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# The Observer

## OF FARMINGTON

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THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP, founded by Paul M. Chandler, publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Westland and Townships of Plymouth, Redford and Farmington  
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# Library Proposal To Go On Ballot

Farmington Township voters will be asked to approve an additional one mill for a 10 year period for District Library expansion in April or May.

If approved the additional funds would finance a \$2 million capital expansion program and help defray operating expenses of the new and present facility.

Under the agreement of the District Library the City and Township pay an equal cost on a per capita basis. The City Council levies the funds out of its operating budget.

Under the City Charter, the Council can levy up to 20 mills for operational expenses. During the current fiscal year 11.5 mills were levied in the City.

Township voters must approve the millage, however, as the funds for the Library are earmarked.

A similar proposal for capital expansion for the Library was defeated in the fall of 1965.

Members of the Farmington Township Board met Feb. 6 with the Township representatives on the Library Board. Following the closed door session the Board moved to an open meeting and voted to place the matter on the ballot.

At Monday night's meeting of the Board, Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan was instructed to prepare the wording to place on the ballot. The Township Board is expected to formally act on the matter at its meeting Feb. 27.

Township Supervisor Curt Hall said that the election would probably be held in late April or early May.

The expansion program of the District Board calls for the construction of a Library on 12 Mile Rd. just east of Farmington Rd. and the expansion of the present facility or construction of a new building located in the City.

## Schools Approve Boundaries For Next Year's Students

Proposed boundary lines for the 1967-68 school year were approved by the Farmington Board of Education Monday night.

The changes were proposed and outlined by Byron Oliver, administrative assistant.

Biggest differences come from the addition of two new schools which are now under construction—Forest Elementary and Power Junior High.

In planning for the Forest school several boundaries were shifted. Those to be moved include 121 students from Section 4 now attending Alameda, 36 children in Sections 4-5 now at Bond, 83 children from Section 5 attending Fairview and 24 children now attending Wooddale from Sections 7-8. The new boundaries for Forest should be Farmington Rd. on the East and include all of sections 4, 5, 7 and 8.

The Wooddale East boundary line will be changed to Farmington Rd. giving the 135 children on the east side of Farmington Rd. to Kenbrook. This will eliminate use of a crossing guard on Farmington Rd. which has long been a troublesome area.

With the reduced enrollment at Wooddale they will pick up 171 children in Sections 16-17 and 18 others now attending Longacre School which is becoming overcrowded.

Ten Mile has been overcrowded for some time and with the loss of students from Alameda to Forest, 103 children on both sides of Farmington Rd. north of 10 1/2 Mile can be transferred back.

Oliver said in his report that it appeared that the boundary lines of all other elementary schools can be maintained for at least another year.

With the completion of power Junior High, some of the pressure will be relieved from Farmington Junior. The plan calls for the seventh and eighth grades from Sections 19-20-29-30-31-32-33, west one-half of 21 and south one-half of Section 34 to be moved from Farmington Junior to Power. That part of Sections 17-18 and west one-half of 16 that is south of 1-96 will be transferred from Dunkel to Power.

Seventh and eighth grade students in Sections 35-36 who would attend East Junior will be transported to Power. Ninth grade (1967-68) students who now attend East Junior - Farmington Junior High will finish at the school they now attend.

There were no major changes considered in the senior high boundary lines for 1967-68. The only addition is that 10th grade students in Sections 24-25 will continue to be transported to North Farmington along with the 11th grade which attended North Farmington this year.

Exceptions would still be only if older brothers or sisters now were attending Farmington Senior in either the 11th or 12th grades. This choice will be elective by the student and his parents.

Section 36 will be returned to Farmington High due to the large increase at North Farmington. This will mean that the 49 new 10th grade students will attend Farmington Senior and the 29 11th grade students who attended North Farmington this year will be given the choice of returning or continuing at North.



## Board Bounces Burdick Parcel Back To Planners

In order to save \$3,000, the Farmington Township Board has tossed the hot potato of zoning on the Burdick property at Middlebelt and North western back to the Township Planning Commission.

The \$3,000 would be the cost of a special election. Petitions were circulated to force a referendum on the Township Board's zoning of the parcel from commercial, office and residential to multiple.

Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan, in a letter which was sent to all Board members prior to the Monday night Board session, stated that "It appears that the petitions were signed by approximately 2,800 persons. If all of the persons who signed the petitions were eligible to sign them it seems clear that a sufficient number of signatures was obtained."

The problem arises, however, that no matter what happens the Township is almost certain to wind up in Court on the zoning of the four-acre parcel.

If a referendum was held and the multiple zoning was overturned the property owners would probably take the matter to Court. Residents of the area already have the Township in Court and the matter was due to come up before Judge Frederick C. Zeim on Tuesday.

In its action the Board made it clear that it did not think it proper to tell the Planning Commission what the zoning of the piece should be, but left it up to that group to "exercise its own judgment."

An additional problem that could be encountered in the matter is that the referendum petitions were not technically correct. They did not stipulate that all those who signed were resident property owners in the unincorporated portions of the Township.

## Schools OK FARC Budget

The Farmington Board of Education voted Monday evening to again support the budget of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission.

Each year they contribute \$150 of school funds for the program. This support is in addition to making available facilities and services such as buses, playgrounds, multipurpose rooms and maintenance.

According to the Farmington Township police, the truck overturned at 5:33 a.m. and it was 10:30 before any through traffic was allowed. Chief Irving H. Yakes said that the cars were routed off the expressway on Orchard Lake Road and then on Grand River.

