

## OCC board pares meeting schedule

Oakland Community College's George A. Bee Administrative Center stands dark and silent on most nights. It is a radical change from several months ago, when the college's seven-person board of trustees was meeting several nights every week.

New President Walter F. Ruelofs is the major reason behind OCC's suddenly silent nights. When he was interviewed as a presidential candidate he said he would like to see the board meet less frequently.

The board is meeting much less frequently. Only one meeting was sched-

uled for December and most study sessions in November were cancelled. According to Community Relations Director Betty Setz, the board will only be meeting twice a month.

"We're also going to eliminate the study sessions altogether," she said. Instead, the board will combine the study sessions and regular meetings.

Mrs. Setz called the move "efficient."

"By scheduling so many meetings as study sessions," she said, "they were counterproductive."

"Even if all the board members had made up their minds on how they were going to vote on an item, they couldn't take any official action because it was a study session," Mrs. Setz said.

"Now, instead of having to prepare special materials for the regular meetings and having to reshuffle everything, they'll be able to vote right away," she added.

## Commission vote split

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week, in its final session of 1978, approved, with minor revisions, a \$78.6 million budget for the coming year.

According to Budget Director James Brennan, the changes resulted in transferring about \$184,000 to the county's contingency fund.

Even though the overall changes were minimal, the final 14-12 vote in favor of the budget broke roughly along party lines.

Observer & Eccentric area commissioners voting for the budget's approval included: Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills), Robert McConnell (R-Farmington Hills), John McDonald (R-Farmington), Lillian Moffitt (Bloomfield Township), Joseph Montante (R-Orchard Lake), Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham), Dennis Murphy (R-Novi), Robert Page (R-Birmingham)

and John Peterson (R-Rochester).

Commissioners voting against the budget included: Alexander Perinoff (D-Southfield), Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield) and Henry Hoot (R-Troy).

COMMISSIONERS decided to give themselves six per cent pay increases in 1979 and again in 1980. They also voted similar increases for County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, Sheriff Johannes Spreen, Clerk Lynn Allen, Treasurer Hugh Dohany and Drain Commissioner George Kuhn.

The commissioners' salaries will jump from about \$11,200 to \$11,925 next year and to \$12,541 in 1980. Over two years, the increases total 12.6 per cent.

Board Chairman Wallace Gabler (R-Royal Oak) and Vice-Chairman Moffitt will see their salaries increased six percent. Gabler, who is now paid about \$12,200, will make \$12,985 in 1979

and \$13,764 in 1980. Mrs. Moffitt's earnings as vice-chairman will go to \$12,455 in 1979 and \$13,200 in 1980.

The 15-11 vote on salaries did not break along party lines, but attracted no debate.

Commissioners voting for the salary increases included: McDonald, Mrs. Moffitt, Montante, Perinoff, Pernick and Peterson.

Those voting against it included: Hoot, Kasper, McConnell, Moxley, Murphy and Page.

"For the job we're doing, we don't deserve an increase," said Novis Murphy after the vote.

THE COMMISSIONERS' raises were small compared to those handed to the county's top elected officials. Whereas each commissioner's six per cent increase totaled about \$700, the raises for each elected official topped the \$2,000 mark.

The county executive will receive

the largest pay hike, more than \$3,300. His pay will jump from about \$52,200 annually to \$55,595, or about 6.5 percent.

Patterson's salary will jump from about \$40,700 to more than \$43,350, also about 6.5 percent.

And the clerk, sheriff, treasurer and drain commissioner, who were paid more than \$33,100 this year, will be paid more than \$35,200 in 1979.

The commissioners approved the raises 20-6.

WHILE SOME expenditures were increased, other areas felt the knife.

The Oakland County Tourist and Convention Bureau saw the county's contribution slashed in half.

The convention bureau, which has focused most of its muscle on luring the Super Bowl to the Pontiac Silverdome, was counting on receiving \$33,000 from the county's coffers. It will now get \$40,000.

## No snow, so slopes are slow

By LEM MESELE

Outdoors writer

Be patient if you're getting ice skates, an ice auger or cross-country skis for Christmas.

Snow and ice conditions are generally poor throughout southeast Michigan.

At Kent Lake in Kensington Metropolitan, ice is 2½ inches thick but was thawing rapidly Tuesday and Wednesday.

Only on small ponds with no current can you find any ice that isn't treacherous.

Also at Kensington, the ground is two-thirds bare, so cross-country skiing is at a standstill.

In some woods I checked, there's snow on the ground. You'd have to know your way around the paths to enjoy skiing, though.

It usually takes a good cold snap, with the temperature dropping to zero for a few hours, to give us ice safe for general skating and ice fishing.

Year after year, that cold snap comes around New Year's Day. In the last two years, it has come earlier, but this year our climate should revert to form.

RABBIT HUNTING is the only winter activity going on now, and even that isn't much.

Fair rabbit success has been reported around the upland areas of Holly. Many hunters we talked to in southwest Oakland County have hardly seen a bunny.

Muskrat trappers have been active until the ice began to form in the last week.

YOUR SNOWMOBILE must be registered if you're planning to use it this winter. A three-year registration costs \$9 at the local secretary of state's office.

Your registration numbers must be in block characters three inches high, followed by the deal, on the forward half of the snowmobile.

Trot back to your local secretary of state office if you lose your certificate or need to replace the deal.

Carry your certificate of registration while operating your snowmobile and be ready to show it for inspection by any peace officer.

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