

County weighs SEMTA pullout

In a surprise move, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week voted to withdraw from the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) unless every "sub-way vestige" is removed from the region's transit plan.

The 18-3 vote to withdraw came at the end of Thursday's commission meeting after when board members voted to suspend their own rules and

consider the resolution immediately. The resolution adds the county will quit SEMTA if the transit plan "fails to take the transportation needs of suburban residents equitably into account."

COMMISSIONER Dennis Aaron, D-Oak Park, called the resolution "suber rattling."

"This is not a self-executing instrument. We can't withdraw without an-

other resolution," Aaron said. "What will happen if we withdraw? Let's find out what will happen if we do the things we're claiming we want to do."

Aaron voted in favor of the resolution. Voting against the resolution were Commissioners Hubert Price Jr., D-Pontiac, and James Doyon, D-Madison Heights.

Commissioner Donald Geary, D-Ferndale, chose not to vote. Among six absentees were Larry Pernick, D-Lathrup Village, and Alexander Perinoff, D-Southfield. All other area commissioners supported the resolution.

Hills, before the resolution came to a vote. Kasper is the board's designated member of the SEMTA board.

"This thing has gotten out of hand in that they have been caught up in a public works project," Kasper said. "I don't think we should pass off on the people of this region a public works plan and call it a transit plan."

"We're continuing down that financial irresponsible road to where SEMTA won't be here for anybody. SEMTA in my opinion will not fill the needs after fiscal year '82."

Kasper criticized what he said was a recently approved \$11-million deficit SEMTA budget.

Doyon said Oakland County can have a "significant amount of impact" on SEMTA's transit plans because county Road Commissioner John Gnu Jr. was President Reagan's state campaign manager.

DOYON, WHO said he opposed the subway but was unwilling to withdraw from SEMTA, engaged in a lengthy back-and-forth debate with Commissioner Paul Kasper, R-Bloomfield

ating about one-third of the trash to produce steam and electricity, which the county plans to sell in a bid to offset the costs of burning.

County residents generate about 4,000 tons of trash a day. County executive Daniel Murphy recently estimated that annual trash tonnage is equivalent to "about 15 Silverdome-fulls."

Sanitary landfills are required under a 1978 state law.

No firm cost figure was set in the contract with the engineers. However, a maximum of \$146,832 was established.

Two of the potential sites are in Lyon Township, near South Lyon. Another is in Groveland Township, between Holly and Ortonville. The fourth is in Oxford Township, about five miles north of Lake Orion.

State takes highway bids

Ajax Paving Industries of Madison Heights entered a low bid of \$282,145 to resurface about three miles of ramps on the Southfield Expressway, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The ramps are at various points between Rotunda Drive and Eight Mile.

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