nutritional Appointments
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