

**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
AND  
CITY OF FARMINGTON  
CITY COUNCILS – SPECIAL MEETING  
JOINTLY FUNDED AGENCIES BUDGETS  
May 4, 2004**

A meeting of the Farmington/Farmington Hills City Councils and the Jointly Funded Agencies was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2004 at the 47th District Court Building, 31605 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted pursuant to Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order by City of Farmington Mayor Arnold Campbell at 6:05p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Farmington

Council Members: Bush, Campbell, Knol, McShane and Mitchell  
City Representatives: Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell; City Manager Pastue

Farmington Hills

Council Members: Akouri(arrived 7:00p.m.), Barnett, Brickner(arrived 6:20p.m.),  
Bruce(arrived 6:20p.m.), Ellis, Massey and Oliverio  
City Representatives: City Manager Brock, Controller Piwowar, Assistant City Manager  
Whinnery, Finance Director Spaman

Farmington Hills Mayor Barnett and Farmington Mayor Campbell welcomed everyone present, announcing the presentation of the Mayor's Youth Council proposed budget.

**MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL:**

**Present: Todd Lipa and Youth Council Co-Chair, Peter Fenton**

Mr. Fenton commented on their recent submission of the Mayor's Youth Council 2004-2005 proposed budget.

Mayor Barnett pointed out the existence of a difference between their requested budget and that proposed by both cities; inquiring as to whether the Youth Council was comfortable with the budget amount proposed by the two City Managers. Mr. Fenton agreed with the proposed budget from the two City Managers.

Mayor Barnett surmised that a reduced travel budget would make up for the shortfall, with the remainder covered by private fundraising.

Mr. Fenton reported that the Council is diligently working on increasing their fundraising revenues through ideas and instituting plans, to avoid total financial support from the two cities. He also mentioned that fundraising efforts were being planned for the Founders Day Festival.

Mayor Barnett commended the Youth Council for their efforts towards the entire budget process, adding that she felt this was a valuable lesson for those on the Youth Council.

A question was raised regarding the upcoming Battle of the Bands scheduled at the Founders' Festival, for Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fenton provided a few related details.

Farmington Mayor Campbell commented on the reduced budget amount proposed by the cities, indicating that both cities would support the Youth Council in generating funds to cover the difference in their requested budget amount, through private funding, etc.

Councilmember Mitchell noted that the major portion of the Youth Council budget involved travel to various conferences, and asked about the criteria for selecting Youth Council representatives to attend these conferences throughout the year. Mr. Lipa explained that longevity on the Youth Council, and the number of meetings attended by prospective conference delegates was contributory in the selection process.

### **COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES:**

**Present: Chair Andy Nickelhoff, Commission Member Alice Toroyan**

Chair Nickelhoff mentioned the fact that their budget has remained stable for several years, however, membership and activities for the Commission have increased. He updated both Councils on current and upcoming activities for this year; including the goal of raising community awareness about the Commission; updating of their general brochure; enhancement of the CYF website; follow-up on the Family Night event through community surveys; progress on the diversity video in conjunction with the Multicultural/Multiracial Council; the 0-6 Project that focuses on the tremendous amount of learning capacity during this age range; and their support of the Mayor's Youth Council by addressing various media pressures experienced by adolescent teens. He also spoke on their new mapping project, explaining that this was intended to provide useful information for agencies delivering family services. Finally, he mentioned their membership in the Michigan's Children organization that advocates for children across the state.

Mayor Pro-Tem McShane commended the Commission on their work and level of community involvement.

Mayor Barnett pointed out the existence of a minimal difference between their requested budget and the budget proposed by both City Managers, with which Mr. Nickelhoff agreed. Mayor Barnett commended the Commission for their work, and commented that she recently learned that both councils have not been equally informed of CYF activities.

Mr. Nickelhoff noted that a more significant event for the volunteer recognition program ten-year anniversary was in its early planning stages.

Manager Brock explained that city staff used last year's budget figures in accommodating the various boards and commissions' budgets, due to the absence of some budgetary information; adding that the Commission on Aging requested less money than last year.

