

See Solution to Financing of Proposed Evergreen Drain

Troy High Bond Issue Nearly Paid

TROY—This year may be the last year that school district taxpayers will have to plunk down dollars to pay off the \$600,000 high school bond issue passed in 1949, Stewart K. Baker, superintendent of schools has announced.

Callable bonds totaling \$197,000 were ordered paid at the board of education's meeting last week. This leaves only \$78,000 in callable bonds which the board intends to pick up later this summer, Baker said.

"By Sept. 1, we will have a balance of \$25,000 to pay on the issue. Our equalized valuation has increased so much since the date of the issue that we will collect \$260,000 in taxes with the millage being applied," Baker explained.

HE POINTED out also that the school district is in fair financial shape in regard to its operating budget, with a cash balance of \$10,602.50 at the close of the 1953-54 fiscal year June 30.

This will reduce the indebtedness to the point that a leave for last week's Frank Conroy was elected to his third consecutive term as board president. Louis Hildebrandt, elected treasurer to take the place of Elmer Lowe who was defeated in June for re-election to the board.

Gerald Barril is the new secretary replacing Russell Robertson who resigned from the board at the close of his elected term in June. Barril was elected by the trustees of the school district.

At the same time Watchowski was ordered to check reported speeding on Lathrup road and study the possibilities of erecting intermittent stop signs on this street.

Councilmen formerly had asked that speed on Southfield be reduced to 40 miles per hour within city limits with the exception of four blocks fronting Alvin Lathrup school where they asked for a 30 m.p.h. limit.

MAYOR WILLIAM H. HARVEY reported at the meeting that speed on county roads could only be reduced by the state and recommending that from the road commission.

Councilman Thomas N. Reed questioned the city of the county to regulate speeds in a home rule city and asked that the law be changed.

"I will check action taken by Livonia, Detroit and Birmingham municipalities," Reed stated. "I believe that they have posted their county roads without waiting for the county."

Councilman Katherine Feyersien suggested that a 25 m.p.h. speed be posted on the entire length of Southfield through the city.

WATCHOWSKI revealed that the county has been making speed checks on Southfield since the erection of the traffic light in front of the school.

The council also sympathized with residents on Lathrup who contended their street was being turned into a main artery when they requested stop signs to slow speeders.

SCHOOL Bd. Approves Re-Estimated Budget

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—The board of education Monday night approved a re-estimated budget for the 1954-55 school year, providing for an expenditure of \$381,000 and anticipating an income of \$517,805.34.

The board is leaving a budget balance of \$136,805 by the end of school year, June 30, 1955.

The board is attempting to get as high a surplus as possible to finance the initial operations at the new high school scheduled to be completed by September of 1955.

Subdivision Okayed

BLOOMFIELD—A subdivision plat for 49 acres of Morningside Heights on Quanton road west of Glenbury was approved at last week's meeting of the township board. Supervisor David Anderson said the plat calls for 50 lots to be carved out of the 25.

July 21 Party Introduces Dems In W. Bloomfield

PHILIP A. HART

W. BLOOMFIELD—"It's a pleasure to meet the Democratic candidates" is the invitation to a lawn party Saturday afternoon, July 24, between 2 and 4 P.M. at 6490 Commerce road, West Bloomfield township.

The meeting is sponsored by the Southfield Township Democratic Club so that citizens of the county can meet and talk informally with those men and women for whom they are asked to vote in August 3rd primaries.

Blair Moody, Jr. (appearing for his father) and Patrick W. McNamara, contesting for U. S. Senate Democratic nomination; Zigmund A. Niparko, Paul Sutton and William A. Welsh, candidates for U. S. Congress from the 18th district; George H. Hagard and Philip Hart, for Michigan lieutenant governor; William Lamborn and Robert C. Williamson, for state representative from the 3rd district; and Jack Mowkowitz of Oak Park (Dwight C. Johnson of Southfield township state representative from the 4th district, are all planned to attend the informal gathering.

CANDIDATES for state senator (12th district) who will contest are Fred Elias of Hazel Park and Fred L. Hanson of Royal Oak. Willis Brewer, Democratic Chairman for Oakland county will be in honor guests with the candidates on the party hall for all county offices.

George Heliker of Farmington, president of the club, is being assisted by chairman Bessie Weatherston of West Bloomfield township, Alfred Farnetti and Hugo Rolland of Commerce township, Howard Cole of Southfield township, Leonard Bennett of South Lyon and Marvin Kuschnick of Troy township.

The public is invited to attend and treatments will be served. Mrs. Weatherston's home at 6490 Commerce Road is about seven miles west of Pontiac and South of the beginning of Green Lake Road.

State Reduces Southfield Tax, But Twp. Declines

(SOUTHFIELD)—While the Michigan State tax commission found that the county was nearly \$2 million high in setting the township's 1954-55 equalized valuation, Southfield will not press for the reduction, according to Township Supervisor William Roeber.

