

For manager selection

Criteria group formed

By SUSAN L. SILK
OAKLAND COUNTY—Creation of a nine-member committee to develop criteria for the selection of an appoint-

ed county manager—should voters approve the position Aug. 6—was approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Thursday.

The 16-8 vote of approval followed heated partisan debate with Democrats, who favored an elected executive and Republicans, who favored the appointed manager.

Committee membership will include: Bruce Love, Royal Oak city manager; Martin Casserio, vice president Pontiac Motor Division; Dr. Donald D. O'Dowd, president of Oakland University; Kenneth Morris, UAW-CIO; and Julie Evans, Oakland County League of Women Voters.

Four county commissioners also have been appointed to the committee, according to Commissioner Lillian V. Moffitt (R-15), originator of the criteria committee resolution.

Commissioner Richard R. Wilcox (R-11), Paul E. Kasper (R-23), Lawrence R. Perlick (D-20) and Patrick M. Nowak (R-25) will serve on the committee, Mrs. Moffitt said.

The criteria committee is expected to develop its ideas for full board approval and announcement to the public prior to the Aug. 6 primary, according to floor discussion at the Thursday meeting.

The primary ballot asks voters to vote "yes" or "no" to unify county government. In a second question, voters will be asked, if they favor unifying, whether the county should be headed by a full-time appointed manager or an elected executive.

The Republican-dominated (18-9) board of commissioners would select a manager within 60 days of the August primary if that option receives the most votes.

All 27 board seat terms expire Jan. 1, 1975.

"If the voters are to make an informed decision it is the responsibility of the commissioners to provide them with the information as to how we would select the manager," Nowak said.

"Then the voters can see what our intentions are," Nowak added.

Democrats, rising to speak against the resolution, echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Alexander C. Perinoff (D-21) who called the committee formation "premature."

"We would have plenty of time after the election if the voters decide to have an appointed manager to form the committee," Perinoff said.

"WHO'S KIDDING who?" charged Commissioner Leo Coy (R-24). "Everybody knows that the party in control will appoint that county manager behind closed doors," he added.

Democratic caucus leader Commissioner Bernard Lennon of Farmdale moved to table the resolution until after the primary election, but the suggestion was defeated by a 9-16 vote.

"I am shocked," Commissioner Moffitt said, at charges that her resolution was a "political ploy."

"This board took responsible action to place both forms of administrator on the ballot and now the people know who the candidates are for elected executive."

"THE APPOINTED manager position is in limbo. The people should know how this board feels, they should know what criteria this board will use to make that selection."

"The people should know that we are trying to get the best qualified man or person possible for the job," Mrs. Moffitt said.

In separate action the board approved a resolution suggesting that the County Tax Allocation Board—the panel that annually spreads the 15 mills of taxes between the county government, townships and schools—establish a fixed millage rate.


In the past each year the units have been forced to press their case for a share of the 15 mills before the board and then wait for an announcement of their portion of the revenue. Oakland County received 5.26 mills for 1974.

UNDER THE resolution prepared by Commissioners Anne Hobart (R-4) and Mary M. Dearborn (R-22), the county annually would receive 5.2 mills, the townships 1.1 mills, the Oakland Schools 2 mill and other school districts 8.5 mills.

The board suggestion will be forwarded to the tax board for possible consideration at its next meeting within two weeks, according to commission chairman Wilcox.


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