### **FARMINGTON AREA COMMISSION ON AGING:**

**Present: Lew Cantor, Commission Member; Mary Dimanno, Senior Adult Supervisor**

Mr. Cantor briefly explained the Commission on Aging; its mission, origination and membership; stating that they are seeking additional members. He also outlined a few primary projects, including Project Healthy Living that served approximately 160 persons last year. He also spoke on their awards ceremony, and the advent of the former Consumer Protection Committee as a sub-committee; about which he provided a few related details. He briefly outlined a recent, self-initiated cable production on identity theft, as well as other noteworthy Commission projects, which included the senior directory publication, other cable Channel 8 productions, Table Talk and the Advisory Council.

On behalf of the entire Commission, Mr. Cantor thanked both City Councils for their past and present support; commending the efforts of Commission members for their work within a limited budget, despite the growing senior population.

A suggestion was made about offering Commission on Aging programming on cable Channel 15 (the local cable channel for the City of Farmington), with which Mr. Cantor agreed.

Councilmember Mitchell inquired about a sponsor for the senior directory, which Mr. Cantor indicated has not been necessary, but added that it is an available option. He added that he would submit this suggestion to the membership. Discussion followed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ellis clarified the reason that the Commission's cable programming airs on Channel 8, and added that programs could be aired on Channel 15 as well.

Mayor Campbell asked for suggestions on prospective Commission on Aging members. Mayor Barnett acknowledged that the Councils would address any area of needed expertise.

Councilmember Bush commended the outstanding services provided by the Commission on Aging; and noted the recent appointment of a fourth Commissioner for the City of Farmington.

Councilmember Knol inquired about e-mail distribution of general information for homebound seniors, for which Ms. Dimanno, Senior Adult Supervisor, provided a few details.

Discussion was held regarding a telephone monitoring program for calling designated seniors to obtain the status of their well-being. Mr. Cantor advised of a new software tracking program recently instituted at the Senior Center. In response to Councilmember Bush's question on obtaining permission for placing a senior's name on a monitoring list, Ms. Dimanno commented that their name could be placed on such a list without obtaining their permission.

In response to a question from Councilmember McShane, DiManno advised that Maggie Loidas runs a "telephone reassurance" program for seniors.

Councilmember Massey mentioned the newly passed HIPA laws, which cover only an individual's medical condition. He inquired about the activation time-frame of the new database program for seniors on supplemental watch, to which Mr. Cantor responded that this software is currently accessible at this time. Discussion continued on the need for identifying citizens with special needs during an emergency situation.

#### **47TH DISTRICT COURT:**

**Present: Dave Walsh, Court Administrator; Stacy Parke, Deputy Court Administrator; and 47<sup>th</sup> District Court Judges Marla Parker and James Brady**

Court Administrator, Dave Walsh briefly outlined the Court's Annual Report distributed to both Councils.

Regarding the budget, Mr. Walsh commented that preparations were somewhat difficult because court staff has not yet occupied the new court building for a full year, and a full knowledge of the related costs to operate the new building was not yet known. However, building costs were lower than anticipated. He informed the Councils that their non-personnel operating budget was cut by 8.1%; and that 80% of the overall budget covered the payment of salaries. He also briefly spoke on items covered by the remaining 20% of their budget, which included benefits, substitute court reporters, judges, etc. as well as statutory fees, such as interpreter and attorney fees; pointing out that an 8.1% reduction to the overall budget was significant, noting also the law library's budget reduction of 40%.

Mr. Walsh also provided a few details on two upcoming retirements which, from a budgetary standpoint, meant payouts for accrued benefits, etc; stating that retirement contributions were up by 27%. He spoke on several other increases affecting the budget; including postage of 12.5% this year, and interpretive fees that have increased 2-1/2 times in the last two years; representing a 113% increase this year over that budgeted last year. He also detailed contractual services, which accounted for a 20% increase in the budget; and the new

budgetary line item of banking charges. He noted that the court's budget differs in many ways from city departmental budgets; citing the newly implemented telephone system that the court has purchased from the city, and the increase in utilities over those in the old court building.

