

Look for new county board head next year

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Commissioner Roy Rewold, R-Oakland Township, will not seek the top leadership role on the Oakland County Board of Trustees next year. "I want to spend more time on my business," said Rewold, chief executive officer for Frank Rewold & Son Inc., the Rochester construction company founded by his father. "Business has almost doubled over the last year and I want to be closer to it."

Rewold was elected to the board of commissioners in 1982 and first elected chairman of the board in 1987. He was re-elected chairman each year since then.

"Rewold said his decision to step away from the top leadership position on the board of commissioners is not related to the feedback he received as a result of the controversial positions he has taken."

His role in promoting the county's proposed \$500 million solid waste program, including the incinerator in Auburn Hills, has been linked to four unsuccessful recall attempts. "They can still try to recall me," he chuckled.

Rewold also came under some criticism for calling a closed meeting last March in Washington, D.C.,



Board chairman Roy Rewold

when he and 18 other commissioners were at a conference of the National Association of Counties.

That meeting prompted at least two complaints about commissioners violating the Michigan Open Meetings Act and eventually spawned a civil suit between the board of commissioners and Oakland Prosecutor Richard Thompson.

With Rewold not seeking re-election as chairman, there could be some behind-the-scenes maneuvering among Republicans who want to succeed him. Republicans control the board 19 to 8, an advantage that assures the GOP of most leadership positions as well as important appointments.

Two of the most likely successors mentioned are Larry Crake of Waterford and G. William Caddell of Walled Lake.

"I'm neutral (on his replacement)," said Rewold. "But I lean toward Crake."

Edison wants incinerator's energy

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Oakland's proposed solid waste program has a better chance of being approved Nov. 5, as a result of action taken by the county board last week, according to board chairman Roy Rewold.

"It will help convince voters that the solid waste program is viable and a good thing for Oakland County."

LWV gives lowdown on candidate meetings

In the first of a series on leadership development, The League of Women Voters — Oakland Area will sponsor a workshop on producing candidate nights.

The meeting is designed to help agencies organize, schedule and conduct meetings at which candidates meet the public.

It's from 7-9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2, in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen, and again from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 5.

The workshop is free for members of the Oakland-area league, \$5 for members of other leagues and \$30 for others.

ty." Rewold, an Oakland Township Republican, said Thursday after commissioners approved a contract with Detroit Edison.

Under the agreement, the county will sell energy generated by the proposed waste-to-energy incinerator to the utility for about \$20 million annually. The 2,000-ton-per-day facility proposed in Auburn Hills is expected to generate about 60,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

Rewold, R-Oakland Township, is a vocal advocate of the \$500 million solid waste program, the most ambitious and expensive project in county history.

HE'S ALSO aware that critics of the program — or, more specifically, the controversial incinerator — have vowed to mobilize voters for the election to assure defeat of the ballot proposal.

"This contract is important," Rewold said. "It will help convince independent voters that the incinerator is viable and an asset."

In other action Thursday the board:

• Approved two additional circuit court judges beginning in 1993, as has been proposed for some time. The additional judges — who with their 16-member staffs are expected to cost about \$1.4 million each — are to be elected in 1992.

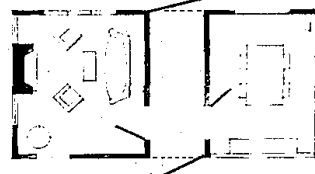
• Approved four additional assistants for Oakland County prosecutor Richard Thompson. Three of the assistants will be financed with county money and the fourth will be paid with funds from a narcotics grant.

THOMPSON HAD asked for 12 assistants, saying they are needed if he is to continue some of his controversial policies such as refusing to plea bargain.

Commissioner David Moffitt, R-Farmington Hills, said granting the four additional assistants was a good compromise. "We (commissioners) want to be tough on crime," said Moffitt. "But we must also balance the prosecutor's request against other needs in the county."

Commissioner Donald W. Jensen, R-Birmingham, said the need for new judges and additional assistant prosecutors "doesn't speak well for Oakland's crime rate. I'm sure we could put that money to better use on roads or other necessities."

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