The township appealed its equalized factor of 156 set by the county equalization committee two months ago and the tax commission found that the over \$800,000 equalized valuation set by the county was \$2,467,638 too high.

In a letter to the equalization committee, Roeber stated that the township resists the amount of work that re-proportioning the equalization factor would mean county wide and explained that the township would abide by the original equalized figure.

HE ASKED, however, that recommendations of the tax commission be taken into consideration when the committee sought to set the equalizing factor for the year 1955-56.

Assessed valuation of the township originally was set at \$51,141,352.

Zone Board Studies Industrial Areas

W. BLOOMFIELD—The township board is considering an amendment to the zoning ordinance to include a classification for industry. It was recited at the July 13 meeting.

Members of the zoning board were asked to study and report back in 60 days with recommendations regarding a specific classification for industry with designation of areas which should be included in the ordinance.

Lathrup Refuses Southfield's Fire Protection Pact

LATHRUP—Future fire protection for the city apparently will not be decided until Thursday's deadline of Southfield township's contract and possibly this July 22 date will be ignored by city officials.

City councilmen Monday night refused to sign a revised contract for a three-year period and called an executive session Wednesday morning to discuss terms of the Southfield pact before taking action on the agreement.

"Only a goof would sign a one-sided contract like the township has given us. If Southfield wants to get tough about Thursday's deadline, then we can get tough, too," Councilman Thomas Reed stated.

NEGOTIATIONS which have taken since the first of the year to provide fire protection for the new city were thought successfully concluded last week when Southfield board members signed for the township's part of the bargain.

But Lathrup councilmen charged that the contract gave Southfield all the controls and that certain clauses in the agreement were "intolerable."

Apparently suspicious over that point of signing the contract, the township's inspection of the city's water system operation, Lathrup councilmen charged ways tried to get our water system and this contract would sign over it.

Councilmen Reed and Katherine Feyersien explained that they were working on a second revision of the contract and would submit it at the informal meeting Wednesday.

Board Delegates More Authority To School Supt.

BLOOMFIELD—A change in school board policy was indicated by the remarks of Robert Sadler, new incoming president of the board of education.

Hereafter, it has been the policy of the board to act in a rather comprehensive way in administrative matters, it was pointed out.

Sadler stated he believed more of the administrative load should be placed in the hands of the school administration headed by Superintendent of Schools Eugene L. Johnson.

MORE FUNCTIONS of the board of education offices will be handled by Johnson and his assistants.

Board members indicated that when the administrative load grew to sufficient size, they would hire the hiring of additional help.

Sadler indicated that it was his opinion, and other board members agreed, that this practice would result in better coordination of school district affairs and would set up the board's functions on a more businesslike basis.

Resuscitator

WALNUT LAKE—The purchase of a resuscitator for the fire department costing \$580, was authorized at last week's meeting of the West Bloomfield township board, according to Supervisor Hyland Thatcher.



5,000 GALS. OF WATER A DAY DIDN'T PHASE THIS MUCK FIRE
Lester Allen and Maurice Morey spray to no avail. (Eccentric Photo)

Water Fails to Douse Mercier Farm Muck Fire

By GIL HERMAN

BLOOMFIELD—Conventional fire fighting techniques were not enough to quell a smoldering muck fire that has been burning since July 9 on the south side of the Mercier farm near the end of Forest Lane.

After pouring about 5,000 gallons of water a day on the persistent blaze, firemen gave up Monday and called in a bulldozer to plow around the burning portion of an approximately eight-acre muck deposit. About four acres had been blackened before the "doozer" was called into operation.

With non-combustible soil ringing the burning muck, the fire is being left to burn itself out, said Township Supervisor David Anderson.

Several times they thought they had the fire out, but the next day smoke could be seen oozing up through the soil.

MOREY ESTIMATED the muck to vary in depth from three inches to four feet. Reddish-orange in color, it looked like black flour after burning.

It was the first muck fire handled by the department since two years ago when one smoldered for a week north of Bloomfield Village.

As muck deposits go, the one now burning is fairly small, according to Morey.

He recalls a miles-wide deposit near Standish, Mich., that occupied his brother and other firefighters for several years, off and on.

Cooperation Sought On Wayne Program

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Supt. of Schools Eugene L. Johnson, who sought the board of education's cooperation in the Wayne University program to alleviate the teacher shortage, was authorized at the Monday night meeting to use his own discretion.

In cooperation with public schools, the university sponsors a "refresher course" whereby former teachers—usually those who have left the field to marry—may re-enter the field and renew their teaching certificates after "practice-teaching" six weeks in public schools.

LATHRUP—A hearing of necessity for the blacktopping of Lathrup boulevard from Twelve Mile to Goldensgate was approved Monday night by city councilmen. Cost of the project, which will be borne solely by owners fronting the improvement, will be \$2,265.00.

