

the good stuff store

Board approves raises

Most controversial issues before the Oakland County Board of Commissioners are discussed in party caucus ahead of time, and the four debate is methodical and carefully rehearsed.

But there were confusion, party splits and general turmoil when the board Dec. 16 voted raises for itself and the six elected county administrators, referring to committee proposals to hike the salaries of judges and non-uniform employees.

Flanking over the county's head are negotiations with members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The general feeling is that any general raise given non-uniform personnel may wind up being more-or-less than the union gets.

OUTGOING BOARD Vice-Chairman Bernard Lennon (D-Farmington) opened the Pandora's box of confusion when he proposed a series of budget amendments whose effect, if passed, would have been to raise nearly everyone five per cent.

Here is how the board disposed of them: Approved 15-12 raising commissioners' pay a flat \$50. For next year's chairman, Wallace Gahler (R-Royal Oak), it will mean a hike from \$11,500 to \$12,250 or 6.5 per cent. For 1977 vice chairman Lillian Moffatt (R-Bloomfield Hills), it will be an increase from \$11,000 to \$11,750 or 6.8 per cent.

The other 12 commissioners will go from \$11,500 to \$12,250, an increase of 7.1 per cent.

*Sent to committee 15-10, a proposal to raise circuit judges by five per cent. Circuit judges currently get \$27,500, of which \$27,700 comes from the state and \$11,537 from the county.

*Sent to committee 14-12, a proposal to raise probate judges five per cent. Probate judges currently get \$23,147, of which \$16,348 comes from the state and nearly \$11,800 from the county.

*Approved 15-7 a five per cent raise for

six elected county administrators. Proposals to refer it to committee and to reconsider were defeated 19-4 and by a 13-11 tie, respectively. In 1977 County Executive Daniel T. Murphy will be raised to \$47,251. Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, \$36,750. Clerk Treasurer Lynn Allen, Treasurer C. Hugh Doherty, Sheriff Johannes Spreen and Drain Commissioner George Kuhn, \$29,999 each. All but Spreen are Republicans.

*Referred to committee, 19-8, a five per cent hike for all other county employees.

COMMISSIONER Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills), who will be finance committee chairman when Republicans take control of the board Jan. 1, argued a flat five per cent hike for all non-uniform employees was unwise.

"We should be trying to treat differently people differently. Some salaries are out of whack with regard to responsibilities," Kasper said.

County Executive Murphy added, "You don't know whether some need two per cent, three per cent or 10 per cent. The board is trying to cram everything through in one day. What's the hurry?"

"We are in labor negotiations. This will hamper our negotiators," if approved, said Murphy.

Commissioner Gahler said he voted for raises for the six county administrators that day because it was the last time it could be done for a year.

Commissioners favoring the increase argued county employees deserved a general wage increase because of inflation and that the personnel committee lacked manpower and time to review all 2,000 persons adequately.

Murphy veto upheld on county car policy

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy will continue to have control over Oakland County car assignments.

The board of commissioners failed at its final meeting of the year Dec. 16 to override the executive's veto of a car policy change that would have cut car expense and given the board control of car assignments.

The vote to override was 14-11, two short of the 15 needed for a two-thirds majority. Voting to override were all 11 Board Democrats and two Republicans—Henry Host of Troy and Richard Walcott of Farmington.

In the original passage Dec. 2, the proposed new policy had 18 votes, including those of Republicans Host and Fred Houghton of Rochester.

SEEKING AN override, Finance Committee Chairman Larry Pernick (D-Southfield) said, the board's rule is to establish a budget. We must approve each and every expenditure.

By stripping Murphy, a Republican of

his car assignment policy, Pernick said the board would be withdrawing a delegation of authority previously given to the executive branch.

Pernick said fewer cars needed to be taken home by county employees at night because there was plenty of available, protected parking at county facilities.

MURPHY'S VETO, message, argued board Democrats of modifying the executive's business by trying to control their own community.

He said Democrats were seeking a viable, emotional issue that could be passed up to the public and press.

Republicans neither replied to Pernick's speech nor defended Murphy's veto. Knowing they had enough votes to prevent an override.

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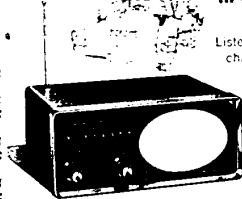
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OCC registration set for winter term

Registration for the winter semester at Oakland Community College will be held Jan. 5-7 by alphabetical order of last names.

Applications are still being accepted for the semester. Interested individuals should contact the campus they plan to attend for information regarding counseling and admission procedures. Classes are scheduled to begin Jan. 10.

Oakland Community College locations include: Auburn Hills Campus, Auburn Heights, 832-1000; Highland Lakes Campus, Union Lake, 363-7181; Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills, 476-9400; Oak Park Campus, 548-1252; and the Royal Oak Campus, 548-5295.

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