He reported that the court's collection program for delinquent court debt has generated substantial revenue, to the extent that approximately \$208,000 in delinquent court debt has been collected, through show/cause efforts, since the program's initiation in April 2003. He provided a few details on this on-going program, as well as expected revenue levels. He also commented on the fact that traffic tickets in the community have been decreasing which meant potentially less revenue from a budget standpoint. He further pointed out that the court's changing caseload affects not only its budget, but the city's as well; stating that significant efforts have been made towards keeping the city's best interests in mind.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ellis commended court staff for their efforts on the proposed budget. Regarding the addition of bank charges to the court's budget, Mr. Ellis suggested subjecting these charges to the bid process, with the possibility of eliminating these altogether. Mr. Walsh briefly detailed these charges; explaining that court staff expects to add payment by phone as a means of paying off court debt; resulting in the payment of related fees by the payee/cardholder. Discussion followed.

Mr. Ellis noted several budget statistics that indicated additional revenues for the City of Farmington, and inquired about a breakdown relative to the types of cases for each community. Discussion followed regarding the types of caseload increases being seen.

Councilmember Brickner spoke on the fact that the city has begun participating in a buying consortium for electricity resulting in tremendous savings for the city. He suggested that the court become part of this entity with which Mr. Walsh agreed that court participation in such a program would be advantageous. He cited their insurance conversion to MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority) participation that resulted in cost streamlining.

Discussion was held on the statutory granting of the return of involved costs for drunk-driving cases; as a revenue producing effort. It was indicated that the 47th District Court hears approximately 500 drunk-driving cases per year.

Mr. Brickner pointed out that surrounding district courts charge an additional 3% for credit card use. Mr. Walsh preferred not to restrict credit card use, as he felt doing so would hamper debt collections.

In response to Mr. Brickner's inquiry regarding the amount of money returned to local communities from the state per ticket, Mr. Walsh detailed that the amount depends on whether the ticket was issued against the local ordinance or state statute, etc.

Councilmember Oliverio expressed her appreciation for the court's assistance for the state to rescind the \$300 fee for lack of insurance proof. She also inquired about the court-induced sobriety program, about which Judge Parker explained that studies reveal the combination of treatment and court enforcement has proven successful. Considerable discussion followed.

Further discussion was held on the community work program; its benefits and related costs.

Councilmember Akouri noted the fact that interpretive fees have nearly tripled in the last two years. Mr. Walsh reiterated the increase in such costs, noting that more and more requests for interpreters are received. Judge Parker pointed out that, as the court is required by law to provide interpretive services, in an effort to better utilize those services, the court has grouped its services together, expediting portions of a case on the same day.

Mayor Campbell noted the numerous inquiries of Council Members, suggesting that a second meeting be held in order to review concerns and share information. He thanked Court Administrator Walsh, Judge Parker and Judge Brady, as well court staff for their presentation.

**FARMINGTON AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE:**

**Present: Janet Meloche, Chairperson; Pamela Stoddard, Youth Caseworker; Ed Cleland, Budget Chairperson; Ambrish Sundaram**

Ms. Meloche opened with the fact that their entire requested budget was reduced. However, a few budget increases were noted in the areas of salary for the Office Manager, board meeting expenses due to additional volunteers and committee work, caseworker expenses and fees, production of the Annual Report due to diminished resources, volunteer recognition awards and family education. She spoke on the new area of Youth Enrichment; which includes and consolidates their former summer camp program, as well as tutoring and skill-building, for which they have instituted budgetary reductions. She also outlined other budgetary decreases in the areas of office supplies, equipment/maintenance, postage and staff/volunteer insurance. She mentioned their expectation for the receipt of approximately \$14,000 in donations; providing their total requested budget amount of \$73,050; down from their overall budget estimate.

