

COG Lacks Quorum To Absorb TALUS

By DENNIS PAJOT

Six Observerland delegates to the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) are pondering two important decisions.

They and other representatives of governing units in the six-county area will try a second time to resolve them at an "adjourned" general assembly meeting Saturday, Nov. 8.

Only 47 of the 107 members had delegates present at a general assembly session Wednesday that was aborted for lack of a quorum.

THE GENERAL assembly is expected to act this quarter on a proposed 1970 budget that is almost double the current budget.

In addition, SEMCOG members will vote on whether to accept full administrative re-

sponsibility for TALUS, the nearly complete transportation and land use study of the six-county area.

As announced at Wednesday's session by General Assembly Chairman William L. Mainland, Milford Township supervisor, acceptance of TALUS will be a "test" of its five years of effort and a "liability" of \$125,000, the amount needed to settle programs through 1970.

MERCER OF THE TALUS programs into SEMCOG will be the next vote of Irving J. Rubin, year TALUS director, from the Detroit metropolitan planning scene, after nearly five years.

When the blending occurs Dec. 31, E. Robert Turner, director of SEMCOG will additionally become the titular head of TALUS.

Rubin and Turner have been

on a near-par level as heads of concurrent regional programs. Turner had the edge for continuity when it was decided that TALUS should come under SEMCOG administrative wings.

Rubin has not announced future plans.

As director of the \$5 million transportation and land use study he served under an administrative committee made up of City of Detroit and six member county representatives.

He was an assistant to State of Michigan Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie earlier during the state's big push to complete a freeway network.

MARLAND ADJOURNED the sparse assembly Wednesday in mid-program, setting the Nov. 8 date to reconvene at 7% place to be announced.

He told Observer Newspapers the place most likely will be different. Downtown Detroit's Veterans Memorial Building has the apparent disadvantages of poor parking and relative inaccessibility to reach from many parts of SEMCOG's territory.

It was the first time the general assembly, which meets quarterly, failed to muster a quorum since SEMCOG began in January of 1968.

Two "advisory" votes were taken Wednesday, however, subject to full assembly confirmation.

THE FIRST signaled unqualified approval of all four subdivision blocs (counties, city-villages, townships and schools) to adoption of two amendments to the SEMCOG by-laws.

Second, the assembly at-large carried by voice vote Mainland's request for authority to seek financial contributions from the six county governments to help fund the TALUS proposition.

He explained that the Metropolitan Fund has promised \$25,000 on the condition that industry match that amount and that "concerned governments involved" match the combined Metro Fund and industry contribution.

Mainland's proposal to seek county support is an attempt to satisfy those conditions. He said he had received favorable backing from county representatives on the SEMCOG executive council.

AMONG THOSE approving the "advisory" motions was Plymouth's Carl Pursell, a delegate from the Wayne County Board of Supervisors and a SEMCOG executive board member.

Also in attendance Wednesday from this area were Schoolcraft Community College President Mrs. Jane Noelle, Oakland County Board of Supervisors delegates, Plymouth alternate delegate Richard Blodgett, Redford Township alternate Horace Engler and South Redford Schools alternate M.D. Roe.

Thus, only five of 19 member local units from Observerland were represented.

Mainland and E. Robert Turner, executive director of SEMCOG, each stressed "need deeper involvement on the part of our membership!" in special projects which will be supported by the budget.

ALL GENERAL expense categories will receive doubled funding under the proposed budget.

Personal services (administration) will go from \$391,000 to \$754,000. Contractual and consulting services will go from \$103,000 to \$248,000. Materials, supplies and services will jump from \$137,700 to \$223,800. Contingency funds will go up to \$70,000 from \$10,000.

Eight programs and five special projects will be supported by the budget.

The programs are general government and membership liaison, public safety, human resources, housing, education, planning (3) -- public facilities, transportation and research and general services.

The special projects are: Operation Breakthrough, model cities, manpower development, regional clearinghouse and citizen participation -- all in one.

operation with federal goals. A membership fee schedule for 1970 is also up for decision at the general assembly session to be reconvened Nov. 8.

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Farmington Art Sought

Lee Peel is putting together a pictorial history of Farmington and is appealing for help from residents.

He has already discovered that the Farmington Historical Society's collection at the Farmington District Library, accumulated over the past seven years, is a rich source.

"Because, understandably, few persons want to loan out their photographs, I am suggesting that I come directly to your place to see what you have and to make photographs of the pictures which I may be able to use."

GENERAL SUBJECT areas Peel is interested in are:

- 1-Schools; classroom scenes, sports, large or small groups; buildings, exterior and interior; special events.
- 2-Business, industry, agriculture. Peel has quite a number of photos on the early mills, but will need photos relating to the cheese and dairy interests, and to the orchards; interior or exterior shots.
- 3-Styles of dress, pre-1900 to the present day; photos of individuals that show clothing and hair styles.
- 4-Architecture: early photos of exteriors and interiors of buildings, houses, businesses, details of ornamentation.
- 5-Fred M. Warner: Peel plans to devote a whole section to Farmington's three-term governor, but has only one photo so far.
- 6-LONG-TIME residents: Photos are needed of persons who may have died in 1950, for example, but were nevertheless long-time residents of the community. Persons whose family names date to the very early days of Farmington.
- 7-Transportation: Who has the early car photos? Or the DIRT? Or the horse and buggy photos? Or the plank roads?
- 8-Social, recreational: How about photos of those gala New Year's dances at the Owen House? Or Botsford Inn? Include also sports, the literary clubs, church socials, barn raisings, political rallies.
- 9-Art: Who in the Farmington community owns any paintings or sketches of specific Farmington settings? Or who in our 150-year history have been our artists?

Phone Peel at GR 6-2073 during the mornings of Nov. 3, 4 or 5 or of an evening.

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