

Patrol funds won

Supreme court upholds Oakland's grant claim

Oakland County officials areavoring a state Supreme Court decision and trying to figure how much they won for support of the sheriff's road patrol.

The high court, in a 6-1 decision Friday, upheld County Executive Daniel T. Murphy's contention that Oakland deserved state aid for the 130-member road patrol. The high court returned the case to Ingham Circuit Court, where Oakland's winnings apparently will be calculated. "The grant had been for \$600,000 a year, and the state denied it for seven years," said Russ Martin, the

county's director of management and budget. The total request was \$3.9 million and could include interest and penalties.

A 1978 state law awards counties grants for support of the road patrol if the counties put up matching money.

From 1977-83, said Martin, Oakland added deputies to the road patrol, demonstrating a "maintenance of effort" required in the law.

Justice James Brickley, writing for the high court majority, said the county began contracting with town-

ships to fund the road patrol. "The issue," he said, "is whether the county failed to meet the maintenance-of-effort requirement only because the money... came to the county from township funds rather than from the county's general fund, even though the county maintained its expenditures and the level of road patrol at the required minimum."

Brickley said it is "undisputed" that Oakland maintained the staffing level of the road patrol from 1978 to 1983, the year in dispute.

BRICKLEY SAID the act makes no reference to revenue sources —

only to "its expenditures." Nevertheless, the state's Office of Criminal Justice withheld funds beginning in 1983.

The Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals, which in turn had reversed Ingham Circuit Judge James Kallman's opinion in Oakland's favor.

Justice Dennis Archer dissented, contending the state law "provides an opportunity, not a guarantee, for local and county governments to receive additional funds as a means of expanding services."

County awards incinerator pact

By Tim Richard staff writer

With two Pontiac members dissenting, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners awarded a \$123 million construction contract for step one in its trash reduction program.

Westinghouse Electric Corp. was low bidder to build a 1,500-ton-per-day incinerator and resource recovery facility.

The city objects to locating it in the city of Pontiac. I'm not arguing with the Westinghouse bid," said freshman Commissioner James Ferrera, D-Pontiac.

"We want a Cadillac. This is not a Cadillac," said Commissioner Hubert Price, D-Pontiac, arguing there would be too little recycling.

BUT THE BOARD majority, after 11 years of study, didn't argue and breathed a collective sigh as it approved construction of the first of three incinerators.

It rejected, 23-3, Ferrera's motion to table the project until Pontiac's lawsuit against the county is settled. It rejected, by voice vote, Price's effort to return the project to the finance committee.

The probable site will be on Oakland Avenue, adjacent to the county service center complex.

CONSTRUCTION BONDS will be paid for by user fees known as "tipping charges."

Commissioner Larry Fernick, D-Southfield, called for "ironclad contracts" with users so that the county general fund won't have to be tapped.

Some portion of the cost will be covered by interest earned on the bond proceeds before they are spent. Net cost will run around \$224 million.

That includes construction, interest on the bonds, and some \$7.8 million just to sell the bonds.

IN RELATED business, the board of commissioners voted Thursday:

• To ask the Michigan Legislature for an enabling law to create a separate solid waste management department.

• To endorse a state House bill requiring that utilities buy electric power generated by waste-to-energy plants such as Oakland's.

"Michigan is currently burying 85 percent of the 32,000 tons of municipal solid waste generated each day in landfills whose average life expectancy is little more than five years," said the board resolution.

The state goal is to recover and recycle 50 percent of municipal solid waste.

Cocaine treatment is seminar topic

Dr. Kenneth Blum, an internationally recognized expert in the fields of psycho-pharmacology and substance abuse, will be the featured speaker at a seminar entitled, "Strategies for Clinical Intervention in the Treatment of Amphetamines, Crack and Cocaine."

The seminar will run from 8:30-noon Thursday in the Commissioner's Auditorium at 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

The seminar will focus on adjunctive treatments to aid in the long-term recovery process from crack/cocaine abuse.

It is co-sponsored by the Oakland County Health Division's Substance Abuse Office and the Macomb County Office of Substance Abuse Services.

Dr. Blum has presented more than 50 scientific seminars at universities throughout the world, and has presented more than 100 lectures across the United States. He is currently professor of pharmacology, chief of the division of addictive diseases, and director of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

OU seeks top nurse

Nominations are being accepted for the first "Nightingale Awards for Nursing," which will be presented Tuesday, May 2 by the Oakland University School of Nursing.

Nominations forms, now available, should be turned in by Saturday, April 1.

The awards are organized by the nursing school's Board of Visitors. They will be given to four registered nurses in the specialty areas of education, administration, practice and research.

Each winner will receive a nurse figurine and a \$1,000 check.

Nominations should be submitted on the prepared form to OU's School of Nursing, Nightingale Awards, 428 O'Dowd Hall, Rochester 48309-4401.

Award-winners will be given at a dinner in the Shottwell-Gustafson Pavilion at OU.

The awards are named for Florence Nightingale, the 19th century English nurse who is considered the founder of modern nursing.

Any registered nurse in the metropolitan area may be nominated. Nomination forms have been sent to all major health care institutions and schools.

Judges' pay hiked

Judges in Oakland County will take home 3.5 percent higher paychecks — retroactive to Jan. 1.

Without dissent, the county Board of Commissioners voted increases in the local portion of judges' salaries.

The state pays approximately half the salaries, and local units are allowed to supplement them. Oakland's board opted for the maximum supplements allowed by law.

Here's how pay scales look:

• 14 circuit judges — total of \$95,220 apiece, with the county pay-

ing \$38,295.

• four probate judges — total of \$91,080, with the county paying \$45,847.

• 15 Grand District judges — total of \$91,080, with the county paying \$39,847.

By a 1980 state law, circuit judges are capped at 92 percent of the salary of a Supreme Court justice; probate and district judges at 68 percent.

Supreme Court justices are paid \$103,500.

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