

# It's wait-and-see for D-Day on SEMCOG dues

By TOM LONERGAN

Oakland County would like to keep its dues to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) from rising faster than the rate of inflation.

County commissioners are waiting for the regional planning agency to review its dues structure, under which Oakland's dues have risen 14 percent a year since 1976.

The board of commissioners general government committee Monday recommended the full board postpone action on a proposal that would tie annual increases in the county's SEMCOG dues to the rate of inflation.

Oakland's current gross dues, \$137,924, are expected to increase 14.2 percent to \$157,554 next year. The county's net SEMCOG bill, after dues paid by cities, villages and townships are rebated, will be an estimated \$100,000 this year and \$119,564 in 1980.

A RESOLUTION introduced last month by Commissioner Lillian Moffitt, R-Birmingham, seeks to limit the county's increase to 7.7 percent, in accord with the local government proper-

ty tax revenue limitations under the Headlee amendment.

That amendment to the state constitution requires local governments to roll back tax rates when property valuations exceed the cost-of-living index, estimated to be at least 7.7 percent by year's end.

SEMCOG dues for seven county governments are based on a small percentage of the county's total state equalized value (SEV). Because the county's tax

revenue from total property value can't increase faster than inflation, the Moffitt resolution proposed that the county's SEMCOG dues also adhere to the limit.

THE COMMITTEE unanimously agreed to postpone considering the resolution after SEMCOG Executive Director Michael Glusac said the agency will review the dues structure at an Aug. 14 meeting.

Glusac said that if Oakland and other

counties make "unilateral decisions" on their dues, it "could result in a serious reduction in (SEMCOG's) planning programs."

"We're not creating programs that are of no help to you," Glusac said.

He added that SEMCOG dues are not a tax and therefore not subject to the tax limitation amendment.

"Urbanization" has led to townships' using more SEMCOG services, which

could mean a dues increase for them and cities, taking the burden off the counties, Glusac said.

MRS. MOFFITT said cities and townships dues are based on population census and thus "remain constant" for 10 years. Oakland County (pop. one million) pays more than the City of Detroit (pop. 1.3 million), which pays \$24,570 in dues, she said.

The SEV-based county dues began in 1972 to "guarantee an adequate local

funding base for SEMCOG," Glusac said. At that time, three large counties, including Oakland, agreed to pay not only their own dues but the dues of local units. When local units pay their dues, the counties are reimbursed.

SEMCOG's services include air pollution, water quality management and transportation planning for the seven-county region.

Besides Oakland, the region includes Wayne, Macomb, Livingston, Wash-tenaw, St. Clair and Monroe counties.

## Slasher linked to Plymouth abduction case

Wayne and Oakland County Sheriffs are investigating a possible connection between four slayings by the so-called "suntan slasher" and the alleged abduction of an elderly Plymouth woman last weekend.

Oakland and Wayne County sheriffs met early this week to discuss the alleged abduction of a 73-year-old woman by a man driving a red pickup truck Sunday. She escaped uninjured though shaken after he threatened to

rape her.

The Plymouth woman will be asked to identify the suspect, who was arrested in connection with the slayings last week in Oakland and Macomb counties of three women, according to Detective Rodney Denson.

The suspect, Michael Farnilio, 21, of Avon Township, was arraigned before 52nd District Court and charged with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, a felony carrying a 10-year

prison sentence upon conviction.

Farnilio was unable to post \$10,000 bond and remains in jail.

Police were investigating the slayings of the women by a man driving a red pickup truck when a tip led them to Farnilio.

ACCORDING to Wayne County Sheriffs, Angeline Rakowski, 73, of Plymouth, was abducted from the front of her home about 3 p.m. Sunday by a

passing motorist near Riverside Drive and Ann Arbor Trail. Mrs. Rakowski told police the man pulled her into his red truck after he asked where Lilley Road was located.

She described him as a white male, about 30-years-old, about six feet tall, 140-160 pounds, clean shaven with short blond hair.

Police said the suspect held no weapon while threatening to rape Mrs. Rakowski.

He drove west on Ann Arbor Trail to North Territorial Road. He then drove the truck through underbrush to an open field between Sheldon and Beck roads.

After stopping, the man began to disrobe outside the truck. Mrs. Rakowski then produced a small bottle from her purse and threw it at him, she told police. While he was somewhat stunned, Mrs. Rakowski fled to a near-by home.



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