ANNULS FREE GRAVEL CLAIM

Attorney Believes Village Has No Special Rights In Township Pit

The village of Birmingham has no legal claim against Bloomfield Township by which it can appropriate a supply of gravel from the township's gravel pit free of charge, according to an opinion presented to the Village Commission Monday night by Clare H. Ogden, village attorney.

Mr. Ogden's opinion, contained in a 500-word typewritten statement, was presented after the question had been raised at the Apr. 20 meeting of the Commission as to whether or not the village could take its supply of gravel for improving village streets from the township gravel pit at no cost to the village. The village pays 22 per cent of the cost of maintaining the pit.

The opinion is based on the belief that repayment to an incorporated village of 50 per cent of the income derived from the highway improvement tax assessed by the township against the property within that village releases the township "from any further liability or responsibility relative to highways within villages, and that the remaining 50 per cent constitutes a tax upon property within the village for the sole benefit of the township at large and from which such village, as a municipality, can claim no benefit."

"It should be borne in mind," the opinion continues, "that the highway improvement fund may be used not only for the purchase of materials, but may be also used for the purchase of labor and road building equipment, and if the village, as a municipality, was entitled to secure materials from the township without expense, it would also have to be assumed that such village would be entitled to its proportionate share of any sums expended for labor or for machinery and equipment.

"In other words, the village, as a municipality, would be entitled to a greater percentage of the tax collected against property within the village than that prescribed by the statute. It is not believed that the Legislature, when passing the above act or any amendment to it, had any such intention."

(Concluded 1 from Page 1)

ent business conditions call indisputably for a reduction in taxes, and pointed out where, in his opinion, further slashes in the budget could be made.

"Rather than shoot the people's money like a bunch of drunken sailors," the statement declares, "the Commission should follow the lead of other municipalities in cutting expenses to the bone." Specifically, Mr. Lowman recommends a reduction in salaries for village employes and a slicing of the $20,000 contingent fund in half.

He also implies that the maintaining of a full force of building inspectors is not necessary, and that such smaller items as car allowance for village employes could be materially reduced. Mr. Lowman's statement follows in full:

"You ask me why I voted 'No' on the adoption of the village budget. I believe I am not telling any tales out of school, since the Commission is quite well aware of how I feel about the matter. Although we do not agree, I still respect their weight of opinion:

"I was not at all satisfied with the budget setup. It was not in keeping with our present day conditions, although it meets well with those of a normal year. Perhaps the budget is a minor affair, but it spells TAXES, and today taxes are a vital subject to our citizens. So, rather than shoot the people's money like a bunch of drunken sailors, we should retrench and at least show a likeness to the actions of other municipalities.

"Living expenses have been reduced at least 15 per cent, therefore it is not a hardship to reduce salaries, but this was not done. Private and public building works have decreased 90 per cent during the past year, but we still maintain a full force of inspectors.

"In addition to salaries we pay a car allowance to certain employes which amounts to about $1,400. This is a small thing to talk about, but some of the employes will have to go to the lakes often to use their allowance. We have a contingent fund of $20,000. Of course this need not be spent unless we see something we want to buy very badly. That is fine, but if the amount were cut in half I think it would be sufficient.

"I might name over a number of items wherein, in my opinion, reductions could be made totaling about $25,000 below the present setup and give the taxpayers the small benefit of it. I feel that the taxpayers are now and have been in the past lending extreme efforts to maintain the health, comfort and happiness of this community and should, by all means, be considered uppermost.

"I was very much disappointed that the Commission refused to extend an invitation to the Property Owners' Division to come before the Commission, at least in private session, and give full explanation of its recommendations. It would have at least shown a willingness to co-operate. However, I would not like to say that the Property Owners' Division, which represents the taxpayers, has spent its efforts in vain. Nor would I say its recommendations have been ignored. They may be considered next year or the year following.

MAURICE LOWMAN."

Debt Largest Item

The largest single item in the budget expense is $109,600 for retirement of bonded indebtedness. Police department salaries come next with a total of $39,670, and fire department salaries third at $26,105.

Outside the general tax levy, which is expected, according to the budget, to net an income of $317,042, the police department is considered the greatest source of income. It will bring $11,500 into the village coffers this year, according to the budget estimates.

The full text of the Commission's statement accompanying the budget follows:

"In adopting a budget of $395,400 for 1931, after a thorough canvass conducted in some eight or ten sessions of the Commission devoted to the study, the Commission feels that it has made a very material reduction in last year's expense of $439,270.07 and yet has not made any material inroads on the standard of service which will be rendered to the community. This budget makes adequate provision for meeting all of our obligations and does not impair in any way the excellent financial standing of the Village. Neither does it shift the burden into the future and load expense on the taxpayers in years to come. It should also be noted that this budget represents a per capita tax of $5 less than in 1929 and, if calculated on the same valuation base in effect in 1929, a decrease of $1.10 per thousand.

