

# Road board, commissioners, Murphy remain at odds

The Oakland County Road Commission is hoping for some long-term cooperation from the county board of commissioners.

That cooperation, said John Gnaul Jr., road commission chairman, would enable the commission to do more effective long-range road maintenance planning.

The road commission last week proposed a plan under which the county board would commit county general funds five years in advance. The board currently allocates funds to the road commission on an annual basis.

The three-man road commission (independent of the popularly-elected board of commissioners and county executive) may run into some opposition, though.

Board Chairman Wallace Gabler (R-Royal Oak) originally extended the olive branch to the road commission. The plan proposed last week was the

first public move by the road commission to seek detente between the two county institutions.

The board of commissioners had been pushing for legislative action which would abolish the road commission, the drain commission and the parks and recreation commission and bring their administrative functions under the county executive.

"YOU DON'T HAVE to look very far to find things to criticize us for," Gnaul told the board of commissioners. "Your phones ring often enough with citizen complaints about the road system. We are relieved to learn that Chairman Gabler recognizes that we are doing a good job, considering the resources that are available."

Gnaul said the guaranteed funding would "make otherwise doubtful projects possible."

Commissioner Paul Kasper (R-



JOHN R. GNAUL JR.  
More efficiency

Bloomfield Hills), one of the board's more powerful members as chairman of the finance committee, said he would oppose any long-term financial

commitments to the road commission. Kasper said he favors the idea of cooperation, but added that a "five-year contract wouldn't be necessary and wouldn't be in the best interest of Oakland County."

"When we get into a long-term contract," Kasper said, "the road commission would lose all motivation to be efficient and to respond to the needs of the citizens."

"The citizens," he continued, "just don't feel they're getting service or cooperation from the road commission."

GNAUL, HOWEVER, did not agree. Kasper said the facts show that the Oakland County Road Commission has done everything in its power to give good service with the resources available," he said.

A major advantage to a five-year contract, he continued, would be the flexibility it would provide. That flexibility, Gnaul said, would provide a "fair and equitable distribution of

county general funds, which is difficult in a single-year program."

Another advantage, he said, is that the advanced knowledge of guaranteed money makes larger projects possible and makes the securing of federal aid easier.

THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE received the road commission's plan with less than open arms.

Pat Nowak, County Executive Daniel T. Murphy's top aide, said the question of a long-term contract with the road commission "presupposes that the road commission will continue to exist."

Murphy and his administration have steadfastly maintained that "Oakland County is better served without an autonomous road commission."

Nowak said the administration will continue to work with the state legislature for changes which would bring the road commission under the jurisdiction of the county executive.

Nowak, however, did not rule out cooperation. "A philosophical departure," Nowak said, "should not imply that we won't attempt to work harmoniously with the road commission."

## County roads would stretch to California

"A trip from Los Angeles, Calif. to Pontiac would require less mileage than there is in the Oakland County road system," announced William M. Richards, vice chairman of the board of Oakland County Road Commissioners.

"In fact, you could continue on from Pontiac for 13 miles past Flint before travelling the 2,447.96 miles we have in the unincorporated area of this county," said Richards.

"Our board today certified a net addition of 26.95 miles to the Oakland County road system in 1977. That included 28.43 miles of new streets, mostly in newly platted subdivisions, abandonment of 0.57 mile and relinquishment of 0.91 mile to other jurisdictions.

"LAST YEAR was one of particularly heavy subdivision platting. The 26.22 miles of certified subdivision streets platted compares to only 14.61 in the previous year and about 15 miles annually in recent years," said Richards. "It looks like 1978 is going to be another strong platting year, also."

He said the board annually, at the end of March, certifies to the Michigan State Highway Commission the road

mileage in its jurisdiction for purposes of qualifying for state-collected gas and weight tax revenue. Such revenue makes up 61 per cent (\$17.5 million) of the road commission's 1978 budget.

"This year's certification report shows we have 770.03 miles of primary county roads, which qualify for 100 per cent construction funding by the state-collected gas and weight taxes. The other 1,677.93 miles are defined as 'local,' which means they qualify for only 50 per cent construction funding by the state-collected gas and weight taxes and the other 50 per cent must be paid by local sources," said Richards.

HE SAID 1,481 miles of the county roads are in the "urban area" as defined by the state gas and weight tax sharing law. This means they qualify for a share of the 10 per cent of state-collected gas and weight taxes reserved for county roads in urban areas statewide.

Richards noted, "The Oakland County Road Commission continues to have more road mileage than any other road commission in Michigan, due in large part to the 974.65 miles of certified subdivision streets on our system."