Mayor Pro-Tem McShane inquired about duplication of services, and whether some programs could be implemented in cooperation with the Farmington YMCA. Ed Cleland, Budget Chairperson, stated that several areas were over-lapping; explaining that they have instituted a new pilot program, with the addition of caseworkers at summer camps for elementary aged school children. Also, as a cost-saving measure, was the sharing of buses expected to begin this year. In addition, he reported that they are trying to make the best use of their resources through the compilation of year-end data for the purpose of information sharing.

Mayor Barnett indicated the importance of preventing a duplication of services with the Youth Assistance program in order to contain costs. Pamela Stoddard, FYA Caseworker, pointed out that they have traditionally focused on disadvantaged youth and families, through counseling, programs or camps. She also reiterated a few comments made by Mr. Cleland, adding that following this pilot year, they intend to compile and share data with other entities.

Councilmember Mitchell commended the efforts of the Farmington Youth Assistance for their leadership in fostering a relationship on a corporate level, adding that the Akebono Corporation funded the entire upcoming Youth recognition event; which included awarding each of six students with a \$2,000 scholarship.

Ms. Stoddard reported that the Speakers Bureau, headed by Mr. Cleland, presents to corporations on behalf of the FYA in order to maintain community ties. She explained that their community partnership with the county, the cities and the school district provides support from an operational standpoint, and corporate sponsorship was important in helping to fund program development and other areas.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ellis thanked the Farmington Youth Assistance for their work in the community, and urged the FYA to continue its search for corporate opportunities due to local budgetary shortfalls. Ms. Meloche stated that they appreciate the support of both cities over the years.

Mr. Cleland provided a few relative statistics on the number of open cases, the cost per case and related probate costs. He spoke on their success rate of 94%; pointing out that other juvenile programs were not as successful; stating also that the FYA's was one of the most cost efficient correctional programs in the area.

Mayor Barnett spoke on the high success rate of juvenile "diversion programs", the human cost of participating in such programs, etc.; expressing a great concern over, and preference for, a comparison between the teenage suicide and juvenile rate.

Ms. Stoddard commended both cities for their cooperative efforts in helping youth.

Mayor Campbell thanked the Farmington Youth Assistance staff for their report.

A five-minute break was taken at this time.

**FARMINGTON AREA COUNSELING CENTERS:**

**Present: Michael Earl, President/CEO; Jamie Clayton, Activities Director; Kathryn Bell, Supervisor of Prevention Services**

Mayor Campbell opened with the fact that both cities are experiencing tremendous budget pressures at this time; reporting that the City of Farmington was rescinding \$14,000 from the Center's budget.

Farmington Area Counseling Center President/CEO, Michael Earl, provided a few related statistics; reporting that the clinical program served 1,384 people who either work or live in Farmington or Farmington Hills. He commented also that more people without insurance are being served, and that almost 600 people were provided some type of free service last year.

Ms. Clayton high-lighted a few aspects of their downstream adolescent program; noting that one in four adolescents that begin using/abusing at 15 years of age or younger, become dependent. She reported on a few adolescent service enhancements designed to help children and their families at all levels; complimented by the receipt of federal grant money.

Mr. Earl reported that the Farmington Counseling Centers were pleased to be one of 22 nationwide grant awardees. He reported that prevention service expenses totaled approximately \$224,000 for the two communities. He also described several upstream programs; including Girl Power and Guy Time that targets eighth grade girls and boys, the Ready Lets Grow program for 18 months to 3 year-old children with developmental delay, and the Champs program for first through fifth graders.

Prevention Service Supervisor, Kathy Bell described the Ready Let's Grow program; commenting that it provides parental education. She commented on the success of Girl Power and Guy Time with four locations in Farmington and its empowerment philosophy.

Mr. Earl affirmed that Farmington and Farmington Hills' staff positions, indicated in the report, were paid positions, not volunteer positions. Discussion followed on the funding of Girl Power and Guy Time programs from other participating communities.

