

Wood Creek to Update Village Zoning Laws

By KAY SMITH
Special Writer

WOOD CREEK FARMS — Village council members set a date Tuesday with the firm of Villan and Leman Associates to discuss the first draft of an updated zoning ordinance the firm has had under study.

The council will meet with Villan and Leman representatives Thursday, Aug. 26 and before that date will meet with the planning commission to discuss proposed changes.

The revision of the ordinance was suggested by the planning commission as the result of a decision by the Oakland County Circuit Court that the present ordinance was "confiscatory."

At the meeting Council President Norman Krieger announced the final judgment handed down by Circuit Judge Frederick C. Ziem on July 26 had been received.

THE DECISION favored commercial zoning for two acres at the corner of Middlebelt and 12 Mile Road owned by Mrs. Belle Forsman and Mrs. One Udey. Until this decision the village was totally residential and had no commercial zoning.

Complaints continue on the lack of seeding of the property at Northwestern and Wellington Roads where a fill operation has been going on for the past year. Since the council has been unable to get in touch with the lawyer the bonding firm told them to contact they will write the bonding company stating that if the work is not satisfactorily completed by

August 31 the village will sue. Council member Mrs. Robert Swift was directed to get in touch with the owners of a property at Wellington Road at Old Colony where a van has been parked for some time creating a nuisance.

Road Commissioner Jack Richards reported that he has been in touch with the Oakland County Road Commission and was told the traffic signal at 18 Mile Road and Northwestern will be installed this year. He also reported on new stop signs for the village.

Village Clerk Mrs. Alice Billu told the council that the new election laws call for cancellation of registration after two years of not voting, instead of the previous four years.

The council discussed a report from the Detroit Regional Planning Commission which showed that the village would undergo a doubling of population by 1980. The survey noted that the 684 residents as per the 1960 census would be 900 in 1970 and by 1980 the projected figure was 1100.

Hearings

(Continued from 1-A)

make the St. Columban assessment share even higher.

Spokesmen for the church said they were sure an agreement could be worked out with the City. The total cost of the St. Elion project is \$150,000, with the City contributing about \$74,000 of the funds.

KILLEEN said the cost estimates and plans for the Cummings sewer have been completed but the Michigan State Health Department has not given its approval yet.

Several small modifications have been incorporated in the Cummings project, Killeen said. He said the original plans called for short sections of sewer on Emmons, Davis and Smith to run westerly to the Grant sewer.

He said the line between the Evergreen district and the Twelve Town district is the centerline of Grant St. from 14 Mile Road to Catalina and Oakland County Drain Office advised the City it could not approve carrying sewers from one district to the other.

KILLEEN SAID that since the short sewers were not vital to the Cummings project they were dropped. He said their elimination would reduce somewhat the \$90,000 estimated cost of the Cummings project.

He said the cost of the Ruffner sewer was estimated at \$5,100.

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BIRMINGHAM'S FIRST fire truck was this Republic chemical unit, bought in 1917. Note the crank below the radiator. The firemen are (starting with the driver and moving to left around the truck) Lon Bailey, Wil-

liam Olsen, Neal Black, Ernest Gardner, James Anderson, Clarence Riffenburg, Will Thornton, George Scott (father of today's chief), Glen Allen, Hans Olsen, Lester Purdy, Dave Bell and Frank Yeager.

Anniversary

(Continued from 1-A)

AS IT DOES today, the department had mutual aid agreements to help out in the surrounding towns and in neighboring cities.

In those days of wood and coal burning stoves and furnaces, roof the fire accounted for about 90 percent of the alarms.

Roof materials were usually cedar shingles, and tender dry. The chemicals used to fight the fires were quite effective provided that the fires were reached before the attic storage stuff was kindled. Little time was lost in getting to the fires.

The department, even then, was noted for its speed and competence. In fact, the fire department personnel from the big metropolis to the south often marveled at the efficiency which the little volunteer department showed with its limited equipment.

BUT IN 1932, the "Fields" fire threatened to get out of hand and destroy the entire town. (This was on the present location of LaBelle's Gift & Book Shop on W. Maple).

It was during this fire that Dave Bell, who was a rather small man, was lowered through a hole in the roof with hose in hand. When he had all the smoke he could stand he would yell to be pulled up.

The fire proved the need of a pumper; consequently in 1924 an American La-France pumper truck was purchased (Engine 99). This pumper was in service until 1960. But like old soldiers, old fire trucks never die. The pumper was sold to Merritt Olsen who occasionally drives it in a parade and enjoys driving neighborhood kids around in it.

But the pumper didn't solve all the problems. Water pressure in the mains was not strong. A house at the foot of Townsend was lost because the fire occurred on wash-day Monday!

THE EARLY volunteer fire department was actually a fraternity; a fraternity in which membership was eagerly sought. The membership fee cost \$5 a year, and 10 cents a month dues were levied. No one received pay for his services.

The strong fellowship which existed created a lasting dedication to a common cause, without thought of personal inconvenience or cost (whether the call came in the middle of a bitter cold night, or while returning from church in Sunday best when there was no time to change to old clothes). No one was paid for ruined clothes.

MERRITT OLSEN recalls that his firechief father always kept a sweater hanging by the kitchen door. In the sweater pocket: a set

Torch Drive Helps Local Residents

During the past year 27 Birmingham families and individuals, 48 from Bloomfield Hills and 13 residents of Bloomfield Township have called on Torch Drive family service agencies to help solve their family or personal problems.

A 52-year-old woman who had twice attempted suicide called one of the eight Torch Drive family service agencies in the Detroit area asking to see someone immediately.

A couple in their early twenties and parents of a year-old daughter, came to the office in near panic because they thought their marriage was falling apart.

Problems of aging, juvenile misbehavior and mental illness all throw a strain on the family ties. But the major problem which brings people to family service agencies remains that of fear of family breakdown.

Moxley said average revenue per meter hit \$1.68 this year compared to \$1.56 in 1962 and \$1.41 in July of 1961. The largest amount of revenue came from the lot behind Kregas' with an average of \$2.37 per meter a week.

A RECOMMENDATION by Moxley to convert 30 two-hour meters in the southwest corner of Lot 1 near Pierce and Brown to four-hour meters was rejected by commissioners.

The chief had felt the spaces could be better used by long-term parkers. Commissioners felt the shorter parking time should be retained for shoppers, patronizing stores in that area of the city.

He is a squadron commander in the CAP, which is an official auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

The cadet, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth B. Hearst of 21160 Inkster Road, Southfield, is a student at Southfield High School.

There are doubtless many interesting facets concerning Birmingham's fire department which remain unheralded, including a host of personal acts of unstinting devotion by volunteers and paid members alike.

In 1949 the department's first fatality occurred when Fire Inspector Lee Carroll was killed while checking the Jones Antique Shop on N. Woodward for a suspected gas leak. The Chesterfield Fire Station has been dedicated in his memory. (The Adams Fire Station is dedicated in memory of Chief William Olsen).

Chief George S. Scott summed it up succinctly: "We think we have the best fire department in the state, with the best personnel, and we intend to keep it that way!"

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