

# County Seeks Eminent Domain For Landfill

## Possible Transfer Site In Farmington

PONTIAC state for investment in solid waste disposal facilities.

Oakland County plans to ask the State Legislature to grant counties the right of eminent domain to acquire land in local communities for solid waste disposal.

That approach was revealed by Ray Alexander, director of Oakland County Department of Public Works, at a committee meeting of the county board's local and regional affairs committee.

Alexander also reported Oakland County would seek to earmark federal revenue sharing funds received by the

state for investment in solid waste disposal facilities.

LANSING has decreed that by July 1973 all communities with 10,000 or more population must present a plan of implementation for solid waste disposal.

Of the 63 communities in Oakland County, some 22 have populations exceeding 10,000. At the hearing, however, only about 25 persons were there, including commissioners, committee members, and the press.

It has been generally agreed that solid waste disposal is one which an individual community cannot solve on its own. Oakland County DPW has been charged with the task of developing an implementation plan for the entire county.

Alexander is working closely with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) which is drafting a plan for the six-county region.

"We haven't completed any plan," explains Alexander, "because we are developing a plan that will be compatible with the regional plan."

"It would be foolhardy to develop an Oakland approach without dovetailing it into the regional plan, because solid waste is a regional problem that crosses county lines."

critical and we need support of local municipalities and citizens for enabling legislation necessary to get the job done.

"Today, if the county is told to establish a site for fill, a transfer station, or for an incinerator, and the local community says 'no,' we are out of luck."

"Oakland County must have eminent domain legislation to acquire sites, and it must start very soon acquiring sites."

THE SOLUTION, both for interim and long-range plans, involve capital investments and will cost plenty.

"Revenue sharing funds going to the state should be earmarked towards the cost of changing fill sites, and building transfer stations, compacting facilities, and incinerators."

Between 1973-'75, the county must acquire a fill site in the general area of Independence Township and a second site in the vicinity of southern Lyon Township.

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Commissioner Larry Mainland had started the meeting by quoting Austin Kiplinger, publisher of the Kiplinger Newsletter and editor of Changing Times, that since 1950 the world's industrial system has produced more material goods than in the entire previous history of the world.

Fred Cheek, SEMCOG representative commented that the total waste in the six-county area was 34,000 tons a day in 1970 and is expected to climb to 51,850 tons a day by 1990.

Detroit's current incinerator is only processing 250 tons a day, Cheek reported, and the Central Wayne County Authority's incinerator will handle 850 tons a day after an expansion is completed early in 1973.

an incinerator under construction in Clinton Township will have capacity to burn 600 tons of solid waste a day.

The South Oakland Incinerator Authority burns 300 tons a day, about 20 tons a day from Lathrup alone in '72 with the ashes being hauled to fill sites in Avon Township. (The Central Wayne County Authority deposits its ashes in a stone quarry near Flat Rock.)

Cheek warned that a lot of landfill sites will be closed within a year, with the remaining ones primarily being small operations. "We must depend on fill sites for the short-term solution."

Consultants for SEMCOG will present the first draft of the long-range plan on Monday, Dec. 11, with the final plan to be delivered to COG on Feb. 28.

That report will delve into costs, how plans will be financed, which areas will be served, and what legislative requirements will be.

ALEXANDER said his department was drafting proposed legislation now for Lansing to enact that would give counties power to eminent domain.

Eminent domain is the right of government to acquire property for public health, safety or welfare. It is exercised primarily by the state to obtain right-of-ways for roads, by utilities to get easements, and by cities to purchase and condemn blighted buildings for urban renewal.

"We just cannot wait two years for the Legislature to act. And, if Oakland is successful, it will need the support of 80 per cent of local governmental units."

Alexander said a conservative estimate is that 10 million tons of waste is being collected each year in Oakland. "We will run out of sites in one year unless we acquire more."

JOSEPH BARAKAT, committee chairman, commented that the land-fill and incinerator approaches are going to become obsolete.

He suggested exploration of a new high-burning method which doesn't leave any ashes to dump. Instead, the residue can be used for byproducts such as road surfaces and other uses.

Alexander said the one he knows of that is operating in the U.S. burns only 100 tons a day. "This process would require many more incinerators in the county. It would be impractical and too costly. But, we are exploring new techniques and the new incinerators we build will be able to incorporate new technology."

Of the 350,000 tons of waste per day in the six-county region, about 51 per cent is industrial waste, nine per cent commercial, nine per cent demolition and construction waste, four per cent miscellaneous, and 27 per cent residential waste.

Cheek told the Observer that present technology makes it

possible to operate incinerators without polluting the air beyond standards set by the federal government. He said Chicago, which has the largest incinerator in the Western Hemisphere, burns 1,600 tons a day and yet meets all federal, state, and city pollution standards.

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Homeowner Is Surprised By Burglars

FARMINGTON Mrs. Ann Strand, 32430 Doherty, got a surprise when she came home Wednesday morning and found several strange men in her house, loading her appliances into a car backed into her garage.

She turned and fled to a neighbor's, where she called the township police, but the men got away with approximately \$1,000 in appliances.

Police are now looking for a "dirty white" car, a brown Buick Electra, and two men, both described as over six feet tall, black and thin. One was also described as "well-dressed."

Baker's Race Cost \$1,300

State Rep. Raymond Baker, (R-Farmington) didn't take any chances in his seventh successful re-election bid to the Michigan State House of Representatives as far as finances are concerned.

Baker, whose 64th district covers all of Farmington and the southwest section of Southfield, raised more than \$1,300 in his race against Democrat John Campbell and Conservative John Riley.

Campbell's cost for the campaign was about \$200 while Riley hadn't filed as of Dec. 5. Deadline for filing campaign expenses was Nov. 27.

Baker outpolled Campbell by a 2 to 1 margin and Riley by more than 15 to 1 in the Nov. 7 election.

Of the \$1,356 raised, \$1,100 of it was contributed by donors of \$100 or more.

Those giving more than \$100 were: Edward Morey, \$300; the Fair Auto Insurance Reform, \$200; Republican Legislative Fund \$200; Walter Carey, \$100; W.H. Kouts, \$100; Clare McKichen, \$100; and MiBank Political Action Committee, \$100.

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