

Oakland board seeks voters' advice

Oakland County voters will face four public transportation advisory questions on the Nov. 4 ballot — maybe.

The County Board of Commissioners Thursday voted to place the four questions on the ballot despite its lawyer's opinion that it lacks the authority to do so.

The board voted 14-8, with three abstentions, to ask voters if:

- They want to be taxed for the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority's (SEMTA) proposed regional transportation system "including a subway."
- The county should withdraw from SEMTA.
- A county-run transportation authority should raise funds for a transit system.
- Any tax should be assessed for any transportation system without voter approval.

THE COUNTY'S chief lawyer, Robert Allen, wrote in a legal opinion last month that the county board "does not have the authority to submit advisory questions to the electorate."

Allen, who made the same legal judgment in September 1976, said nothing has changed since that time to give citizens power to put advisory questions on the ballot.

All but two county board Republicans, who have a 16-11 board majority, voted to place the non-binding referendums on the Nov. 4 presidential election ballot.

Six Democrats voted no, three abstained and two, including Alexander Perinoff, D-Southfield, were absent.

'Any commissioner that would challenge the people's right to speak by petition . . . that's not a very smart move.'

— Anne Hobart
Caucus chairwoman

1990 regional transportation plan has made the seven-county regional authority the county board's most volatile political issue.

If the advisory questions survive a possible court challenge, they would be on the same ballot as the final election for commissioners and county-wide elected offices.

Board Republicans last week accused Democrats of being uninterested in what voters have to say.

Democrats, citing Allen's opinion, said the board action was "illegal." They said Republicans are asking for a lawsuit that Allen wouldn't be able to defend.

BOARD CHAIRMAN Wallace Gabler, R-Royal Oak, said Allen would defend the county in a lawsuit. "I concur that we do not have the authority to put (the questions) on the ballot," Gabler said, but added that the legality of the board's action had not been determined.

Referring to Allen's possibly defending the county board, Commissioner F. Thomas Lewand, D-Royal Oak, said, "Now, come on. Are we a bunch of clowns? That doesn't make sense. We're dreaming."

Commissioner Paul Kasper, R-Bloomfield Hills, the board's SEMTA representative, said, "No way

are we going against established law."

Kasper, himself a lawyer, said Allen's opinion was only one "interpretation." Only a court could determine if the board's action is illegal, he said.

THE ADVISORY referendums have been pushed since early this year by Republican Commissioners John Peterson of Rochester and Anne Hobart of Pontiac. They began a petition drive to put the transportation questions on the May 20 presidential primary ballot, but the issue was held up in a board committee for more than a month.

Peterson and Hobart say they collected "more than 5,000 signatures" from registered county voters supporting the advisory questions.

"Any commissioner that would challenge the people's right to speak by petition . . . that's not a very smart move," said Hobart, chair of the Republican Caucus.

Democratic Commissioner Lawrence Pernick, of Southfield, said the advisory vote issue was for no purpose but election year politics.

"I recognize it's politically expedient for certain commissioners to continue raising this issue," Pernick said.

He said the board's action "will be challenged in the courts," but later declined to say who would file a challenge.

The board deadlocked 12-12 last month on pulling the county out of SEMTA. A move last week to have that vote reconsidered failed, 14-7.

AREA COMMISSIONERS voting to put the advisory questions on the ballot included Republicans G. William Cadell of Walled Lake, Henry W. Hoit of Bloomfield Township, Kasper, John I. McDonald of Farmington, Lillian V. Moffitt of Bloomfield, Ralph W. Moxley and Robert W. Page, both of Birmingham, Joseph R. Montante of West Bloomfield and Peterson.

Dennis L. Murphy, R-Novi, and Robert H. Gorsline, R-Milford, joined six Democrats in opposing the referendums.

Pernick and two other Democrats abstained.

Ms. MacAdam chairs OLHSA

Carolyn MacAdam of Bloomfield Hills was recently elected chairwoman of the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency by the group's Board of Directors.

She will serve a one-year term in the volunteer position.

SEMTA to vote today on bus fare increases

Across-the-board base and zone fare increases for SEMTA buses and commuter trains will be considered by the transportation authority's board of directors Tuesday.

If approved as expected, the fare hikes will take effect July 1. The nickel increase in both the base and zone fares will increase the average suburban bus rider's one-way fare 25 cents to \$1.40.

An additional \$1.3 million will be raised through the proposed fare increases.

THE SOUTHEASTERN Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) recently concluded a series of sparsely attended public hearings on the fare increases in Detroit and Oakland, Macomb and western Wayne counties.

A public hearing in Westland Thursday drew four persons, one more than each of the hearings in Oakland and Macomb County.

SEMTA proposes that the base fare for large and small bus systems, such as the Wayne County Advanced Reservation Transit (WAY-CART) and its Oakland County counterpart (OCART), be increased to 60 cents. In September, the base fare for large bus and rail was increased to 55 cents.

Zone charges of 20 cents per zone traveled are also proposed. SEMTA officials say the average suburban bus rider travels through three or four zones.

FOR COMMUTER rail service, now only offered between Pontiac and Detroit, a 30-cent base fare increase (to \$1) is proposed, as well as a nickel increase in zone charges to 20 cents. The fare for shuttle buses to trains would increase 10 cents to 35 cents.

SEMTA proposes to double the 10 cent surcharge for "express" buses and wants a nickel increase to 20 cents for the Park-and-Ride bus surcharge.

