

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

To build, you need a site. So county commissioners won't even talk about a new 32nd District Court Third Division until they're sure where to put it.

Rochester officials want the courthouse, now located in the municipal building, to stay within the city.

BUT TWO bigger neighbors — Au-

burn Hills which became a city Dec. 31 and Avon Township voting May 22 whether to become one — are also vying for the facility.

And state law requires a district courthouse be in the largest city within its jurisdiction.

"How can a contractor bid on something when he doesn't know where it's going to be located?" asked County Commissioner George B. Jackson, R-Birmingham, during discussion before the county board's planning and build-

ing committee.

"I think this is an exercise in futility unless someone is trying to guarantee it (the courthouse) will be in Rochester."

CONCERNED ABOUT crowded courtrooms, Rochester officials had offered to expand the municipal building at 400 Sixth. Plans for a west wing were completed by local architect John Dzurman and submitted to county commissioners.

The city planned to turn responsibility

for the municipal building over to a three-member building authority which would lease space both to the city and court. The proposed lease would have cost the county \$25,750 to rent 16,500 square feet of floor space for 10 years.

But county commissioners expressed interest in a shorter lease based on smaller space. At last week's planning and building committee meeting, they were to discuss bids for 9,160 net square feet of usable floor area on a 10-year-lease basis.

BUT THEIR concern over the court's location kept commissioners from even discussing the building size.

Despite attendance at the meeting by two Rochester officials, the discussion was delayed until after Avon Township's city charter vote in May.

Milton Handorf, county director of public works, advised the group that non-contiguous cities with more than 3,250 residents are entitled to district courts unless they waive that right. So both Auburn Hills with 15,388 residents and Avon with 40,779 could be eligible.

Handorf said Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy favors building just one courthouse, which would cost less. But he urged waiting until after the May election to make a final decision.

If Avon becomes a city, Murphy

would locate a court there. Otherwise, the executive prefers two facilities — a main courthouse in Auburn Hills and a smaller one in Rochester.

"There are so many probabilities here that we can't really make a decision," said Commissioner Alexander Perisoff, D-Southfield, who supported Jackson's motion to postpone discussion on the issue until there is more information.

TWO ROCHESTER commissioners, who both favor a new courthouse, were at odds on how far to push the facility now.

"I'm hoping there can be an agreement between the municipalities," said Commissioner Roy Rewold.



Ronna Romney
the job gets done

New Romney stars for GOP

Even without her famous last name, Ronna Romney was a likely winner at last weekend's Republican State Convention.

"She's an able administrator. You give her a project, and you don't have to keep track of her. It gets done," said Richard Headlee.

The 1982 Republican gubernatorial nominee applauded the convention's choice of Ronna Romney, 40, as national committeewoman after a spirited three-way fight that went to a roll call.

Married to former Gov. George W. Romney's son Scott, Ronna leaped from relative obscurity to one of the top three party posts in GOP politics.

laugh. "She's sparkling — fun to be around."

"One of the attributes women have in politics is that they read the manual. There's less talk and more 'do.'"

"She gets the people together. She gets the resources. She's results-oriented. She doesn't care who gets the credit."

"She's almost fearless — not intimidated by big shots."

Romney was endorsed by Headlee, nominated by his 1982 running mate

Thomas Brennan and given a seconding speech by Richard Durant Jr.

ROMNEY OF Bloomfield Hills won 1,158 votes before her opponents, Page Yeager of West Bloomfield (255 votes) and Lorraine Thomas of Detroit (326) conceded and made the vote unanimous.

The convention also elected Romney a delegate-at-large to the Aug. 20-23 Republican National Convention in Dallas and made Yeager an alternate at-large.

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A TAX BREAK

(Don't let them take it away.)

In 1982, the Michigan legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law,

SALES TAX ON THE DIFFERENCE

What this existing law does is this: when you trade in your car on a new or used car, you only pay tax on the difference between the two cars. In other words, if you trade in an \$8,000 car on a \$12,000 car you only pay tax on \$4,000. The tax savings is 4% of \$8,000, or \$320. (34 other states have a similar law.)

Now, with things picking up in Michigan, the tax-and-spend people are at it again. Some of those responsible for increasing your income tax are behind an effort to scuttle Sales Tax on the Difference, and Senate Bill #613 is the villain.

You expect and deserve to pay sales tax only on the difference. Don't let them take this tax break away from you.

Write or call your State Senator (and you might drop a note to the Governor, too), and tell the Senator to LEAVE SALES TAX ON THE DIFFERENCE ALONE AND VOTE "NO" ON SENATE BILL #613.



BOATERS TAKE NOTE!!

The Sales Tax on the Difference Law also applies to titled watercraft. The passage of Senate Bill #613 could seriously affect the ultimate price of your new boat.

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