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New Study Offer Excludes City, Villages

By FRED DELANO
The possibility that Farmington Township may go it alone and retain a consultant to evaluate the pros and cons of its own future governmental alternatives without joining a parlay with the city and two villages gained ground Thursday night. Trustees spent three hours interviewing representatives of two study agencies, Michigan State University's Institute for Community Development Services and the Donald M. Oakes public management firm of Grand Rapids.

Study Committee to do a community-wide governmental analysis for a fee of \$5,000, a move which has the backing of the City of Farmington and the Villages of Woodcreek Farms and Quakertown.

THE TOWNSHIP, which would pay \$3,500 of that fee, heard the MSU theory of governmental research outlined for the first time Thursday. The very tenor of most questions from the trustees kept the university delegates' on the defensive throughout.

Oakes, a former city manager both of Berkley and Grand

Rapids, made a \$2,500 proposition aimed only at the township, declaring, "You need as much guidance as you can get," and shunning from earning any more than one local client.

Oakes' proposal was in letter form and he suggested studying "the pros and cons of incorporation and consolidation and the impact of them on the people of the township."

"We would study the hard practical aspects and economics of such moves and effect on taxes and services," Oakes stated.

The only other realm of his

study would be to determine the "negative effects" to the township in case the city should start annexation proceedings.

"No one would be here tonight if it weren't for the threat of annexation," said Oakes, "and the cities of Southfield and Livonia could be as big an annexation threat to township territory as you think Farmington to be."

OAKES CITED at least 20 Michigan cities and townships for whom he has conducted studies, much of this appearing to hit a responsive chord with

trustees who earlier had heard an MSU representative concede that the Institute had made no such studies for several years.

Dr. Robert Anderson, William Ice and Special Consultant Kenneth Verburg represented the MSU Institute. It would be Verburg who would be in specific charge of the project if MSU is retained, although it was emphasized he would have the assistance of the organization's entire academic and research personnel.

Trustee Earl Opperhauser did most of the questioning of the trio from East Lansing,

seeking to pin down the minute specifics of their planned approach.

The substance of their answer was that they would seek data from all four governments on the efficiency and adequacy of functions, analyzing this information to give residents a basis on which to make their own rational decision as to the desired form of government for the future.

"WE PLAN to develop meaningful interpretations of the best avenues of government that are open to you," said Verburg.

Both he and Dr. Anderson stressed that the MSU approach would not envision any enlargement of the city of Farmington except for the one possibility of total unification with the township.

This brought from Opperhauser the comment:

"I don't think the city realizes that the only thing it's going to learn is whether it should consolidate with the township. It won't learn a thing about annexation possibilities and their effect."

Appearance of the MSU trio before the trustees was an effort

by the Future Farmington Committee to "sell" the township on joining the cooperative community study program.

Oakes was there at the township's own invitation.

After the board had taken both proposals "under advisement," Supervisor Curtis H. Hall speculated that a decision may be made by the trustees at their next regular meeting, Jan. 21.

Dr. John Richardson, study committee chairman, declined to predict what steps his group will take if the township accepts the Oakes proposal and refuses participation in the wider study.

Assessment Hike To Hit Township

Owners of property in Farmington Township are in for a shock when they take a look at their 1968 assessments, and they won't have long to wait.

The Oakland County Department of Equalization has ruled that assessed valuations within the township are 19.9 per cent too low in relation to real estate

market values, and has ordered that they be increased accordingly.

The same county department earlier had informed the City of Farmington that it, too, was assessing below par and ordered assessed valuations within the township are 19.9 per cent too low in relation to real estate

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CONTEMPLATING THE FUTURE: Farmington Township officials are shown as they prepared to hear the cases Thursday night of two separate governmental analysis agencies. Seated, from left to right, are Supervisor Curtis H. Hall, Deputy Clerk Gladys Thomas, and Trustees James Skillman, Thomas Nolan,

Peter Klopp and Earl Opperhauser. Standing, left to right, are: Donald M. Oakes, head of a Grand Rapids consulting service; Dr. John Richardson, chairman of the Future Farmington Study Committee; and Kenneth Verburg, and William Ice, both representing Michigan State University.

New Buildings A Year Behind

School construction projects in the Farmington district costing \$6.6 million have fallen as much as a year behind schedule, and before all are completed work already will be started on another \$7 million worth of educational facilities.

These revelations highlighted a discussion this week by Dr. Roderick J. Smith, superintendent of schools, on the current status of work being done at both high schools as well as progress on the new Powers Junior High.

It is Powers, which originally was to have been ready for classes last September, where greatest difficulty has been encountered.

As the situation stands now, the \$2,000,000 facility for 750 Junior High pupils will be completed sometime this spring and will open its doors next September, exactly one year late.

DR. SMITH indicated that only the two pool-auditorium projects are close to original schedules, and that these facilities should be ready for use by January, 1969.

Meanwhile, the board will meet Monday night to review the architect's preliminary plans for the district's third high school, a \$6 million structure which is supposed to be ready to accept students in September, 1969.

