

Lanni criticized for asking RO aid

A Republican Oakland County commissioner was criticized by members of both political parties for asking county government to spend \$1 million to help pay for police and fire protection in Royal Oak.

Commissioner James E. Lanni, R-Royal Oak, said the county should help relieve the southeastern Oakland city's budget crisis.

"Oakland County is concerned with fighting crime and protecting the public," Lanni said. "Royal Oak has been forced to lay off several police and fire officers because of budget cutbacks."

SEVERAL COMMISSIONERS objected to the proposal before sending it to the Finance Committee for consideration.

They claimed that if Lanni could get \$1 million for his district, then they should be able to get an equivalent amount for their districts.

"Everybody has similar needs," said

Commissioner John E. Olsen, R-Huntington Woods.

Olsen said he wanted to change the resolution to include Huntington Woods, Berkeley, Lathrup Village and Pleasant Ridge — cities he represents.

"I don't think the money is available. But if we do have the money, it should go to (local police departments) instead of the Sheriff's Department," Olsen said.

COMMISSIONER Alexander Perinoff, D-Southfield, said he thought Lanni was joking when he made the proposal.

"It's just crazy," Perinoff said. "But if he can get that amount for Royal Oak, then I'm going to ask the same for Southfield."

If all 27 members of the board make the same request, the county will have to make big budget cuts in other areas, some commissioner admitted.

Chamber contract

Board reverses own committee

By Carol Azizian
staff writer

Oakland County commissioners from both political parties accused members of the board's Public Services Committee of playing politics with the bidding process.

The Public Services Committee had recommended the board award a contract to the second-highest bidder, the Pontiac-based Oakland County Chamber of Commerce.

But in a 24-0 vote, the board of commissioners last week rejected the committee's recommendation and awarded a \$45,255 contract to the low bidder — Oakland County Council of Chambers of Commerce, based in Troy.

Three firms bid on the contract.

MONEY FOR THE contract will come from the Oakland County Employment and Training Division. It will be used for a program to help small businesses get federal government contracts.

Some commissioners claimed committee members favored the Pontiac-based chamber solely because it is in the north end of the county. At least three commissioners on the Public Services Committee represent constituents from the northern part of Oakland County.

The Troy-based Council of Chambers is comprised of 16 chambers, most of them in the southern end of the county.

"When you fool the sanctity of the bidding process and politicize the operation, you're messing up the whole county," said Commissioner Alexander Perinoff, D-Southfield.

'When you fool around with the sanctity of the bidding process and politicize the operation, you're messing up the whole county.'

— Alexander Perinoff

ation, you're messing up the whole county," said Commissioner Alexander Perinoff, D-Southfield.

"IT'S A disgrace to the whole county," Perinoff added. "You will never get any responsible bidder to bid on any of our projects."

Perinoff argued that the issue wasn't cost — the difference between the two bids was only \$145 — but the "principle of the thing."

The committee disregarded the county's established procedure for accepting bids when it favored the second-highest bidder, he said.

That procedure calls for awarding the contract to the qualified bidder who offers the lowest price.

The committee offered to accept a lower bid from the Pontiac-based chamber after bidding was completed, Perinoff said.

"When you allow a high bidder to change his bid, that's something I can't tolerate."

BUT COMMISSIONER James E. Lanni (R-Royal Oak), chairman of the Public Services Committee, disputed those claims: "No bids were changed in committee."

O&E starts crossword

Beginning today the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will publish a crossword puzzle in every edition. The crossword puzzle will appear in the classified advertising section of the newspaper.

Readership surveys have indicated that crossword puzzles are among the most popular features in newspapers.

Solutions to the crossword puzzle will be published in the following Observer & Eccentric edition.

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