

# Subway support snags Oakland's SEMTA rep

By TOM LONERGAN

The Oakland County board of Republican caucus has decided to support Henry Hogan of Bloomfield Hills as the board's representative to the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

"They want to send Detroit a message," said one Republican commissioner, referring to Hogan's vote for a rapid transit plan that includes a subway.

In a secret ballot vote at last Thursday's caucus meeting, Republican commissioners decided to nominate Commissioner Paul Kasper, of Bloomfield Hills, for a three-year term on the SEMTA board, rather than support Hogan's reappointment. Republicans outnumber county board Democrats, 16-11.

The vote was reportedly not announced at the caucus meeting. A number of commissioners later said they either didn't know the vote or wouldn't reveal it.

HOGAN, a Republican and owner of four weekly newspapers in the Flint area, angered a number of Republican commissioners for supporting SEMTA's 1980 transportation plan, including a Woodward Avenue subway from downtown to Six Mile Road.

Reached in Florida Friday, Hogan said he's not convinced last week's caucus position dooms his chances for reappointment.

"It certainly hasn't been aired at this point," he said. "It's petty politics up to this point."

The Republican nomination is expected to be considered by the county board's general government committee April 14, before a vote of the full board is taken April 17.

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, who is in North Carolina, didn't attend last week's Republican caucus meeting. And Hogan expects Murphy's support.

"I've been involved in a lot of wars with Dan Murphy over the years," Hogan said. "I would doubt that Dan Mur-

phy would abandon me at this time."

COMMISSIONER ROBERT Page of Birmingham nominated Hogan at the caucus meeting. "It was a prescription action," Page said of the Republican vote. "Particularly in the absence of Mr. Hogan."

Kasper, who has supported Oakland efforts to quit SEMTA, was nominated by Commissioners Dennis Murphy of Novi and John Peterson of Rochester.

"I would say the vast majority agreed we should have a commissioner sit on the SEMTA board," Kasper said. "We have been reacting from the board rather than acting."

Any other representative would do the county a "disservice," Hogan says, "because they don't have the background."

"Whoever goes in there is going to take two to three years just to learn where the mine's room is."

The first rumblings that Hogan's days on the SEMTA board were numbered came in January.

At that time, Peterson, who has also favored Oakland County's leaving the seven-county transit agency, wrote to the SEMTA board. "Our own appointee to the SEMTA board voted for a Woodward Avenue subway, even after the public hearing at the county seat (Pontiac) where every public official and most Oakland citizens expressed opposition to a subway."

BUT PAGE maintains it was largely through Hogan's efforts that SEMTA voted to extend the proposed light rail rapid transit line into southern Oakland County.

"Once the decision was made by the (required) 10 members of the SEMTA board to go for the subway, he (Hogan) was able to obtain for Oakland County an extension to Ten Mile Road."

That "concession," however, was not too popular with a number of county Republicans, even though Hogan cleared it by phone with Board of Commissioners Chairman Wallace Gabler, R-Royal Oak.

"You call the chairman of the county

board and then they come back and play games," Hogan said Friday. "It's very difficult to represent the county on the 15-member SEMTA board. The county has three representatives and Oakland representatives R.J. Alexander and Homer Case are appointed through the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). Alexander's term expires in June.

# Deputies reap 3 years' back pay

By TOM LONERGAN

Oakland County sheriff's deputies will receive pay raises in April for the first time since 1977.

The average back paycheck that deputies will receive — covering 1978 to the present — will be \$4,750.

The Board of Commissioners last week unanimously approved wage increases for 300 deputies covering 1978, 1979 and this year without the union's agreement.

The deputies' union, affiliated with the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM), has been locked in a labor dispute with County Executive Daniel T. Murphy's administration since July 1978.

MURPHY'S CHIEF deputy, William M. Spinelli, recommended the board implement the raises unilaterally. He said the two sides were at an impasse in bargaining.

A state mediator, appointed last May to oversee negotiations, ordered the two sides back to the bargaining table earlier this month.

The 25 percent wage increase, which covers a three-year period, will bring top salaries for patrol

and corrective officers to \$21,375. Since Dec. 31, 1977, when the deputies' last contract expired, the top salary was \$18,200. Ken Vinstra of the county's personnel office estimated about half of the deputies represented by POAM are at the top of the pay scale.

The wage package will cost the county more than \$2.2 million.

BOTH SHERIFF Johannes Sreen and a county deputy, representing the union, urged commissioners to pass the proposal.

"If the suggestion is taking pressure off our people, I'm more than willing to endorse that position," Deputy William Elliott of the Oakland County Deputy Sheriff's Association told the county board's Democratic caucus.

"The employees are having a hard time making their bills. Morale is at the point of becoming violent."

Elliott said he expects the labor dispute to go to binding arbitration, allowed by state law in lieu of police and fire department employees striking.

"I see no reason or any way if (the county's action) can affect the union or our position. I'm not

endorsing the proposal as a satisfactory settlement at this time," Elliott said.

THE COUNTY'S action does not preclude the union from bargaining for more back pay or a larger increase this year.

Questioned by Republican commissioners in their caucus before the county board meeting, Spinelli admitted there was some risk in the county's action should the dispute be decided by an arbitrator.

"It's possible he might do more financially for the employees than we are doing today," Spinelli said. "What we're doing basically is giving the money we told the arbitrator we're willing to give."

The board-approved wage package is similar to what deputies voted down in December. Although slightly more than half voted for the package then, POAM rules require a two-thirds contract ratification vote.

Since the start of the year, sheriff's deputies have picketed the county courthouse, County Executive Murphy's house in Sylvan Lake and the site of a Murphy re-election fundraiser to protest the county's bargaining stance.

Rotarians hear transit update

Michigan Transportation Commissioner Rodger D. Young of Recheester will speak to the Bloomfield Hills Rotary Club at noon Wednesday, April 2.

The meeting will be at Buddell's Restaurant, Woodward at Square Lake Road.

Young, an attorney in Southfield, will discuss on public transportation plans for southeast Michigan.

Young, a Republican, was influential in the revival of the M-275 freeway through western Oakland County. The six-member transportation commission last fall approved the controversial highway, which its predecessor, the highway commission, had scrapped in 1977.

The freeway awaits state and federal environmental approval.

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