New Directors Election Scheduled For Tuesday

New directors of the Farmington Board of Commerce will be elected at the businessmen's association annual dinner meeting Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the Salem United Church.

A total of 10 new directors will be elected from a field of 18.

In addition to the election of officers, members will hear a discussion on "Uncle Sam—Your Unnamed Beneficiary" by L.D. MacLean, an attorney associated with the Farmington firm of MacLean and Propp.

A highlight of the meeting will be the announcement of the chairman for the 1968 Farmington Founders Festival. Dates for the Fourth Annual Festival are July 25, 26 and 27.

NOMINATED for the Board

of Directors are: Ed Balden, manager of the Farmington Center Corp.; Bill Bowman, executive vice president of the Thompson Co.; John Burke, an attorney associated with the firm of Ingle and Burke; Bob Carson, manager of the 8 Mile—Farmington Rd. office of Manufacturers National Bank; Dick Clarke, manager of the Farmington office of National Bank of Detroit; and Jim Pryer, president of Commercial Bank, Inc.

Others include: Buddy Gross, owner of Grimes Cleaners; Bob Kilpatrick, public relations manager of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company; Jim Mitty, director of investments for Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co.; and Merle Paragon, head teller for the Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington.

Also nominated are: Philip Power, publisher of The Farmington Enterprise & Observer; George Ray, of Ray Interiors; John Richardson, owner of the Plaza Veterinary Hospital; Bob Rosenboom, owner of Rosenboom Standard Service; C.A. Spencer, division manager of Farmington AAA; Walter Sundquist, owner of the Healey-Sundquist Funeral Home; Harry Wingerter, owner of the Bon Ton Shoppe; and Tom Zoedens, an architect and owner of Tom Zoedens Architect & Associates.

Expanded Coverage For Your Pleasure

Continuing our expanded coverage during the blackout of news because of the strike of Metropolitan newspapers, the Observer offers these choice items for your reading pleasure.

There's a therapeutic value in grooming courses at Northville State Hospital. Page 1B.

The moving force behind the Plymouth Symphony orchestra and how Conductor Wayne Dunlap operates. Pages 6 and 7B.

What's doing in the world of women? Page 8B.

Pro football reaches highest peak in world's championship game between Packers and Oakland. Page 2B.

Complete schedule of high school sports events. Page 2B.

Bedford Union swimmers win sixth straight. Page 4B.

Area obituaries, Page 7A.

Eager purchasers swap post offices with demands for one cent stamps, Page 7A.

Community Calendar, Page 2A.

Oakland County defends road maintenance programs, 3A.

Township bus service is expanded, Page 6A.

Get-acquainted session might help ease tension, Page 4A.

Police Calls Increase

Complaints investigated by the Farmington Township police force soared 22.3 per cent last year in contrast to 1966 activities, Chief Irving H. Yakes disclosed in his annual report this week.

The chief reported a total of 17,927 complaints received in 1967 against 14,674 the previous year.

"These were the actual claims of lawlessness which had to be checked out, one by one, by our force of 27 officers," said Yakes. "The statistics do not show inquiries which came through the switchboard but did not warrant a police cruiser."

WHILE most categories of police activity showed increases reflecting the township's continuing population boom, important declines developed in the number of both personal injury and property damage automobile accidents.

Personal injury traffic accidents dropped from 388 in 1966 to 337, while property damage mishaps declined from 653 to 598.

However, there was no such trend in the township's three most prevalent criminal activities: larceny, burglary and malicious destruction of property. All three went up.

40,000 One Cent Stamps Last Post Office 2 Hours

A supplementary supply of 40,000 one cent stamps lasted the Farmington post office only two hours Tuesday as residents here and throughout the nation staged an unprecedented run on the one-centers when postal rates were hiked.

An emergency requisition was hastily submitted to the regional headquarters in Chicago, but authorities said it was only one of more than 300 such requests from throughout the Midwest.

Postmaster Henry Trombley said he thinks the excessive demand will soon run its course, but added that the local post office sold more one cent stamps in the two weeks following Christmas than in all of 1967.

The increase in the first class mailing rate from five to six cents, which went into effect Jan. 7, caught many people and business houses well stocked with stamps of the five cent denomination, but with no one-centers on hand, said Trombley.

The demand for "one's" also stemmed from the increase in air mail

charges from eight to 10 cents per ounce, and the boost in the post card requirement from four to five cents.

Added supplies of "one's" have been obtained from other suburban post offices, as well as Chicago. The latest order to the regional office was for 100,000 of what, until two weeks ago, was almost a dead item.

There are more than 32,000 post offices in the United States, but the Bureau of Engraving didn't start printing stamps to meet the new revised schedule until President Johnson signed the new postal act into law just before Christmas.

Trombley speculated that many persons had an abundance of five cent stamps left over from the Christmas card season, and then descended at one time upon the post office for the one-centers.

Of the new six cent stamps, bearing the portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, there is an ample supply on hand to meet all anticipated requests.



GYM FOR STORAGE -- When the new Power Junior High School is completed, this area will be the gymnasium for physical education activities. Meanwhile, it is being used by builders as a storage area during the cold weather.