Youth fares are proposed to in-

crease 5 cents to 40 cents.

Riders age 65 and older would continue to ride large buses for half-price during off-peak hours as would handicapped persons. Identification cards for both seniors and the handicapped are required.

Both groups are also eligible for 50 percent discounts on the small bus systems.

Children, 5 years and younger would continue to ride free.

THE SEVEN-COUNTY transportation authority's goal is to have fare box revenues provide one-third of operating costs for the large and small bus and commuter rail operations.

According to Michael Dewey, manager of SEMTA's small bus systems, fare box revenues now provide 25 percent of the large bus operating budget; 20 percent of commuter rail and 18 to 19 percent of the small bus operation.

State funding covers 21 percent of the total cost of bus operations and federal funding "doesn't quite meet" 50 percent, Dewey said.

"All we want from you is that bottom third of the cost," SEMTA manager of administrative services Sid Alexander said at the Westland public hearing.

Marissa Choma of Troy presented the SEMTA representatives with a rate hike protest petition signed by 72 Ford Motor Co. Renaissance Center employees.

Ms. Choma, a Ford employee, said she rides the commuter train every day to work. Commuter rail riders face at least a 41 percent increase in fares.

She asked why SEMTA encourages van and car pools. "You're saying to us you really don't need the business."

Dewey said SEMTA encourages the shared ride systems because they're a plus for regional transportation.

PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING
Outside of All Homes \$15-35 (Grills Extra)
Commercial & Residential Satisfaction Guaranteed
Great Lakes Maintenance Co.
552-8585

I CAN HELP YOU LOSE WEIGHT...

Elaine Kissel
Hypnologist
569-7121

Smiley Brothers
A TRUSTED NAME IN MUSIC
The Finest in Keyboard Instruments
Baldwin
HAMMOND-ALLEN Select Used Pianos and Organs
PRIVATE & GROUP LESSONS
Birmingham, 1919 N. Hunter 947-1177
Also Detroit & Dearborn
Reception Hall in Dept. Rd. 692-4283

CHIMNEYS
BUILT NEW • REPAIRED
SCREENED • CLEANED
WATERPROOFED
ROOF LEAKS STOPPED
ANIMAL REMOVAL
LICENSED • INSURED
• GUARANTEED
KARNEY DERDERIAN CONTRACTORS
427-3981

This plan can cut your winter energy payments.

Balance your energy payments over the year with the **Equal Monthly Payment Plan**.

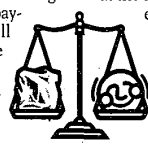
The Equal Monthly Payment Plan from Consumers Power divides your average yearly energy bill into 12 equal payments. Your energy payments will be balanced throughout the entire year, so you'll avoid the seasonal ups and downs — particularly those high winter heating bills.

With the Equal Monthly

Payment Plan, it's easier to work your gas and electric bills into your monthly budget. Your energy bills will be as predictable as your house or car payments.

To sign up for the plan, look for the message at the top of your next bill. It will show the exact amount your personal equal monthly payments will be. Just mark an "X" in box 1 and make your energy bills a balanced, predictable part of the family budget.

Sign up for the Equal Monthly Payment Plan.



Get your pictures back tomorrow or get them FREE!

The **Quick-as-a-Fox** Guarantee.

Bring your roll of 110, 126, or 35mm color print film (full frame, C41 process only — includes all popular film) for developing and printing to a Fox Photo retail store, Monday thru Thursday, before the afternoon pick-up (check your friendly Fox store for exact time.) Your pictures will be ready after the last delivery the next day, excluding holidays. If not, your order is FREE!

FOX PHOTO
A Fox Company

6 Convenient Area Locations To Serve You.

PLYMOUTH • 882 West Ann Arbor Trail • BIRMINGHAM
• 3636 W. Maple • DEARBORN HEIGHTS • 25604 Michigan Ave. • 8438 Telegraph Rd.
• 30209 Cherry Hill • NORTHVILLE • 300 North Center

INKSTER

1/2 OFF AND PRINTING COLOR PRINT FILM 499 A

On any 110, 126 or 35mm color print roll film (full frame, C41 process only) One roll per coupon. Excludes use of other coupons. Valid at any Fox Photo retail store on days as shown. Offer Good Thru May 31, 1980

FOX PHOTO MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

Service Address if Different Than Mailing

Current Month Due Date: _____ Total Due: _____

PLEASE MAKE ANY INQUIRY OR COMPLAINT ABOUT THIS BILL PRIOR TO DUE DATE.

NEXT WINTER WILL BRING HIGHER HEATING BILLS. BUDGETING PAYMENTS MAKES BILL PAYING EASIER. NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN THE EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN. BY MARKING BOX 1 AT THE RIGHT YOU WILL BE PLACED ON OUR BUDGET PLAN WITH YOUR NEXT BILL. YOUR EQUAL PAYMENT AMOUNT WILL BE _____

PLEASE MAIL UPPER PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO THE ADDRESS ON THE REVERSE SIDE. KEEP LOWER PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Name: _____ Service Address: _____ Your Account Number: _____

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

TELEPHONE: _____ (If Long Distance, Consult Your Directory)

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY IS REGULATED BY THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, LANSING, MICHIGAN.

Service	Rate	Date	Reading	Type of Reading	Ending Meter Reading	Date	Reading	Type of Reading	Qty. Bill'd	Energy Used

Any Payments Applied After the Billing Date of: _____ Are Not Included: _____ \$ _____

66-26-940-C