A question was raised on the contributions of other communities, to which Mr. Earl responded that a total of three communities currently contribute to their agency. He also commented on the uniqueness of Farmington Hills in contributing towards agencies that support families.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ellis provided a few budgetary statistics; pointing out that most of the total \$9 million FACC budget was funded by federal, state, county, public health and private contributions, as only three communities contributed last year.

Councilmember Oliverio commended the Farmington Area Counseling Centers for implementing programs that involve the entire family of a substance abusing youth. Mr. Earl noted the importance of investing in prevention, and the fact that few communities valued their families to the extent that this community does.

Discussion followed on the lack of contributions from other communities to human service organizations.

**FARMINGTON AREA ARTS COMMISSION:**

**Present: Lowell Boileau, Chairperson; Arts Coordinator, Nancy Coumoundouros**

Mr. Boileau recognized the presence of a few new members at tonight's meeting, as well as the appointment of five new members to the Commission. He also commended the efforts of former Chair, Fern Barber. He stated that they slightly changed their format, in that Commissioners have been made chaperones of the various arts projects administered by the Commission. He reiterated the Commission's role in coordinating activities with the Cultural Arts Supervisor, Nancy Coumoundouros.

Manager Brock noted the previous decision of both City Councils to shift designated money for the various arts projects to the Cultural Arts budget; with the Arts Commission's budget being reflective of items similar to other jointly funded agencies, such as operations, administration, etc.

Mr. Lowell acknowledged that this was previously determined by the Councils; adding that he received no communication for implementing such a funding shift. Therefore, the Commission decided to construct the budget as they have in previous years. He commented that he felt the arts programs were of value, being definitive of this community.

Manager Brock asked if the Commission was comfortable with incorporating the various line item art projects into the Cultural Arts budget; ensuring the Arts Commission's involvement regarding decisions on projects or programs. Mr. Boileau outlined a few desired projects, such as Art on the Grand, the Artist in Residence program and the Student Art Awards program; inquiring as to whether these programs were proposed for budgetary cuts.

Mr. Brock explained that his intent was not to cut the Commission's budget, but rather, as an accounting measure, to shift their funding possibly to the Parks and Recreation budget, for example; reiterating that these programs could still be administered. Mr. Boileau commented that he was agreeable with the funding shift suggested by Mr. Brock, but wanted assurances that programs would not be eliminated.

Discussion followed. It was clarified that certain programs are administered even though they have no budget line item designation. Cultural Arts Coordinator Coumoundouros agreed with the above proposed funding shift of the Arts Commission projects.

Mayor Campbell thanked the commissioners for their report, and commented on the success of the Artist in Residence program. Mr. Boileau thanked both City Councils for their continued support of the arts.

**FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY:**

**Present: James McClaughlin, Board President; Bev Papai, Director; Board Members: Mygene Carr, Clark Doughty, Patricia Haapaniemi, Ernest Sauter, Stanley Solvick, Jody Soronen, Dorothy Stoutjesdyk,**

Boardmember Doughty commented that previous conversations between the Library Board and both City Managers resulted in the suggestion of a 5% reduction to the library budget, and these reductions were being submitted tonight. He outlined the areas of proposed budget cuts to the already reduced 2003-04 appropriations, which included the book budget; equipment and general fund expenses and deferred capital, resulting in an additional 13% reduction. He added that Sunday services would be restored at the Farmington branch with this proposal; however the Main Library would be reduced by two full-time positions. Mr. Doughty reported that despite further reductions to the above areas over their proposed reductions, the Library would fall short of the additional 5% requested reduction, and added that the only way to meet such

reductions was to institute substantial cuts to services and hours; speaking also on the possibility of closing one or the other facilities on certain days, and the impact on staff, etc. He detailed the impact of operational reductions with the proposed budget.

Director Papai noted that proposed reductions meant staffing levels similar to those of the 1997-98 budget years with 53 positions for a library now double its previous size. She also noted already implemented cost efficiencies and maximizing of staff usage; remarking that further cuts were not possible without reducing services.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ellis indicated that Farmington Hills might uphold its request for further reductions by an additional 5%, due to impending budget shortfalls.