While told the police that the truck started to skid sideways and he could not straighten it out. "Then it rolled over on its right side," he said.

ALL THESE PLATES and many more are still waiting for buyers in Farmington's Secretary of State office. Mrs. Margaret Paul surveys the un sold plates and thinks about the lines on those last few days. Statewide figures point out that this year's sales are 25 percent below last year's pace. Feb. 28 is the deadline for having 1967 plates attached to automobiles.

## Brennan Charges 'Defective' Buses

Disagreement about facts arose Monday evening between Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan and the School District over a fire on a school bus Jan. 26 and said before the Board Monday evening. Brennan told of his daughter being a passenger on a Farmington Public School Bus en route to Mercy High School. The bus caught fire on Inkster Rd and a call for help was answered by three police cars and an unknown number of pieces of fire equipment from the Wheeler Station.

No one was injured in the fire.

In his letter to the Board, Brennan said that he "expressed the problems administrative officials have in handling their difficult tasks." For this reason he said he had refrained from making any complaint prior to the fire, but that the fire was the "straw that broke the camel's back."

Among the charges that he made against the school district was that he did not believe the district was living up to its obligations with regard to the maintenance of equipment and the service that the citizens are entitled to expect.

He also said "it is clear to me that the district is not living up to its statutory obligation to carry nonpublic school children in adequate equipment and to provide them with the same quality of service as provided to public school children."

Upon receipt of the letter, the school district conducted an investigation into the bus fire and was prepared with answers to some of Brennan's charges. In many cases the facts from the two parties varied distinctly.

In his letter Brennan said that there was a strong smell of gasoline throughout the interior of the bus. "I am told that the fumes actually caused more than one girl to become ill." "Prior to the fire," he said, "the bus driver stopped the bus at a gasoline station, called in to her immediate superior and was told to continue her run."

The school administration reported that the driver had noticed an odor of gasoline. They said she stopped at a gas station and attempted to call her supervisor but was unable to reach him so she proceeded on her trip to Mercy High School.

The administration admitted that they had received word of one passenger who felt "somewhat ill" during the morning of Jan. 20 but they said she told the bus driver the following week that she suffered no permanent ill effect.

Brennan stated that "when the fire started in the engine compartment of the bus the driver attempted to use a fire extinguisher which was in the bus, but the fire extinguisher was inoperative."

The public school administration contradicted this charge by saying that when the fire was noticed the driver used the extinguisher of the fire and reported that the amount of dry chemical expelled was not in the amount of a fire extinguisher.

(Continued on Page 4 A)

## Board Hears Pay Raise Proposal

The Farmington Township Board received a report recommending pay raises for the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer Monday night, but delayed any formal action on the matter until the members had time to review the report.

Submitted by the bipartisan Pension and Salary Committee, the report recommends an annual salary for Supervisor of \$12,500; Clerk, \$11,000 and Treasurer, \$10,000.

Current salaries are \$10,000, \$8,500 and \$8,000 respectively.

Under the proposal the pay raises and an allowance schedule of \$1,500 a year for Supervisor and Clerk and \$200 for the Treasurer would become effective with the start of the next term of office.

That may be in 1968 or in 1970 depending on when the State Legislature decides to implement the constitutional provision calling for four year terms for Township officials.

Prior to the 1964 election the Township Board voted increases for the three full time officials of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$11,000. The Democratic charged politics and petitions were circulated forcing a referendum on the question.

When the matter came up in the spring of 1965, 28 percent of the Township voters turned out to overturn the Board's action 2,599 to 928.

In its report the Pension and Salary Committee (Continued on Page 4 A)

## Incumbents Are Seeking Re-Election

Farmington's three incumbent Councilmen will run for re-election.

Councilmen Howard Thayer and Ralph Yoder filed their nominating petitions Friday morning — the first day to file.

Councilman Hugo "Pete" Peterson told The Observer on Monday that his were completed and all he had to do was file. He indicated that he did intend to run for re-election.

Three other men, who have been active in local government, have taken out the nominating petitions, but have not indicated whether or not they would actually file them.

The three are: Fred Selbert, chairman of the City Planning Commission; James Plett, a member of the Planning Commission; and Ernest Sauter, chairman of the Farmington District Library Board.

Election for three City Councilmen and two municipal Judges will be April 3.

The last day to file nominating petitions at the City Clerk's office is Monday, Feb. 20.

The last day for new voters to register is March 6. If you have not voted in two years or have recently moved to the City you must register in order to vote.

Those residents in the newly annexed area of the City are registered if they were registered in the Township.

lost the "first to file" title to Councilman Howard Thayer who was at the clerk's office shortly after 8 a.m. The last day to file petitions for the April 3 election is Monday, Feb. 20.



## 4th High School Site On 12 Mile

The location of the third senior high school was officially announced by the Farmington Board of Education Monday evening.

As has long been assumed, it will be located in Section 14 on a 42-acre site on the south side of 12 Mile Rd. between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Rds.

Target date for completion of the school is Sept. 1969. Monday evening the Board also approved a topographical survey of the site.

Linn Smith and Associates previously have been appointed architect and a preliminary construction budget of \$3,450,000 has been established. This includes 85,000 square feet of construction, not including the pool and auditorium, for an estimated \$1,700,000.

The pool and auditorium are expected to cost \$800,000; architect's fee, \$144,000; auditorium equipment, \$100,000; other equipment, \$400,000; site development (including utilities), \$150,000; and contingencies, \$156,000.

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