

Commissioners pass pay hikes

By TOM LONERGAN

Oakland County commissioners have approved a \$96.2 million budget for 1981 that includes two pay raises for themselves.

An 8.5 percent increase for six county-wide elected officials, 14 circuit court judges and an estimated 3,000 other county employees was approved 15-10.

The county board last Thursday also amended the budget on a 17-8 vote to include two 8.5 percent raises for the 27 commissioners effective Jan. 1, 1981, and Jan. 1, 1982.

The amendment, proposed from the floor by Commissioners Ralph Moxley, R-Birmingham and Hubert Price, Jr., D-Pontiac, replaced a recommendation from the county board's personnel committee that the commissioners' pay hike be limited to 1981.

SUPPORTERS OF the amendment included Commissioners Henry W. Hoot, R-Bloomfield Township; Paul Kasper, R-Bloomfield Hills; Joseph Montane, R-West Bloomfield; Robert Fage, R-Birmingham; Moxley; and Southfield Democrats Alexander Perloff and Lawrence Pernick.

Hoot and Moxley are retiring from the board at the end of this year.

Opponents included Republicans G. William Caddell of Walled Lake, John McDonald of Farmington Hills, Lillian Moffitt of Bloomfield Township and Dennis Murphy of Novi.

Once they are sworn in for new two-year terms, commissioners are prevented by law from increasing their salaries.

Last week's meeting was the last of the year for the outgoing county board and its last chance to vote for raises effective with the new terms. The salaries of the other county-wide elected officials are reviewed annually.

Twenty current commissioners and seven newcomers will begin new terms in January.

COMBINED, the two raises will increase a commissioner's salary to \$14,880 in 1982. Effective Jan. 1, the

part-time commissioners will be paid \$13,715 annually, a \$1,074 increase over their current pay.

County board chairman Wallace Gable, R-Royal Oak, is paid an additional \$1,219 and vice-chairperson Moffitt an additional \$609.

The 8.5 percent increase in the county portion of circuit judges' salaries will increase the jurists' pay to \$58,600 next year. An increase in the state portion of the judges' salaries has been deferred to 1982.

In 1981, the base salaries of county-wide elected officials will be \$67,516 for County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, \$52,653 for Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, and \$42,849 each for Sheriff Johannes Spreen, Drain Commissioner George Kuhn, Treasurer Hugh Dohany and Clerk/Register of Deeds Lynn Allen.

The county doesn't pay anyone a cost-of-living-allowance (COLA).

THE 1981 county budget, approved 23-1 by the board, represents an increase of 10.4 percent over this year's \$87 million budget. County commissioners made no major changes in the budget as proposed by the Murphy administration.

The controversial Oakland County Organized Crime Strike Force, begun by Prosecutor Patterson in 1977, will become part of a reorganized crime unit run by the Michigan State Police and other law enforcement agencies.

The change was proposed by Patterson after the county board personnel committee refused to continue funding the strike force. The new budget includes \$347,000 for the reorganized unit.

Also approved was a three-year audit contract with Coopers & Lybrand for \$450,100. The county board's 16 Republicans voted for approval, and the 10 Democrats dissented. Democrats had opposed the Coopers & Lybrand bid, which was \$280,000 higher than the low bid of Ernst & Whinney.

The audit will cover the years 1979, 1980 and 1981. Such an audit is required by federal and state revenue sharing laws.

Harassment, gifts, lawn are subjects of trustees' time

Oakland Community College trustees have added "sexual harassment" to a list of forbidden practices, accepted gifts of machines and money, and are pondering the need for cutting so much lawn.

"Nor will sexual harassment be tolerated" was added to a college policy manual which already prohibits consideration of "race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or handicap" in treatment of students and employees.

President Robert F. Roelofs recommended the addition to conform to federal guidelines set by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. There was no board discussion.

GIFTS formally accepted by the board in last Thursday's meeting included:

A furnace and an air conditioning unit for the climate control systems technology program at the Auburn Hills campus east of Pontiac. Donor is Star Steel Supply Co.

A Perkins cut-away engine and a six-cylinder Perkins engine minus fuel pump for the diesel truck and heavy equipment program at Auburn Hills. Donor is the Southwest-Oakland Vocational Education Center, a function of the intermediate school district.

A \$1,000 gift to the golf team at the Orchard Ridge campus, Farmington Hills, from the Michigan Public Golf Association.

Twenty-seven books on psychology from Dr. Edward Valsi, and an economics book from Carl Austermler for the Orchard Ridge library.

\$100 to the scholarship fund at the Highland Lakes campus, Union Lake, from the Bridge Club, and \$20 to the same fund in memory of Dorothy O'Laughlin from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Knapp.

THE DISCUSSION of lawn cutting began when the board approved purchase of two 16- and 20-horsepower diesel tractors for the Auburn Hills campus from low bidder Sineall Tractor of Wixom.



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