

JOINT MEETING OF
FARMINGTON HILLS/FARMINGTON CITY COUNCILS
AND
FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 15, 2004

A joint meeting of the Farmington/Farmington Hills City Councils with the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees was held on Monday, March 15, 2004, at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

FARMINGTON COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bush, Campbell, Knol (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), McShane, Mitchell (left at 6:47 p.m.)

FARMINGTON CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Pastue

FARMINGTON HILLS COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barnett, Brickner, Bruce, Ellis, Massey, Oliverio

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

City Clerk Dornan, City Manager Brock, Assistant City Manager Whinnery,
City Attorney Joppich

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Carr, Doughty, Haapaniemi, McLaughlin (arrived at 6:52 p.m.), Sauter, Stoutjesdyk,
Soronen,

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVES:

Director Papai, Assistant Director Furi, Library Branch Head Smith,
Senior Library Branch Head Theeke.

Library Director, Bev Papai, thanked the members of the two Councils for agreeing to meet and for the participation of the Library Board. She indicated that she had asked City Manager Brock to share information with her relative to potential revenue cuts to the library, which he had. She referenced a letter from former City Manager Costick of 1990 regarding allocated revenue from the City and indicated that she was hoping to address budget concerns for the next year with the Councils this evening. She added that the Library budget contains both millage and city-appropriated dollars.

She expressed her appreciation of the City Managers and City Councils, who have always worked well with the Library Board, etc. She commented that the goal of the Library is to bring good library services to the residents of both communities and that her concern is with the Library and its budget. Ms. Papai acknowledged that she had received notification in December about revenue sharing cuts coming and that this may have a possible affect on the Library budget. She added that this budget is mostly staff related, and that they have no fund balance.

Ms. Papai noted that the recent article in the press had some errors which she wanted to clarify. She commented that the Library has had previous cuts due to the formula to fund the Library from the Cities – all due to the Headlee rollback. She added that because of this, a mid-year adjustment was made.

Ms. Papai stated that she feels Farmington has felt the budget cuts more than Farmington Hills due to the Sunday closing of the Farmington Branch. She added that cutting services to the public is not the first choice to do. She noted that consideration was given to closing other days of the week, however, this was going to result in a lay-off of staff. She advised that Sunday staff is paid at a rate of time and a half. She added that there have been many other “invisible cuts” made by the Library as well. She advised that through attrition, staff has been lost and not replaced. Existing staff has had to work harder and more hours. They have cut travel budgets, supplies, book purchases, and have increased fines from 20 cents a day to 25 cents a day. She felt that this would increase revenues slightly.

Council member Knol questioned the number of full-time staff. Ms. Papai indicated she was unsure of the exact amount, but it was approximately:

- 31-32 full time staff
- M-S regular workweek (2 evenings every 2-3 Saturdays)
- 5 – 8 hour days

Councilmember Knol asked about shifting hours, flex hours, opening and closing later, etc. in order to accommodate Sunday hours at the Farmington Branch. Ms. Papai responded that she would study this issue and consider making changes in staff schedules to accommodate this.

Council member Ellis asked whether full time staff was working overtime. Ms. Papai responded yes, that Sunday staff is paid at a rate of time and a half.

Councilmember Ellis suggested reducing staff hours during the week, keeping a 40 hour work week, but working Sundays. He stated that given the current economy, creativity in stretching the dollar is necessary.

Ms. Papai stated she would look at scheduling issues as suggested by the City Councils.

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Councilmember Knol noted that there are Farmington seniors who walk to the library as well as many others and that the downtown Farmington branch was definitely utilized on Sundays. She added that she feels this service is needed.

Councilmember McShane stated that Farmington residents have asked why only the Farmington branch hours were not cut. She indicated that she would also like to see Sunday hours back.

Ms. Papai responded that the hours at the Hills branch were also cut, but only during the week, and that it has remained open on Sundays to accommodate everyone. She added that it was felt that the Farmington Branch Sunday hours could be back as of July 1, 2004 from 1-5 pm.

