

To Abandon Annual Twp. Meetings

Units of government, such as villages, cities, townships, and counties—just like individuals—as they "grow up", are vested with greater powers, more local authority in handling the problems that come to them.

For example, in Michigan a recent law allows townships with over 5,000 inhabitants to discontinue the practice of holding annual public meetings, for the transaction of various official procedures.

Instead, such townships would continue to operate through a supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and board of trustees. Regular monthly, or other set periods, public meetings are to be held where the public may appear with suggestions or criticisms, just as now takes place with all cities, most villages, boards of education, etc. Also, under the Michigan Home Rule Act, citizens may initiate propositions by petition and have them placed on the ballot at future elections.

IN BRIEF, THE transfer of annual public township meetings to procedures outlined above in no way abridges the rights and liberties of citizens to control their township government. Yet it does bring an end to certain impractical and minority-dominated procedures which, in townships over 5,000 people, can result in poor, expensive, even foolish propositions being foisted upon the majority by an organized even quite tiny, minority.

So, in the townships of Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield, its voters will be asked to approve the proposition to eliminate the annual township meetings at the Aug. 2 election next Tuesday.

LET US GIVE the 10 most important reasons for abolishing annual meetings in Southfield, Bloomfield and West Bloomfield

townships, as outlined to us by their supervisors, Hugh G. Allerton Jr., Southfield; Arno Hulet, Bloomfield; and John Rehard, West Bloomfield:

1. Vast majority of citizens do not attend.
2. Permits small minority group in attendance to dominate important affairs of the township.
3. Can spoil results of sound planning and good management.
4. Township officers have no voice at meeting.
5. Could not accommodate all citizens if they did want to attend meeting.
6. Majority of citizens, therefore, disfranchised.
7. Viva voce vote permits vote of those in attendance, who are not citizens of township.
8. Inaccurate and indecisive results with viva voce vote.
9. Viva voce vote considered unconstitutional.
10. Permits no absentee voting.

SOME OF THE REASONS why annual meetings were established are:

1. Originally established in 1846 to enable citizens to govern township affairs.
2. Served a useful purpose when the population was small.
3. With relatively few and simple matters to be considered, afforded everyone in the township an opportunity to have full knowledge of township affairs and to discuss them freely.

Therefore, we heartily suggest that all voters in the above three respective townships approve the change—for we believe that an alert, interested, and intelligent citizenry can get improved township governmental procedures by doing so.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Youngsters Bother Duckling Family, Pat Anderson, Too

To the Editor:

It seems the most attractive part of Birmingham, at least to ducklings, is in the Baldwin-West Maple area. A rippling little stream runs through Elaine Nagle's garden and we saw looking down from her porch where we were having our dinner, such a nice little family paddling and scrambling among the smooth pebbles.

Eight little ducklings with their mother. She was letting them play just a little while longer before calling them in to bed.

AFTER AWHILE it began to get dark and she looked around, counted them, yes, all eight were there, and told them to come now. Then she went sailing through the rippling water, the ducklings following closely behind. Around the bend the river they went and out of sight. And can you imagine, some children were throwing rocks at this nice little family one day last week? It seems they couldn't sit quietly and watch them.

I guess their mothers hadn't taught them to love the beauties of nature, the birds and animals and wild ducks, and be kind to them.

BIG BOYS COME, too, and harass them. It makes mother duck flustered and nervous when noisy kids come and make trouble. I don't think they mean to hurt them. They are just thoughtless and don't understand about duck lines.

PATRICIA ANDERSON

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
July 29, 1910
"The residence of J. M. Lawson was entered by burglars last Saturday evening during the absence of the family. Jewelry and other valuables to the amount of \$75 was taken."

"David J. Rainey, a former Birmingham resident and a pioneer prospector in the northern district of British Columbia, Canada, has discovered what could be the world's richest gold deposits at Bitter Creek, B. C."

"P. Marsh, a Detroit attorney, spoke at an open air meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union on July 21. Marsh said that there has never been a time when the temperance workers were so united as at the present."

30 YEARS AGO
July 31, 1930
"Final official compilations of the census reports announced last week gives Birmingham an official population of 92,7 and Bloomfield Hills a population of 1,132. The figures also reveal that Oakland county's population has reached 211,025 residents."

"William Thornton, a member of the Birmingham Fire Department since its organization 16 years ago, was officially confirmed Monday as captain of Co. No. 1, in active charge of the fire station."

"All heat records were broken Monday when the mercury soared to 100 at noon. Unusually, in some parts of the village the temperature was 104 degrees."

