

Lathrup Acts To Provide City Services

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

In three short months, the City of Lathrup Village has become almost independent of its recent mother-governing body, Southfield township.

Since adoption of the city charter and seating of the city council, on December 7 of last year, Lathrup has made provision for its own police department, rubbish pickup, dog control and is taking immediate steps to operate its water system and provide building inspectors.

The city's greatest dependency upon the township is in fire protection, a question still unresolved in the minds of Lathrup councilmen.

To establish a fire department of its own would be too costly for Oakland County's infant city and city officials hope to contract for this service with a nearby municipality.

PRELIMINARY estimates for this protection annually from Southfield have been set at \$19,000 plus insurance premiums to be paid by Lathrup to cover township firemen while working within the city's limits.

Lathrup councilmen contend that this figure is excessive and are presently studying the possibility of contracting with the City of Berkley for fire protection.

Creation of Lathrup's volunteer police department was one of the first steps taken by the new city. Four constables serving as police officers now patrol Lathrup streets at night without pay.

Councilmen hope to effect a police ordinance and establish a municipal court soon to collect fines for violations to help the city's treasury pledged to remain small because of low taxation.

A REGULAR rubbish collection was started the first of February, relieving township department of public works trucks from servicing Lathrup.

Acceptance of a dog ordinance and the naming of a city veterinarian have been the initial steps taken by the city to regulate the handling of family pets within the city. Appointment of a part time dog warden may be necessary to enforce certain nuisances that now exist.

Louise Lathrup Kelly, original creator of the Lathrup area, the City of Detroit and Lathrup Village officials now have their heads together to transfer the Lathrup water system to the new municipality.

The Lathrups built the system and gave Detroit the title to it while the Detroit water board was out of the system. The system will now be handed over to city officials but Detroit will continue to supply Lathrup with water.

MEANWHILE, the big problem before both Southfield and Lathrup is the settlement of township property in the new city. Auditors from both sides are negotiating the transfer of Lathrup's share of Southfield's cash and equipment.

Such a settlement by complex formulas may take months to consummate but both parties hope for a rapid decision on the difficult procedure.

On the intangibles and sales tax returns paid by the estate on a per capita basis, it would appear that Lathrup's share percentage-wise would be 97%.

On the assessed valuation of personal property, Lathrup's share has tentatively been set at a little over 11 per cent.

ALL EXCHANGES of payments will date back to May 22, 1953, the actual settlement date.

Other services now the responsibility of Lathrup are street maintenance and building inspection. Already Lathrup has received its first return from the Michigan Motor Vehicle fund covering the last quarter of 1953 for road maintenance.

Still probably the most important action before the city council is passage of all ordinances setting up operations of the city's departments . . . a task that will mean weeks of study.

Pole Line Given Okay

A request by the Detroit Edison company to establish a pole line across Birmingham city property at the northwest corner of Cranbrook and 14 Mile was approved Monday night by the city commission.

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THE INTERNAL REVENUE department's new office on the second floor of the Huron Building, 53 1/2 West Huron. Pontiac, is a busy place these days as citizens line up for help in filing their 1953 income tax return before the March 15 deadline. The new office is staffed by 20 consultants, and approximately 50 returns an hour are being processed. District Director A. M. Menninger said all citizens are invited to come to the office for help in making out their returns. He cautioned that persons must bring all necessary data and records with them.

Southfield Third Highest Taxpayer To County Gov't

With the opening of assessment rolls for the annual review of taxpayers in March, Southfield township will become the third largest tax-paying municipality supporting Oakland county government.

While assessment rolls have not been completed, Southfield Township Supervisor William Roeser estimated that between \$10 and \$12 million in assessed valuation would be added to the 1954 rolls. Last year's assessed valuation was \$43,015,285.

This probably will bring Southfield's equalized valuation over \$75 million, which will follow only the cities of Pontiac and Royal Oak among major tax-paying communities.

Addition of J. L. Hudson's Northland Center will account for a large share of the increase. Roeser stated that the huge shopping center was assessed at 85 percent completed on this year's rolls.

DURING 1953 the township wrote up \$20,709,000 in new building permits.

Elsewhere in the area, assessment rolls were too far from completion for city and township officials to hazard a guess on their 1954 rolls, although Birmingham City Assessor Elmer Haack has estimated that the city's rolls will probably be upped \$2,000,000 this year, making the final assessment figure near \$48,000,000.

Officials in the City of Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield township and Troy township stated that rolls would not be totaled until next week.

The rolls will have to be completed before Tuesday, March 2, opening date for board of review meetings.

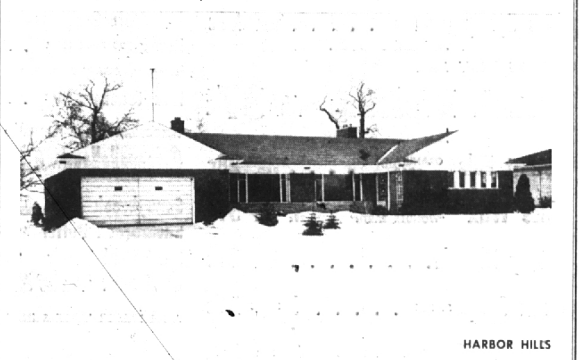
In Birmingham the board will meet on March 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Southfield township officials will be open March 2, 8 and 9 with hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday night, March 8, the offices will also be open from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In Troy township the dates will be March 2, 3 and 8 with daily hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two nights will be provided for taxpayers on March 2 and March 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Lathrup residents may review the rolls on March 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Monday, March 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Deny City Services To Troy Twp. Land

Sewer and water services to a small isolated parcel of Troy township land were denied the property owner Monday night by Birmingham city commissioners.

Commissioners advised the Socony-Vacuum Oil company that the city could not provide facilities to property outside its limits. Company officials had asked for the services on the southeast corner of Woodward and Fourteen Mile road. The firm proposes to build a service station on the corner with a small portion of the building extending into Birmingham proper.

The city contends that the only way to service this property is to annex the land from Troy.

OK Planning Dues

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night approved an appropriation of \$25 to be forwarded to the South Oakland Planning Council for 1954 membership dues.

Planning Technician Robert Boatman explained that the council presently was studying a land use map for this area projected to the year 1970 and added that this group was considered the intermediate group between South Oakland county Communities and the Metropolitan Detroit regional planning commission.

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Commission Okays Expenditures for Dutch Elm Control

In order to implement its program to control Dutch Elm disease, the city of Birmingham will spend \$6,077.84 for a mist sprayer and 2,650 gallons of elm spray.

Approval for these purchases was granted by the city commission at its Monday night meeting.

The mist sprayer will be purchased from the W. F. Miller company, S. Woodward, for \$2,500. The spray will cost \$3,777.84 and be purchased from Standard Oil distributors, 451 Eton Road.

CITY FORESTER William LeBold plans a spraying program to be conducted in the pre-leafage period in the spring, which will be followed by another spraying program in the summer after the leaves are out. All trees on public property are scheduled to be sprayed.

City Manager D. C. Erbert said

purchase of the new machine was necessary to assure the success of the program. A hydraulic sprayer already owned by the city also will be used in the program.

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