Mayor Barnett discussed family use of the Library on weekends; noted concerns with staffing issues; and noted that the Library does not have a fund balance. She commented that she feels closing the Library on Sunday has a negative effect on the Community. She recommended closing the Farmington Hills Branch on Wednesday mornings and opening the Farmington Branch on Sunday. She indicated her presumption that the .8144 mills allocated to the Library would remain in tact as rolled back by Headlee. She discussed the effect of the Headlee rollback, noting how the Headlee constitutional provision works. Mayor Barnett advised of the rollback in Farmington Hill's maximum authorized tax rate.

Ms. Papai asked if Library mills allocated from the cities would remain the same, adjusted by the Headlee rollback, for the FY 2004-05 budget.

Mayor Campbell noted that .7971 mills was allocated to the Library this year from Farmington and stated his preference for a separate millage for the Library with the cities to remove an equivalent number of mills from their general operating levy.

City Manager Pastue stated that the Library could still see some increase in their revenue stream, but the City expects very little increased revenues and that the Library is competing with other City Departments for this income.

City Manager Brock cited long term difficulties for the Library and his concern with accountability issues and commented that, in his opinion, a separate millage for the Library makes a lot of sense, noting the significant lead time to place a millage question on the ballot.

Trustee Soronen asked about the level of support for the FY 2004-05 budget. Mr. Brock responded that he expects at least a 5% cut this year and a 5% cut again next year.

Ms. Soronen asked if the Library should look at scaling back beyond the 5% cut already proposed. Mr. Brock responded that he does not yet know the exact amount of state budget cuts as revenues have not been determined.

Discussion followed regarding revenue sharing.

Ms. Soronen asked if the Library is kept at a 5% cut now, would it be looking at mid-year cuts. Mr. Brock responded that he hoped the total cut would be 5%, but again was uncertain.

Discussion followed regarding the desirability of a separate millage for the Library.

Mayor Campbell stated the need to establish "the next step" in long range planning for the Library, stating that he is still not sure if a 5% cut is all that is needed.

Ms. Papai stated that stable funding is the long term goal of the Library. She provided statistics on the question of millage voting and expressed her opinion that it would be difficult to pass a millage in the community at this time. She expressed surprise that the recent public safety millage in Farmington Hills passed, given the current state of the economy, but still felt that a library millage would be very difficult to pass.

Farmington Hills Attorney Joppich stated that he thought it would be legally possible to amend the Charter to incorporate a separate library millage, but that he would need to further investigate this issue.

Councilmember Ellis voiced a concern with providing a dedicated millage to a non-elected body. Discussion was held regarding a special millage versus an increase in charter millage allocated to the Library.

Mr. Ellis stated his preference for a dedicated millage.

Mayor Campbell expressed his opinion that over the long term the Library can expect more cuts.

Ms. Papai indicated that the capital expenditures included in the Library's 2004-05 budget would not be made until the 3rd quarter in order to protect the budget and ensure money is available.

Ms. Papai discussed the structure of a district library noting that it is the most popular form; that it can have either an elected or appointed Board; and that the Farmington Library is a hybrid in that it has both voted and appropriated funding.

Mayor Barnett expressed her view that there is a need for more meetings regarding library and library/budget issues.

Ms. Papai stated the Library Board will review its budget and look at options for further cuts.

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Trustee Sauter stated that 15 years ago there was discussion regarding an appointed versus an elected Library Board. He stated the Board chose to remain as an appointed body.

Mayor Campbell stated that the Farmington Council is open to additional meetings as well.

The Mayors thanked everyone for their input and comments for this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

CITY OF FARMINGTON

Arnold T. Campbell, Mayor

Patsy K. Cantrell, City Clerk/Treasurer

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Vicki Barnett, Mayor

Kathryn A. Dornan, City Clerk