15 YEARS AGO
July 26, 1945
"General Motors announced it will build a \$20,000,000 technical center on Mount Road between 12 Mile road and Chicago avenue, not far from Birmingham. The center will be an entirely new concept in the field of industrial research."

No. 45182
STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland.
THE PETITION OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM FOR CONDEMNATION OF TRACT OF PROPERTY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC PARKING PLACE.
AMENDED ORDER FOR HEARING AND NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE.
At a session of said Court held in the Court House of the City of Pontiac, Oakland County, Michigan, this 14th day of August, A. D. 1960.
Present: Honorable William John Beer, Chief Justice of the Court.

The petition of Dean G. Belser, attorney for the City of Birmingham, having been filed herein, which Petition prays that a hearing be held on the date at which time all interested parties named in the petition may appear and show cause why a jury should not be summoned and immediately returned to Act 149 of Public Act of 1911 to hear and determine the question of the City of Birmingham that private property be taken for the public use hereinbefore defined. It is HEREBY ORDERED that the hearing named herein shall be held on this Court at 9 A. M. on the 15th day of August, 1960, in the Court House of the City of Pontiac, to show cause, if any they have, why the Petition of the City of Birmingham should not be granted.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Chicago Investment Company a corporation

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MANUFACTURER'S SPECIAL
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1/2 Mill Tax For New County Bldg.

When a county, such as Oakland, finds its population jumping from 396,000 in 1950 to over 700,000 now, just 10 years later, numerous problems related to government and its operational phases become evident.

Among current challenges is that of financing the county's newly started combination court house and housing space for its various administrative agencies. Such a building has been started on county-owned property in the western area of Pontiac, where for many years the county infirmary and contagious disease hospital are located, also the State Hospital.

All of which brings us up to the subject of this editorial: raising additional funds for the completion of the new structure.

WHEN YOU GO to the polls next Tuesday, Aug. 2, one of the propositions you may vote on is that of approving, or disapproving, a proposed half-mill tax levy, for a period of four years. If approved,

four million dollars will be made available to complete the project.

On the basis of each \$1,000 of property valuation, this half mill levy amounts to 50 cents; a house assessed at, say \$5,000, would pay \$2.50 annually, or a total of ten dollars over the four-year period. These figures are presented by David Levinson, one of Birmingham's own county supervisors, and chairman of the county's powerful Ways and Means Committee.

LEVINSON ASSERTS that economies expected from housing most of the county's administrative activities, including the circuit court, will result in a considerable annual long-term savings to county taxpayers. Another benefit from concentrating so many county activities in one place is the convenience to be afforded the thousands of people who must contact the courts and agencies thus housed.

We suggest that you decide to vote "Yes" next Tuesday.

Seek To Represent You In Lansing

Two local men, Henry M. Hogan Jr., 4253 W. Orchard Hill, and Stan Brown, 632 Ardmore, both Republicans, are vying for the 3rd Congressional District's votes to represent this area in the Michigan House of Representatives. Brown is 40, married, father of four children, is self-employed as a manufacturer's agent. Hogan, 27, is married, father of two children, and is attached to the legal staff of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, in their Birmingham office.

Brown, a World War II Air Force pilot, has several times sought state and federal legislative offices, and in 1953 was elected a Justice of the Peace in Southfield Twp. He favors a state constitutional convention and revision, freeing restricted state funds by placing them in the hands of the Legislature to meet changing conditions. He favors making the Legislature a full-time job, giving state officers four year terms.

BROWN APPROVES an increased sales tax, although, if necessary, he will vote for a flat state income tax as a last resort. He favors improved educational opportunities, better highways, safer aviation pro-

cedures. Hogan, now a member of the Board of Trustees of Bloomfield Twp., approves raising the State sales tax levy one cent. If this fails to be approved by the voters, then he would retain the present nuisance tax structure until more State economies are realized. He opposes a State income tax without the people's consent. He also states he will fight vigorously to bring Michigan's court procedures up to date, providing for a stricter control over State and county departments by the Legislature and county Board of Supervisors.

"I BELIEVE THAT greater economy in operating the State's affairs can be achieved," stated Hogan. "We should confine our spending to within our tax receipts. Michigan is third highest in U.S. mental health costs, yet in the low twenties in results—it seems that we ought to get more for our money in this segment of State activities."

Hogan argues for a re-appraisal of all taxes on Michigan business, particularly in unemployment compensation, to eliminate abuses, and consequently enable the State to attract new businesses.

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