In Co-operating Spirit

"The Commission has received with interest and given serious considerations to the suggestions of the Property Owners' Division which it recognizes were prepared and submitted in a spirit of co-operation and good will. Most of these suggestions do not deal directly with the budget but do bear on questions of administrative policy which are at all times open to study. A budget is not an operating plan, but is an estimate based on the requirements of such plan as worked out in the fifty-two meetings a year which the Commission holds. The fact that any item is written into the budget does not mean that such item will be spent. Shifts and changes to reduce expense are a continuous process and are reflected in the financial statement as surpluses or overdrafts. For the past eight years and possibly for a longer period, the operations of the Village will bear the closest scrutiny and aside from such normal difference of opinion as are bound to exist on the complex problems of government, there has apparently very little been done that has proved so far to be in any degree unwise. The community is fortunate in having a citizenship that is constructively interested in the welfare of the community and willing to give liberally its time and ability to contribute to it. This is well exemplified when it is recalled that in the past four years there have been drafted ten citizen committees of from five to eight members each which have given careful study to and made report on special phases of Village problems. The continued interest of such groups as the Property Owners' Division will surely result in constructive contribution not only to budget preparation but to the standard of public service that will be rendered in the community."

CLUB TO GIVE CONCERT

The Fellowship Club of Birmingham will present a concert at the Community House, May 7 at which will be featured the Detroit Letter Carriers' Band and local

Calendar of Coming Events

Today: Junior A. A. U. W. meeting at the Community House; Library science group luncheon at the Community House at 12:30 p. m.; Dinner and meeting of Birmingham Lodge No. 44 F. & A. M.; Bloomfield Township Park board meeting at 7:30 p. m.; Meeting of the Inter-Municipal Transportation Committee at Royal Oak at noon. Embury Methodist Church Garden Party.

Friday, May 1: First annual Baldwin Junior High party sponsored by Student Council to be given in school gymnasium; Mosaic of Song and Story at Cranbrook given by Violet V. Vincent (Mrs. C. A. Newcomb, III); track meet between Baldwin, Fort Huron, Grosse Pointe, and Fordson High Schools, at Grosse Pointe.

Saturday, May 2: Dance given by Women of St. James League at the Community House.

Sunday, May 3: Carillon and organ recitals at Christ Church; Opening of Mission for Women at Holy Name Church.

Monday, May 4: Final dinner given for workers in Community House drive; General Teachers meeting at Baldwin High School 4 p. m.; Property owners' hearing on alley between Ferndale and Euclid avenues, before Village Commission.

Tuesday, May 5: Thursday Musicale gives bridge tea at Community House.

Wednesday, May 6: Lions Club to hold dinner meeting instead of luncheon meeting at Community House; Birmingham Branch A. A. U. W. meets in Ann Arbor at 10:30 a. m.

Thursday, May 7: Fellowship Club Benefit Concert at Community House.

(Concluded 2 from Page 1)

dropped from the third grade in the only other staff reduction at Barnum.

Five teachers will be dropped without replacements from the present staff at Pierce School. They are Miss Anne Bosker, third grade, Miss Helen Sours, first grade, Miss Zona Marlott, physical education department, Miss Ruth Ash, music department, and Miss Lenore Ekstrom, sixth grade.

Miss Helen Hendry, second grade, will be dropped in the only change at Quarton School. Other staff changes announced by Mr. Vliet, none of which will affect salaries, will include the appointment of William Maywood as supervisor of the senior session room at Baldwin, of Miss Mae E. Brumstead as general superintendent of music in both senior and junior high schools, and of Miss Edith Coryell as general superintendent of music in the grades.

The dropping of 14 teachers with only two replacements will necessitate, according to Mr. Vliet, an increase of the teaching load for the entire staff in both pupils and number of hours. The size of practically every class in the school system will need to be increased and home room teachers will be required to teach art and music under supervision of instructors in those departments.

Get Heavier Schedules

Physical education classes in the first and second grades will be substituted by recreation periods during the free recess hours. Since this is believed to be the only manner in which the system can meet the restrictions of a depleted physical education staff and still fulfill state requirements, the teachers in the department who are returned will be forced to assume heavier schedules.

In commenting on the changes and reductions, Mr. Vliet pointed out that they apply almost exclusively to the junior high schools and grade schools. Any material reductions in the staff and equipment at Baldwin High School are not contemplated because they might result in impairment of the school's state rating and its ability to meet college entrance requirements.

Reductions in any school and any department are doubly difficult on account of the fact that the school enrollment next fall is almost certain to be increased by the usual 100 to 150 students, Mr. Vliet said.