The bid for the Lathrup surfacing was awarded to Detroit Concrete Products company.

The council set August 9 for a hearing on the assessment rolls after residents agreed to the black top surfacing.

AT LAST week's meeting, property owners asked that the necessity hearing be deferred one week while they checked the possibility of treating their street with seal coat.

A petition for the surfacing of Glenwood from Southfield to Santa Barbara was discarded when councilmen ruled that the petitioners carried names only sufficient for a portion of the paving.

Supt. Authorized To Sell Property

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Superintendent of Schools Eugene L. Johnson was authorized to negotiate the sale of the Tuscarora school and its property at Franklin and Telegraph roads at the Monday night meeting of the school board of education.

Approval for the sale was given by district voters at the June election.

Wood Churns Termite Rouge Pollution

Hopes for solving the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Southfield area sewage disposal problems were brightened last week when local officials learned of proposed financing for a \$2 1/2 million interceptor sewer to the City of Detroit.

The most encouraging point of the meeting between city and township administrative heads at the Bloomfield Hills city hall was the expression by all that they would push plans for the interceptor under the tentative cost method of number of sewage connections served.

Area officials for the past two years have been studying a practical means of sewage disposal to end pollution of the Upper Rouge river and escape a citation for the pollution placed on all communities in the state's Water Resources Commission.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES are now convinced that permanent solution to disposal is through joint action of all the adjacent communities involved.

A new name for the project, the Evergreen Drainage District, was chosen at last meeting.

Potential sewer connections in the district that includes about 60 percent of Southfield township, nearly half of Bloomfield township, all of Birmingham's west side and a small piece of Troy township would serve an estimated 134,000 people.

Total capital cost of the interceptor has been set at \$2,698,000. Establishing the legal framework and agreeing on methods of financing for the giant sewer have been the most imposing difficulties member communities have faced.

"THE RECENT report by Al Rath, consulting engineer, and Matthew Carey and Claude Stevens, handling the legal and financing ends of the project would seem to indicate that fair and realistic means are at hand for the interceptor construction, Birmingham City Manager Donald C. Egbert stated.

"When acceptance of the report and joint cooperation is pledged by all community members, the real work lies ahead for the governing bodies of the interim period before the Evergreen Drainage District and treat sewage from this area."

Of prime importance to the success of the project is acceptance by Detroit of a contract to purchase flow rights to the Evergreen Drainage District and treat sewage from this area.

"I believe that treatment charges by the City of Detroit will be competitive with the cost of any further improvements or enlargements to the plant for treatment of township wastes."

To serve the "illegal county" plan, the entire sewage plant from Bloomfield Village and property adjacent to the city's western border will be in the interim period before the Evergreen Drainage District's interceptor sewer is ready to take the township's proposed financial agreement with Birmingham for sewage treatment.

The district in question serves some 2,000 people and poses a burden to the city plant as it now operates, city officials contend.

UNDER a proposed agreement, the city will reimburse capital costs of the sewage plant, less depreciation, paid for by the township. The township joins its sewer main to the interceptor should the city decide to maintain sewer service at the plant.

The township, by an ordinance ready for official action, stands ready to establish the district under consideration and has expressed its desire to join the city's plant.

City Commissioner Dean G. Beiter, hearing Egbert's report at Monday night's commission meeting, suggested that the city plant be appropriated for the vote to be taken at the next election.

Lands Crippled Plane At Selfridge Field

SOUTHFIELD—Theodore C. Novak, 36, of 16161 Amhurst, landed a crippled General Motors Corp. executive plane—a twin-engine Beechcraft—on the runway at 4:40 p.m. at Selfridge Air Force Base, without injury to himself or his co-pilot, Richard Gately of Roseville.

It was his first emergency landing in his 13-year career of flying. Because executive aircraft—like commercial airlines—usually carry passengers, he said his primary concern was for the airplane, although no passengers were aboard on this flight.

NOVAK SAID THE DETROIT city airport control tower notified him shortly after takeoff that the right wheel had not retracted. The pilots then circled the Detroit area for about three hours with a jammed landing gear to burn out the fuel—the usual procedure taken to lessen the possibility of fire, he added.

According to company instructions the pilots landed at Selfridge where five crash units and two ambulances stood by and where there was less congestion of traffic, he maintained.

He used the sod area to the right of the runway and landed on the left wheel, which was functioning properly, and went over on the right wing—as the plane slowed to a standstill—thus damaging the right wing tip and right propeller.

Later Sunday Novak phoned his wife who is vacationing in Wisconsin with their two children, a son, age 9, and a daughter, age 6, and told her about the accident.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY: D. J. BECK, 888 S. Lathrup, when reporting on his study of road surfaces for city streets. "When checking with street highway department officials as to the merits of black top and triple sand surfacing, one man said, 'You have (Mayor) Harvey down there in Lathrup. If any man should know the values of road materials, he sure should.'"