

Murphy: No battle with board on trash

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Oakland County moved ahead with its plan for three trash incinerators amid assurances from executive Daniel T. Murphy that he had no quarrel with the board of commissioners.

"Rumors are flying fast and thick about where they count's going," Murphy told the board Thursday. "I want to stop rumors of a confrontation between the executive and legislative branches."

Murphy said he supported the board's plan — approved 22-0 after he spoke — call for "requests for qualifications" from companies

wanting to build and operate incinerators, which will form the core of Oakland's solid waste management plan.

"It's a team project," said Murphy. "We expected to be involved with the contractors. It isn't a project of any one part of county government."

THE RUMORS apparently started several weeks ago when board of commissioners chairman Roy Rewold, R-Rochester Hills, recruited a Washington, D.C., law firm of Bishop, Cook, Purcell & Reynolds to act as project coordinator.

At that point, Murphy had engaged a Detroit law firm to act as bond

counsel for the project, estimated at \$600 million to \$800 million.

Murphy and Rewold ultimately agreed there would be no conflict between the two firms' work.

Speaking at Rewold's invitation, Murphy told commissioners he met with leaders of SOCIA (South Oakland Incinerator Authority) and a consortium of southwestern Oakland communities, both of which are considering joining the county solid waste program.

THE COUNTY is seeking a contractor willing to design, build, test and operate county-owned "mass burn" incinerators with a capacity of 1,800 tons per day.

It would have a steam turbine-generator to sell electricity, proba-

bly directly to Detroit Edison Co. Revenue from sales of electricity would be split by the county and contractor.

No less than 16 state and federal laws will govern the plant's construction and operation. Chief law is the 1979 Solid Waste Management Act.

Among the others: Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act of 1974, Inland Streams and Lakes Act of 1972, Goemacre-Anderson Wetland Protection Act of 1979, Flood Plain Regulatory Act of 1968, Federal Clean Water Act, National Historical Preservation Act of 1966, Endangered Species Act of 1974, Air Pollution Control Emission Act of 1965, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1972, Water Re-

sources Commission Act and local ordinances on traffic, noise, litter and air.

COMPANIES are to submit qualification statements by Oct. 21. The county will qualify the contractors by Oct. 26.

An administrative recommendation on a contractor is due by next Feb. 3, and the county board will select a contractor by Feb. 6.

Oakland residences and businesses currently generate some 3,600 tons of trash daily. The figure is expected to rise to 5,100 tons early in the next century — enough to keep three incinerators busy, unless resource re-

covery programs are established to convert some of the trash.

IN RELATED business, the Board of Commissioners authorized up to \$100,000 for an independent appraisal of the SOCIA property in Madison Heights.

SOCIA's incinerator has been shut down by the state for air quality reasons.

The SOCIA board, serving 14 communities, must decide whether to "retrofit" the facility or join the Oakland County program. Conceivably, the SOCIA land could become the site of one of the new county incinerators.

Utility offers free speakers to groups

Programs for civic groups are available free through Consumers Power Co.'s speaker's bureau.

Rodger Druke, South Oakland District manager for the utility, said senior citizens' organizations, professional associations and community groups may find the talks both useful and informative.

To request a speaker or a brochure describing the available programs, Druke said contact Patrice Kadachik at the number listed on your bill. Ask for Royal Oak extension 267.

The utility has 180 members in its speakers bureau. Most presentations are about 30 minutes and are suitable for a lunchtime meeting.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE include:

- Customer assistance programs — how to reduce bills by conserving energy.

- Gatekeeper program — A review of a special cooperative effort between Consumers Power and the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging that focuses on the elderly and those who live alone.

- "Eyes and Ears" — The speaker outlines a program begun as a child watch effort that provides children a safe haven in an emergency.

- Welcome to the Real World — A program for high school juniors and seniors; what it's like to be responsible for your own bank utility services, starting savings and checking accounts and building up a credit resume.

- Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) — Describe the proposed research facility which may be located in Stockbridge that would be used for high-energy research, allowing scientists to study the building blocks of matter. Impacts the job

market, healthy industry and other sciences.

- Powering Michigan's Progress — How energy was developed to improve life from what it was in the "Good Old Days" is outlined in this award-winning film that marks both Consumers Power Co.'s 100th anniversary and Michigan's 150th birthday.

- Rate Skewing — Discusses Consumers Power's efforts to equalize residential and commercial rates in an effort to attract and keep business in Michigan.

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