"We do not in any way pretend that in the face of these reductions our school system will be as efficient as it has been in the past," he stated. "However, as conditions stand, the reductions are absolutely necessary, and there is no alternative."

Savings which Mr. Randall expects to realize on operating expenses will be made principally on the items set aside in last year's budget for building, furniture, grounds, repair and painting.

(Concluded 3 from Page 1)

personal taxes, Mr. Vaughan declared.

The village has attached the feeder wires of the car line from the southerly village limits to Oak street as security for the personal tax owed, Charles Plumstead, village treasurer, announces.

Following the discussion of the discontinuance of the interurban service, President Harry Allen requested that the village manager discuss the matter of improved bus transportation between the village and Detroit. It was pointed out that he had discussed the matter of improved schedules, etc., with E. M. Maddox, manager of the local branch of the system, but that Mr. Maddox could not yet definitely set a new schedule of busses and rates.

Committee Meets Today

The Intermunicipal Transportation Committee meeting in Royal Oak at noon today will be attended by Mr. Parry. It is expected the committee will seek information on new schedules from the Eastern Michigan Motorbus company. Other communities that will be represented at the meeting are: Royal Oak, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, Berkley, Oak Park, Huntington Woods, Clawson, Bloomfield Hills Village and the Townships of Royal Oak, Troy and Bloomfield.

The Michigan Public Utilities Commission on Friday stated it had no jurisdiction in cases where the company is an interurban electric railway, after protests had been made to the Commission against the abandonment of the Pontiac-Detroit and Detroit-Toledo divisions of the E. M. S.

Knowlton Hawkins and "Cotton" Weeger, two boys of Flat Rock, Ill., received $225 in bounty money for nine wolf pups captured in Wyoming.

(Concluded 4 from Page 1)

the reasons for the extension of the time limit on the campaign.

Both Mr. Woodruff and J. L. Oliver, president of the Community House Association at Monday night's dinner urged increased effort on the part of campaign workers, and insisted that the full quota must be reached if the Community House is to maintain its standing and continue its present functions in the life of the village.

Mrs. Norman Lyle also addressed the assembly briefly, emphasizing the fact that the extension of Community House activities depends on the success of the present drive.

"This is the most critical time in the life of the Community House," she said. "If we can get through this season there is no limit to what we can do in the future."

(Concluded 5 from Page 1)

us," we urged, "just how you captured this shark, etc., and who is the other gentleman."

"The other gentleman," replied Fisherman Oliver, "is Gordon Lafebvre, and here is how we captured the shark:

"It was two or three weeks ago. We started out in a launch, a 40 or 45-foot launch. We were about five miles off Miami Beach somewhere. We had not been catching much fish—just a mackerel here and a mackerel there. The fish were being scared away by a hammerhead shark which had been following us for some time. After a few hours, however, we lost him. Then we began to catch some fish.

(Fisherman Oliver told us what kind of fish they were, but we were so consumed with curiosity to learn about the shark, we didn't pay much attention. We do remember, however, that the name of one of the species began with amber something.)

Stole His Catch

"About 2:30 in the afternoon I got another bite. As I was reeling the fish in—this shovel-faced shark nipped it right off the hook! Immediately we threw out the line for the shark!

"The bait? Well, it's some kind of meat you can't eat. But sharks are suckers for it. The hook? Well, it's like this—like an ice tongs. The line? Well, it's ordinary clothes-line.

"We no sooner got the bait in the water than the shark got it. The hook caught in the gristle and stuff just behind his uppers," (and although we didn't ask how he knew it caught there first, we didn't interrupt. It occurred to us, however, that he would have to have seen the hook catching there. Where the hook was when he brought the shark to shore really doesn't make very much difference. The shark might have mulled it over a bit, you know.)

"Then the tussle began. We had only 200 feet of line to pull him in with. The line was in a pail, you know. It was awfully hard on our hands. You know how sore it gets when salt water gets in a cut? Well, look at these scars.

(And Fisherman Oliver indicated places on his right hand where scars, allegedly caused by a clothesline being pulled by a shark, are now healing. This is just one of the harrowing details and all squeamish readers are advised to skip this part.)

Dragged Him Around

"We dragged him around for about an hour and a half before we were able to get a shot at him with the .22. We shot him 12 times. If you look closely enough at the picture you'll see two holes in his nose. (If you will look closely enough at the shark's nose you'll see one hole, perhaps, but it looks more like it was caused by a one-pound shell.

"We'd shoot him when he came up. (Probably coming up for air, or to remonstrate because the fishermen were so severe.)

