Spreen vs. board

Umpteenth bout over contracts

By Kethy Perrish staff writer

Republican commissioners kid about "venting our

Spreen."
And the Democratic sheriff gives them plenty of

opportunity.

Another surprise move Thursday by Sheriff
Johannes Spreen turned what was expected to be a
quiet dakland county Beard of Commissioners meeing into a splitting match.

Angry with Spreen's threatened refusal to sign law
enforcement contracts which the board had authorized with townships, some commissioners hit back.
They wouldn't approve two new positions he requested.

BOTH SIDES finally gave in after a hazsle which some commissioners called a "circus," "an elementary playground" and "playing games." This group — it's getting worse all the time," said Alexander Peritorif, D-Southfield. "All these threats back and forth. We should do what we feel is fair and equitable and let the sheriff take his own action." Commissioner John Calsador, R-Novi, agreed, suggesting that County Executive Daniel Murphy get a court writ to enforce the contracts. "Let's calm down. We can resolve this without it being a major controversy," added Calandro.

being a major controversy," added Calandro.

FREPARID '10 add two sheriff's staffers, Oakand County commissioners listened intently as
Spreen urged approval of new just administrator 8tophen Saunders III and a training officer.

To their surprise, Spreen them chastised them for
not returning live patrol officers from jail duty to
road patrol status.

Upset about the sliture of townships to hire more
officers, the sheriff saked the board to discuss services provided to townships. Spreen then announced
he would not sign township contracts for law enforcement services until then.

"Townships must agree to pay as they grow. Most
of the townships, under contract, have recognized the
need to expand," he told the commission, adding that
ladependence and Orion have not compiled.

"When backup and fill-in is provided as part of
township contracts, costs are spread countywide.
This should not be if we are to continue in contract
policing."

Spreen said national standards call for one officer or 1,000 residents. Independence has added one deputy, bringing it to seven for 22,000 residents. Orion with 19,500 residents has aix deputies.

The sheriff said townships get excellent coverage and service, but some staffs are below par. He pin-

pointed Orion and Independence, charging that they are unwilling to meet him half way.

When pressed, the sheriff agreed to sign contracts for eight of the 10 townships to which the county provides law enforcement service. These are Addison, Avon, Brandon, Commerce, Highland, Lyon, Oakland and Springfield.

"Td like to contract with them because they are working with me. But I suggest the other two (Inde-pendence and Orion) aget their own police forces," Spreen said.

COMMISSIONER James Lanni, R-Royal Oak, said a state attorney general opinion requires Spreen to fulfill the contracts.

Spreen retorted, "I'm not saying I don't want to; just that I want serious discussion. You have forced me into this by laying off 27 deputies," retorted the sheriff, who kept saying he was bolding the contracts in abeyance.

Board Chairman Richard Wilcox, R-Ortonville, countered by saying commissioners would "hold in abeyance" the two aheriff's positions to be approved that day.

"That's politics. That's getting even," said Spre-

COMMISSIONER Marilyn Goeling, R-Bloomfield Hills, called the sheriff's actions "very unfair and irresponsible."

"I'm tired of you standing up at the podium and berating this commission. We cannot give you the whole county budget to do with as you please," she said angrily.

"I'm one Democrat in this county and trying to do job. I'm tired of the spot Republicans put me in," nuntered Spreen.

"I'm sorry I ever ran for this job in this county."
"You have an opportunity to correct that this November," said Goding, referring to the fact the sheriff is due to seek re-election this year.



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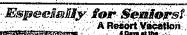


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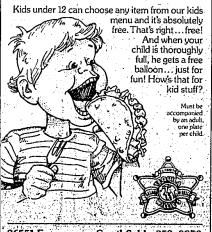


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