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way this is an issue for City Council is the need to be sensitive to potential conflicts of interest.

"I'm a professional. I deal with things on a professional level. I've always been sensitive to this issue and I'm not going to let a conflict of interest occur now," he said.

Joanne Smith, current mayor, indicated support for Lichtman in his latest controversy.

"Too much can be made of this," Smith said. "People can get tired."

"I said last night (Monday) that I respect his (Lichtman's) personal opinion. After all, this is his profession and he has four children to support."

Timbercrest, being built on approximately 100 acres of former woodland on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and 12 Mile, will stretch from the expressway to the nearest subdivision to the east. It will be primarily a residential development, but will also include a strip shopping center.

The City Council initially approved the project on a vote of 4-3, and some residents launched a recall campaign against Lichtman. Later, the council reconsidered the development and then voted 6-1 for its approval.

At that point, the recall campaign mushroomed to include all of the opponents. Only councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, the lone dissenter, was not a target of recall.

The movement fizzled out when backers failed to get enough signatures on the recall petitions.

"I understand Carson Fisher does a great deal of land use law," said resident Sharon Stein, a vocal opponent of the Timbercrest development. "The fact that he doesn't recognize this as a conflict of interest is incredible and indicative of the kinds of problems we are facing with elected officials."

"I think Mr. Lichtman should resign. He thinks he can wear two hats now. You can't be all things to all people. We are concerned about that corner and all areas not yet developed in the city. He can't be objective to the residents of this city. I hope council takes charge of their obligation. We are watching closely to see what's going on there."

Vagnozzi was the councilman who raised the conflict of interest issue at the meeting on Monday. Among council members, feelings were split.

"He (Vagnozzi) kicked off the comments," Lichtman said. "There's more an element of politics here."

Lichtman, whose council term expires in November, says he is not sure if he will seek re-election. Prior to his current job, he worked at Butzel Long, the fifth largest law firm in the state, in its Birmingham office.

OCC wants help from Lansing, voters

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

As they passed a bone-cutting temporary budget, Oakland Community College trustees hoped the Legislature will hike their state aid later this month and voters will approve a local tax proposal next month.

"This will handle essential operations," Helen Kiba-Tolkadoff, chief business officer, told trustees Monday. The temporary budget will continue the current \$73 million budget for two months (July and August) of the coming fiscal year.

"It does not set tuition rates. It would pay utility bills, payroll, supplies and risk management," Kiba-Tolkadoff said. "This is kind of a unique situation."

Not discussed: How much OCC would have to raise its current \$46 per credit hour tuition, or whether 100 of the 800 employees would have to be laid off.

Voters on June 12 will decide a proposal to hike the local property tax by 0.8 mill (80 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) for seven years, which would pump \$25 million into the revenue stream, pay for a host of capital items, and avoid layoffs.

The board approved the bud-

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et extension 5-0, then scheduled June 16 for a special meeting to discuss the real FY 1995-96 budget and June 19 for passage.

Trustee Anne Scott of Royal Oak reported OCC would get a 3.6 percent boost in state aid — instead of Gov. John Engler's proposed 1 percent — under a bill approved by the House Appropriations subcommittee on higher education.

Currently, OCC gets \$18 million. Engler proposed \$18.2 million. The House panel recommends \$18.7 million.

Even with the House boost, OCC ranks last among the 29 community colleges in state aid per full-time equated student. Currently OCC gets \$1,069 per student versus a state average of \$2,162 and Gogebic's high of \$4,132.

George Cartsonis, OCC's community relations director, said OCC's low state aid was a major question voters are asking him. The apparent reasons:

"The state aid formula — which never has been fully funded — is based on a configuration that existed when OCC's enrollment was half of today's. The formula is 20 years old and has never been revised."

"The budget office tells us, 'You need to make a greater contribution' (in local taxes). Both sides of the (legislative) aisle and the governor's office tell us that."

In their rhetoric, both Republican Engler and his Democratic predecessor, James Blanchard, equated all of Oakland County with Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham and Southfield, three of the wealthiest communities in the state. Their conclusion: Oakland needs help less than the other 82 counties do.

In other budget business, the OCC board awarded new roofing contracts for:

■ Repairing the leaky roof on H Building on the Auburn Hills Campus — \$70,235 to low bidder CEI Roofing Inc. of Howell.

■ Roofing the Physical Education Building on the Highland Lakes Campus — \$132,221 to low bidder JKM Enterprises Inc. of Detroit.

The current roofs, constructed in 1976-77, have "suffered excessive corrosion damage from weather and sun exposure," said Chancellor Patsy Calkins. "Of the \$40 million in deferred maintenance needs of the college, these two roof replacements are the only projects we are able to fund from their year's \$250,000 repair, renovation and replacement budget."

The first \$40 million of new money under the June 12 ballot proposal will be earmarked for such renovations and new technology.

On campaign activities, Calkins said three mailings will be sent to voters, endorsements of the millage will be published, campus presidents are working with PTAs and service clubs, student groups are registering voters, and yard signs are being prepared.

The faculty union reported it is raising campaign money and lining up union endorsements.

On the state aid question, refer to House Bill 4422 when writing to your state legislator, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

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