

A second look

Commissioners debate millage rate...again

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Just as homeowners worry thinking in terms of a property tax cut — however small — Oakland County commissioners called a meeting to consider making it even smaller.

Commissioners were to meet today and consider adjusting the property tax cut approved last week. Instead of cutting the taxes on a house valued at \$160,000 by \$13.50 per year, commissioners are thinking of a reduction closer to \$7.50.

Notice for today's meeting was short, so short at least one commissioner wondered if there would be a quorum. "I got my notice yesterday," commissioner Dan Devine Jr., R-Bloomfield Hills, said Tuesday. "Now I'm trying to adjust my schedule so I can attend."

Devine was among those commissioners who last Thursday voted to set the 1997 tax rate at \$4.30 — compared with \$4.48

currently — per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Devine is one of six Republicans — the others being Thomas A. Law, West Bloomfield; Dennis N. Powers, Highland; Lawrence A. Obrecht, Lake Orion; and David L. Moffitt and Donn L. Wolf, both of Farmington Hills — who voted with Democrats who wanted the rate at \$4.30 instead of \$4.38, as recommended by County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

At today's meeting, Republicans will be looking for one of those Republicans to change his vote, so the rate will be \$4.38.

"I know we're not talking about a lot of money," said Devine. "But any tax cut is a step in the right direction."

Democrats, however, insist the higher rate should remain in effect. "We promised taxpayers our best effort," said commissioner Lawrence R. Pernick, D-Southfield. "I don't see the big concern over keeping the promise when we have the

money set aside for that purpose."

Pernick said the county has enough money — about \$4 million — in the millage reduction fund for the larger tax cut. "There would be no reduction in services, no real damage," he said. "All we have to do is have the political backbone to bit the bullet."

Others, however, insist the county would have to trim the work force if the tax cut is not reduced. "We have to take a close look at this," said commissioner Sue Ann Douglas, a Rochester Republican who is

chair of the finance committee. "We might be forced to eliminate jobs."

Commissioner Jeff Kingzett, D-Pontiac, was the one who proposed the deeper tax cut, a suggestion that was voted down in committee. When Kingzett offered the proposal last week, he and others were surprised at getting enough support for passage.

Kingzett's proposal — and its passage — also drew a reaction from county Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who wanted the more modest tax cut. The executive is reportedly considering a veto of last week's millage rate.

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Jewish groups sponsor candidates forum Sunday

Candidates for U.S. Senate and U.S. House will appear at a Metropolitan Detroit Council of Synagogues and Temples forum at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, at Temple Israel, 5725 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield. The forum is open to the public.

Invites include U.S. Senate candidates Carl Levin, incumbent Democrat, and Ronna Romney, Republican challenger. (Most likely her campaign manager will represent her, according to a press release.)

Also, U.S. House candidates: •11th district, Joe Knollenberg, incumbent Republican, and Morris Frumin, Democratic challenger.

•12th district, Sander Levin, Democratic incumbent, and John Pappageorge, Republican challenger.

Moderators will be Arthur Horowitz of The Jewish News and Sherry Margolis of WJBK-Fox TV, both based in South-

field.

The event is co-sponsored by several major Jewish Communal organizations.

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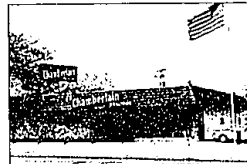
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West Bloomfield - Orchard Lake Rd.
(1/4 Mile North of 14 Mile)

Writers host Nov. 8 reading

The Writers at Work Committee of Oakland Community College will host a coffee house and reading Friday, Nov. 8, at the college's Highland Lakes Campus in Waterford. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. with poet Danny Rendleman.

Rendleman has authored four books of poetry and three chapbooks of poetry. He also writes short stories and teaches creative writing and composition at the University of

Michigan-Flint.

The second half of the evening's events will feature an open microphone session. Members of the public are invited to read from their original works on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Admission to the coffee house is \$5. Dessert and coffee will be available.

For more information call, (810) 360-3186. OCC's Highland Lakes Campus is located at 7350 Cooley Lake Road.

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