"After about three hours he gave up. We'd dragged him nearer and nearer the boat and snubbed the line each time. Then we went to shore. As we came up the canal towards the docks the people gathered on the shore. It was the biggest catch there this season. Ten men helped tow him out of the water. We managed to get some excellent motion pictures of the catch and we left them to be developed. But we haven't gotten them from Florida yet. I hope they turn out all right.

"Lefebvre? Well, he really caught the shark single-handed. During the mad battle I remember hearing him say, 'I haven't had so much fun since the hog ate . . . ' but that was all. We were silent most of the time.

"The shark was living when we got him on shore.

"What did we do with him? Well, we called up a soap company right away. But they didn't come for you know how fish sort of, well, exude odors after they've been out of water for a few days? Well, this fish was no exception. And rather than have the neighbors complain we towed him back out to sea and left him there."

FRANKLIN FIRE SLIGHT

Slight damage to the roof of the home of Archie Gray, near Franklin village, was caused late yesterday afternoon by fire of undetermined origin. The blaze, which broke out near the chimney, was quickly extinguished by the Franklin chemical engine.

ENGINE JUMPS TRACK, FOUR MEN INJURED

Four men were injured when a small Grand Trunk gasoline engine jumped the tracks and rolled over between Twelve and Thirteen-Mile roads near Royal Oak last Thursday.

Stanley Majka, Birmingham, who sustained cuts on the head and legs, and Harold Johnson, Durand, who suffered an injured back, were taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Mathew Dukitz, Birmingham, and C. H. Sudden, Durand, were less seriously injured.

Hearing On Alley Project Postponed

The hearing of property owners on a final agreement for a temporary alley between Ferndale and Euclid avenues for the use of the postoffice which was to have been held before the Village Commission Monday night was postponed to the next meeting on May 4.

Tentative arrangements for the alley have already been made, but the final agreement awaits joint approval of the Commission and the property owners affected.

Thousands Prefer

ROLLINS COLD STORAGE

Because the air is colder your Furs stay new longer in a temperature of 21 degrees.

You are assured complete protection against Moths, Fire, Theft and Dust for only 3% of your valuation.

3% of your Valuation . . . Minimum $3.

Have your Furs repaired now by our expert craftsmen. Special Summer rates in effect.

Don't Delay—Call Today, Ran. 0236

The Rollins Co.
36 Adams Avenue West

Mother's Day

MAY 10TH

The biggest candy day of the year. Every mother expects her candy, do not disappoint yours. Give us your order NOW and you will know your choice will be fresh and delivered on time. A fine selection in 1-lb., 2-lb. or 3-lb. boxes.

MRS. STOVER'S BUNGALOW CANDIES
80c POUND
WHITMAN'S GILBERT'S BUNTE'S

ESTABLISHED 1906

Still serving the principle that there is no substitute for quality and genuine personal service.

PHONE 61

SHAIN'S DRUG
WEST MAPLE AND PIERCE

Four Registered Pharmacists: ETHEL J. BASSETT, FOSTER TOOTHACKER, CHAS. J. SHAIN, U. R. BAILEY

MOVIE ENTHUSIASTS

In addition to our regular production schedule we are fully equipped to process your personal motion pictures, including titles and other laboratory service . . . 16m m sound pictures and portable projection equipment now available for home use . . . demonstrations at our projection salon or at your home.

Ashton-Walton Company
322 WABEEK BLDG.
PHONE 2579-J

SFIRE BROS. MARKET

FOODS

at Special Low Prices for Friday and Saturday

GROCERIES

Regular 39c Wideman Crab Meat Large Can, 65c	3 for $1.00
Wideman Corn, No. 2 Cans	2 for 25c
Wideman Tuna Fish All White Meat	½ lb. can 21c
Wideman Olives Queen or Stuffed, Extra Large	24 oz. bottle 49c
Libby's Peaches	No. 2½ can 19c
Libby's Tomato Juice	15c
Beechnut Coffee	1-lb. can 35c, 3 for $1.00

FRUITS

Hawaiian Pineapple Large size, fresh, ripe	23c	Eating Apples	3 lbs. 25c
Florida Oranges	doz. 39c	Maine Potatoes	peck 37c

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Fresh Creamery, Jersey Brand Butter	lb. 24c	Strictly Fresh Eggs	doz. 19c
Michigan Store Cheese	lb. 15c	Philadelphia Cream Cheese	pkg. 10c

MEATS

Chickens Young Hens for Roasting or Stewing	lb. 35c
Rolled Rib Roast	lb. 32c
Armour's Star or Swift's Premium Hams Whole or Shank End	lb. 24c
Bacon, sliced	lb. 29c

Fresh Caught **PERCH** lb. **9c**
WE CLEAN AND SCALE ALL FISH!

FREE, CONVENIENT PARKING in the large parking area just to the West of our market.

Sfire Bros. Market
"The Shopping Center"
180 WEST MAPLE AVENUE