Councilmember Brickner suggested charging a nominal fee for the lending videos and DVDs to the community. Director Papai agreed with this suggestion, pointing out that this was offered to the public as an exchange for the passage of the 1998 millage; and added that she felt this could possibly be revoked. Mr. Brickner spoke in support of charging such a fee in order to generate revenue and maintain services. Ms. Papai pointed out that the library, on its own, generates an additional \$471,000 in revenue.

Councilmember Massey suggested charging for internet access. Director Papai disputed this suggestion to charge internally, for what she termed as information retrieval. Discussion followed. Councilmember Brickner noted the proposed budget amount for computer replacement. Director Papai argued that the equipment was five years old.

Councilmember Mitchell commented on the importance for the City of Farmington to keep their branch open seven days a week. He expressed concern in cutting the book budget by the proposed amount; suggesting a community effort, in the form of donations to increase the library's book collection, and provided a few details to accomplish this.

Discussion followed on library costs, the majority of which were fixed. Mr. Doughty commented that the fixed nature of the library's costs did not allow for many variables; noting the adjustable nature of the book budget and the areas of service, hours and personnel. However, they are reviewing outside sources for supplementing the book budget. Mr. Doughty offered a few positive aspects of the newly implemented RFID program (Radio Frequency Identification) of computerized book check-in and check-out, and the conveyor belt system; both of which reduced costs. He informed the Councils that the library budget has already been reduced by as much as was feasible; however, the Board would again review other areas for possible further budget cuts, acknowledging that the library expected to take budget hits the same as other city departments.

Mayor Pro-Tem McShane commented on the importance of libraries in general. She also mentioned the possibility for a fundraising campaign spear-headed by Friends of the Library to help offset impending budget cuts. She spoke negatively on severely cutting the Library's budget without first exploring the possibility of holding an election to institute an operating millage.

Mayor Barnett stated that she felt certain library services should not be subject to fees, citing a library's main philosophy in providing free services and a place for children to purposefully gather. She also indicated that a millage would probably fail this year. She commented that she intended to vigorously support the library, speaking also on the unfairness of maintaining high book budget and service levels in the current economic climate; and the possibility of shutting one of the branches.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ellis spoke on the city's participation in a buyers' consortium for purchasing electricity at a savings; suggesting that the Library join this consortium, about which Assistant City Manager Whinnery could provide more details.



Mayor Barnett expressed an interest in discussing the inequitable split between the two Cities' library contributions. Mayor Campbell explained that the formula for calculating the split dollar amount was developed by both city managers, being agreeable to a review of the formula. He explained that the formula was based on usage and was agreed upon by both City Councils. Mayor Barnett explained aspects of the agreed-upon split; which included a 50% allocation of SEV (State Equalized Value) as the basis, along with several other components. She expressed a need to revert back to the more fairly, population-based calculation; and provided the reduced contribution by \$92,839 for Farmington Hills with the use of this formula, being responsible for 88.74%; with a corresponding increase to Farmington's contribution, being responsible for 11.26%. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Knol requested that the Councils receive related figures regarding usage of the various jointly funded programs for comparative purposes. Discussion continued.

Mayor Pro-Tem McShane commented that the City of Farmington would be agreeable to an equitable contribution to the joint budget. She also pointed out that surrounding communities use the Activities Center, and questioned whether this was a funding source; noting that some Activity Center services should now be subject to fees. Ms. McShane mentioned the long historical relationship between both cities in developing joint programs, being hopeful for a solution that was equitable for both.

It was the consensus of both Councils that both City Managers review the above concerns regarding the formula for calculating joint budgetary contributions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ellis provided a few budgetary details on the SWOCC (Southwest Oakland County Cable) budget, stating that he felt a review was in order indicating that Farmington Hills maintains reserve funds for the Cable Commission.

Mayor Pro-Tem McShane suggested a second joint meeting for discussion of upcoming joint festivals. Mayor Barnett also expressed the need for formal joint meetings on a more frequent basis. Discussion continued.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

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ARNOLD T. CAMPBELL, Mayor

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PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer