

# A compromise: raise wages by 50%

Five people on the Town of Midland payroll should get a 50 per cent raise, a committee says.

The five are the members of the committee of adjustment.

If the decision was Councillor Fred Pilon's, the pay for members of that committee would double.

"I don't feel that's too much for the amount of time they spend here," at the municipal building, Pilon said.

Each committee of adjustment member receives \$5 for each severance or minor variance application handled by the committee.

The pay for handling an application should rise to \$7.50, the town's planning advisory committee says.

The committee of adjustment met 12 times and ruled on 70 applications in 1988. A member, who attended every meeting, received \$350.

The committee of adjustment members are volunteers who apply to

and are appointed by the town council.

The committee of adjustment is a special case among boards and committees in that it has

power.

Other boards and committees make recommendations to the town council.

The committee of ad-

justment says yes or no to building applications below the subdivision level and decisions have the potential to affect the look of the municipality.

Unhappy applicants have taken the town to court over committee of adjustment decisions.

The appointed, lay members of the town's

other boards and committees are not paid a fee for attending meetings. Payment of committee of adjustment members is recognition of the

responsibility.

"It's something they spend a lot of time at and it's not something that everyone wants to do," Pilon said.

## Full time planner in the works

Midland might have a full-time planner again by June.

The town's planner, John Faulkner, has been instructed to include money for a full-time planner in the 1989 planning department budget.

Faulkner was hired in December 1987 on the basis of a three-day work week.

Until the previous holder of the position resigned, to work in the private sector, the planner position was a full-time job.

The position remained vacant between May 1987 and January 1988 while the building boom which began in 1986 continued. The position was offered to several applicants, each of whom said "no."

Salary for the last full-time planner was close to \$35,000.

The 1988 contract between Faulkner and the municipality called for payment of \$24,000 to Faulkner for 1988. That contract expires next June.

The return to a full-time planner will have to survive the trimming of budgets which will be part of the creation of the 1989 municipal budget.

The municipal budget usually is finished in May.

In his 1988 survey, Faulkner reported the planning department's work load increased at least 51 per cent in 1988.

Building permits totalling nearly \$20 million in value were issued in 1988 - a record for the third successive year.

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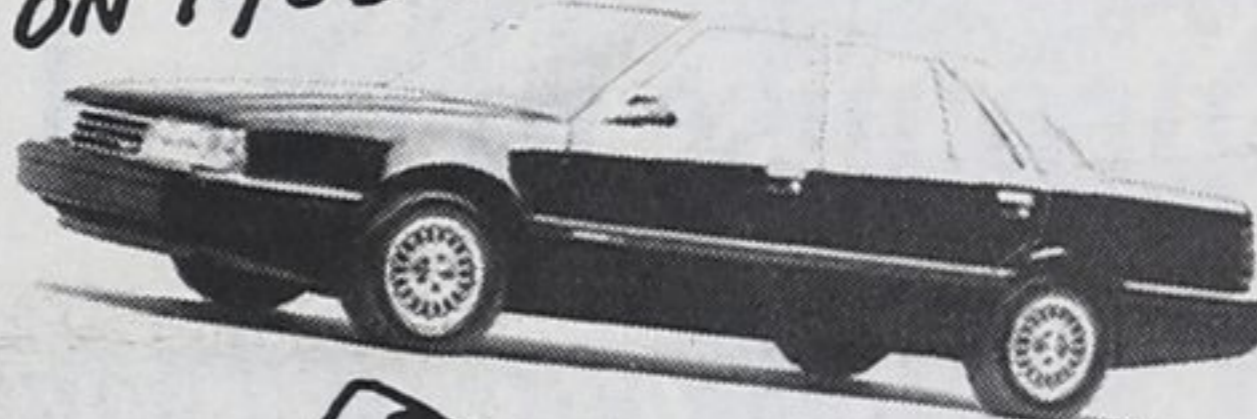
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