**PROBLEM WINDOWS? LET US HELP.**  
DECORATOR FABRICS. FAST SERVICE.  
FREE ESTIMATES. REASONABLE PRICES.

SUPERIOR CUSTOM DRAPES  
255-3253

**GARAGE DOOR OPERATORS**

**Genie 450**  
\$175.00 installed

CRYPTAR II DIGITAL CONTROLS \$10.00 extra  
1 Year Warranty—Any Suburb  
ALLIANCE AUTOMATIC DOOR CO.  
358-3833 SOUTHFIELD

**FREE!**

Buy 1 to 10 Medium Pizzas at the regular price

Get same number of identical PIZZAS  
**FREE**  
Little Caesars Pizza

One coupon per customer at participating stores listed in this week's Detroit News and Free Press  
PICK-UP ONLY  
This coupon expires 5-7-78  
OES T.V. Books

**NOTICE**

You can't afford to miss our "SPECIAL SIX HOUR SALE" offering significant reductions on all new and used pianos and organs including such well-known names as Baldwin, Hammond, Steinway, Thomas, Lowrey and others... at all three Smiley Bros. stores.

- Sunday April 30, 1978 for SIX HOURS ONLY, 12 noon to 6:00 PM
- Bench, delivery and warranty included in all sales.
- Trades accepted and easy-pay terms available.

**Smiley Brothers**  
"A TRUSTED NAME IN MUSIC"

- BIRMINGHAM, 1010 N. Hunter, MI 7-1177
- DEARBORN, Tel-Ford Shopping Center, Ford & Telegraph, 278-1324
- DETROIT, 5510 Woodward, 875-7100

**Patio Furniture Casuals**

**20%** Discount in select dining and seating groups. over 45 styles to choose from

**Samsonite**  
Fine Casual Furniture

35834 VAN DYKE STERLING HEIGHTS  
979-5500

HOURS: Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs-Fri 10-9, Sat-Sun 10-4

See 103 Settings of DREXEL-HERITAGE at

**GORMAN'S STROY**  
The Drexel Heritage Showcase

360 W. BIRMINGHAM • 774-2200 • 1000 N. WOODWARD • 875-7100

Michigan's Largest Ethan Allen Dealer

**INCREDIBLY LOW PRICES AT OUR WAREHOUSE OUTLET**

EVERY SATURDAY 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Enjoy substantial savings on floor samples, one-of-a-kind, scratch and dent items, odds & ends and discontinued styles. All merchandise is from quality manufacturers who supply our regular stores. Naturally at such great reductions, all goods are sold 'as is' and all sales are final. Delivery extra.

VISA • MASTER CHARGE • CONVENIENT TERMS

**the Hearthside**  
WAREHOUSE OUTLET

11850 MAYFIELD • LIVONIA  
Just North of Plymouth Road,  
one block East of Farmington Road

OPEN SATURDAY ONLY 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

**IVORY VANLINES**

the carrier who cares.

Ivory wants to be your mover! For over sixty years we have provided the people of Michigan quality packing, crating and moving; moves across the street, town and nation. Make your next move an "Ivory Move"

Call JOHN F. IVORY STORAGE CO. INC.  
(Toll Free) 1-800-462-9824 or 873-5000

# 62nd. Anniversary Sale

Save 1/3 on our entire inventory of diamond bridal sets, dinner rings, men's rings, pendants, earrings, bracelets, etc. Specially priced from \$49.95 to \$25,000.00

**DIAMOND 1/3 OFF SALE**

We Specialize In CUSTOM DESIGN & REMOUNT SERVICE

**62nd. ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS**

- 14Kt. GOLD DIAMOND STICK PINS \$12.88 (reg. 24.95)
- MOTHER'S RING 14Kt. GOLD with 3 Stones your choice \$59.95
- 14Kt. GOLD DIAMOND STUD EARRINGS \$59.95 (reg. \$100.00)
- OPAL BLUE or BLACK STAR PENDANTS \$24.95 (reg. 40.00 to 50.00)

**MOTHER'S DAY MAY 14**

**SAVE 1/3 on Our Entire Inventory of 14 Kt. GOLD JEWELRY chains**

100% OF STYLES earrings rings pendants

LAY-A-WAYS INVITED

GIFT WRAPPING AT NO EXTRA CHARGE

**CONNOLLY'S**

JEWELERS & SILVERSMITHS SINCE 1916

Save 20 to 40% on Brand Name Watches

EXTENDED CREDIT AVAILABLE UP TO 36 MONTHS TO PAY

MASTERCHARGE & VISA ACCEPTED

DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER 414 Walnut Blvd. 652-4440  
MEADOWBROOK VILLAGE MALL Walton Blvd. at Adams Rd. 375-9100 Open Sundays