

Oakland Still Ponders Suit On Tax Rebate

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners is still trying to decide if it should sue the State Highway Dept. for alleged inequities in the state gas and weight tax rebate formula.

The Commissioners' Public Works Committee has recommended the lawsuit to prevent

a "give away" of Oakland County gas tax and license fee funds. The matter has been referred to an ad hoc roads committee for further study.

Gas and weight taxes are distributed according to a formula devised by the State Legislature.

Harry Horton (D-Royal Oak) chairman of the Oakland committee, claims that \$4 million a year collected in Oakland County is going to out-state counties.

HORTON SAYS pending legislation to revise the formula is buried in State Legislature committees.

Some out-state counties, he says, are receiving as much as \$2.78 for each \$1 in gas and weight taxes collected, while Oakland County gets only a 40 cent return on each dollar.

According to highway studies, Oakland County road needs are more demanding than any other county and gas and weight taxes under the present formula take care of only a fraction of the needs.

Low Coy (R-Wixom) said at the Thursday meeting of the board: "We sit on our hands like blind mice while people are being killed on our roads."



WALTER O. BOYLE of 16851 Park Dr., Livonia, has been named vice president of finance for Allied Supermarkets, Inc. Boyle, 49, formerly corporate controller, has been with the firm since 1967. He has a BA degree from University of Louisville.

Schwartz Is Treasurer

Lloyd Schwartz of 27510 Doreen, Farmington, has been elected treasurer of the Western Wayne Chapter, National Association of Accountants.

Schwartz is a partner with the Detroit office of Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery, certified public accountants, and has been active in the Detroit chapter of NAA for many years. The recently organized Western Wayne Chapter of NAA is composed of 135 members with a purpose of advancing management accounting.

Airport Expansion Revs Up, But Cost Keeps It Grounded

By JACKIE KLEIN

Wheels were set in motion for expansion of the Oakland-Orion Airport at the Aug. 6 meeting of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. But the project is still a long way from getting off the runway.

Cost to the county for the \$4.46 million, eight-year program is estimated at \$2,030,250, with matching state and federal funds.

Commissioners referred the \$25,000 engineering report outlining the program to the Aviation and Transportation Committee for further study and recommendation and a report back to the Board within 30 days.

"There are too many unanswered questions that must be solved before we expend funds," is the consensus.

THE QUESTIONS have been kicking around since 1962 and the airport has been called the biggest spending proposal ever to come before the board.

The issue has become a political football, with commissioners accusing the committee of covering up and hiding the facts from taxpayers and demanding a report before the coming election so voters will know their representative's position.

The engineering report recommends that a general aviation airport be planned and developed on the now hilly terrain at 175 and Lapeere Rd. in three major phases.

It is recommended that the first phase, construction of a 3,500-by-100-foot, paved east-west runway, be started immediately at a cost of \$225,000 to the county.

BEFORE THE report was released Thursday, speculation of costs of the proposed facility ranged from \$6 million to \$100 million for a small county airport or a sophisticated jetport.

General aviation is the por-

tion of civil aviation related to recreational, instructional, commercial and business flying, other than certified aircraft and large commercial aircraft operations.

Statistics show there are more registered aircraft owners and aircraft in Oakland County than in any other county in the state. The report points out that the present Oakland-Pontiac Airport, which is operating beyond capacity, will not be able to handle general aviation needs in the county and an Oakland-Orion airport would relieve pressures.

Another factor favoring expansion, according to the report, is that airport develop-

ment is a catalyst for business and industrial growth.

Completion of the third phase would change the classification of the airport from basic utility to general-aviation, at an estimated cost of \$870,250 to the county.

Orion Township leaders and Vilcan-Leman, planning consultants, have indicated they would not oppose the proposed airport if only the present land is used.

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Gregory Popp of 32616 Cadillac, Farmington, was among more than 1,500 entrants in the National Model Airplane Championships who registered at the Naval Air Station, Glenview, Ill.

The meet, often called the "world series of model aviation," ran from July 27 through Aug. 2.

Contestants in the meet, the 39th national championships, range from six to 60 years of age, and come from all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and abroad.

The meet is conducted by the Academy of Model Aeronautics of Washington, D. C., model aviation's governing body.

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