

at Lake Chauncy in Westborough yesterday afternoon.

Proposed teacher bonuses

i said. Cellucci said he prefers his own graduating seniors at area high schools state colleges if they agree to teach in the after receiving their teacher's certificates.

ed to encourage people in high school to ing profession," he said.

e his comments after Birmingham an- a of establishing a new foundation to fun-

Birmingham said the foundation could signing bonuses of up to \$20,000. The be the highest among the handful of ntly offer them.

es are usually thought of as a way to lure usiness executives. More and more, how-

ever, given the strong economy, signing bonuses are being used to attract high-tech workers and other employees in short supply.

Birmingham's suggestion comes on the heels of the announcement three weeks ago that 59 percent of would-be teachers in Massachusetts flunked a competency test. Birmingham said his proposal would help Massachusetts schools get the smartest teachers.

"I think (the bonuses) would do more for the long-term health of the commonwealth than would a rather lopsided tax cut," Birmingham said Monday, a reference to Cellucci's suggestion of returning the surplus to taxpayers.

CELLUCCI, PAGE 6A

For some, Dow implant settlement not enough

Breast surgery pain lingers, despite cash

By Kurt Blumenau

NEWS BUSINESS WRITER

A local attorney for women suing Dow Corning Corp. over faulty breast implants believes victims will accept a tentative \$3.2 billion settlement released yesterday, though many consider it inadequate.

Ted Bassett of Southborough said the deal approved by a federal bankruptcy judge exceeds past Dow offers, as well as settlements from other implant manufacturers. Bassett represents about 40 of the 170,000 women who sued the chemical giant.

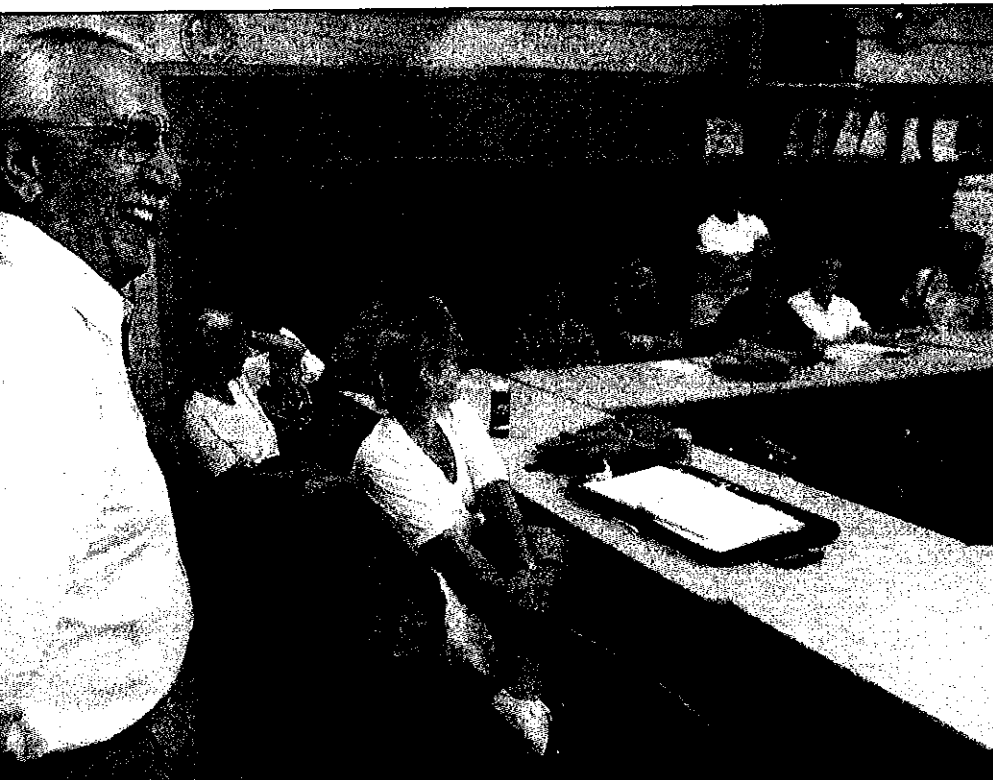
Individual payments would be based on each woman's injuries, with a possible peak of \$250,000, according to Leslie Bryan, another attorney for the plaintiffs.

But Bassett said his clients still believe the money won't make up for the chronic ailments they blame on Dow's silicone implants.

"I have one woman who just had her implants removed three weeks ago," said Bassett, an attorney with the Worcester firm of Mirick O'Connell. "She said, 'This is not satisfactory for me.'"

The offer approved yesterday by a Detroit-area judge is \$200 million more than the company previously offered, but \$600 million less than what the women sought. Lawsuits by thousands of women drove Michi-

DOW, PAGE 7A



NEWS PHOTO BY MARK E. JOHNSON

Mayor William Mauro, left, last night assured residents of French Hill that the city would replace ground equipment that was destroyed by a fire. Police say the fire was set Monday by two boys.

BUSINESS/5B

is moves toward sending a bill ident Clinton restructuring the l granting new taxpayer rights.

CONCERT REVIEW/6C

Great Woods is transformed into Spice World as the British pop group Spice Girls invade New England.

WEATHER/2A

Tonight, partly cloudy, 30% chance of showers, 60s. Friday, partly sunny, 80 to 85. Sunrise at 5:16; sunset at 8:23.

DOW, FROM 1A

gan-based Dow into Chapter 11 bankruptcy three years ago.

The women suing Dow claim its silicone breast implants caused a wide range of diseases, including chronic fatigue syndrome, memory loss and stiffness.

Studies of thousands of women have not proven a link between implants and illness. The subject remains under debate.

The federal Food and Drug Administration banned the cosmetic use of silicone implants in the early '90s, but allows their use for breast reconstruction after cancer surgery. Implants filled with saline solution remain available.

The average individual payment under yesterday's deal remains unclear. Bassett said payments will be based on each woman's injuries and disabilities.

"It will take a lot of administrative time to figure out who qualifies for what," he said.

A statement by Mirick O'Connell said women may receive an average of \$31,000 for disease claims, with payments ranging from \$12,000 to \$60,000. Payments for ruptured implants would average \$25,000, and women could receive another \$5,000 to have their implants removed.

Payments will probably not begin until the middle of next year at the earliest, Bassett said.

The deal must be finalized by attorneys and approved by plaintiffs and Dow's creditors. No date has been set for those votes.

Bassett said the settlement still allows individual women to pursue suits. However, the deal would limit the amount of money they would receive if successful.

Bassett declined to set up interviews with local clients yesterday. He said some could not be reached, while others told him they were too ill to talk with the media.

One of his clients, a 42-year-old Worcester woman, told the Middlesex News last August that Dow silicone implants caused her chronic fatigue and other ailments. The woman, identified only as Silvia, could not work and lived off a monthly Social Security disability check.

"If I knew then what I know today, I never, never would have done it," she said. "I wish I could start over. I wish I could be flat-chested again."

Bassett, who has worked on the case for five years, called the settle-

ment a step forward in a long process.

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report.

proved by voters in 1996 that allowed patients to use marijuana for side effects of cancer therapy, AIDS and other illnesses with a doctor's recommendation.

sess it for sale. The federal government gotten involved, claim session and marijuana legal under federal law.

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