

Commissioners split on secret session

By SUSAN L. SILK

OAKLAND COUNTY — County commissioners stormed from a committee meeting Tuesday when members of the media and a few interested citizens failed to leave their meeting room after the officials voted to go into a closed, executive session.

Public Protection and Judiciary Committee Chairman Commissioner Henry W. Hoot of Troy, R-14, asked his six colleagues to approve the closed door meeting for discussion of complaints of delays in filling personnel vacancies in the county jail.

County Sheriff Johannes F. Spreen, Prosecutor L. Brooks Patton, chairman of the board of auditors—county manager Daniel T. Murphy, director of personnel John Whiterup, and commissioner members of the personnel practices committee were invited to the meeting.

"DISCUSSION of individuals and their performances" was the reason for the executive session, Hoot said.

"If we are really sincere in solving the very crucial problems of filling the vacant positions in the sheriff's department, we have to sit down and talk turkey, candidly without any inhibitions," said Commissioner Wally Gabler of Royal Oak, R-12, as television cameras illuminated the scene.

Commissioners Alexander Perinoff of Southfield, D-21, Niles Olson of Pontiac, D-3, and Donald Quinn of Troy, R-13 objected to the move.

"This is the first indication I have had that this would be a discussion of personalities and their job performances," said Olson.

"BETWEEN YOU (Hoot) and whoever else set this up, you have a very different opinion of what is going to happen here," added Olson.

At a July 22 meeting of the public protection and judiciary committee, Lt. Harry Jones, jail supervisor, told members of his personnel department which held up the promotion of 13 detention officers I to detention officer II. Almost a year had passed since the Board of Commissioners approved the move, Jones said.

Perinoff, reading from the July 22 meeting minutes, describing plans for Tuesday's meeting, said those notes called for an open meeting.

"NOWHERE has it been indicated that this would be an executive meeting or that we're going to discuss personalities," Perinoff said.

Quinn charged that because the sheriff is a Democrat, "everybody wants to surround Sheriff Spreen with antagonism, mystery and intrigue."

Commissioners Robert Button of Royal Oak, R-11, Dr. Joseph

Montante of Orchard Lake, R-26, Gabler and Hoot voted for the executive meeting. Olson, Perinoff and Quinn voted against the move.

All the commissioners face reelection campaigns except Quinn. The Troy commissioner was defeated in his party primary Aug. 6.

DEFEATED in their effort to keep the meeting open, Perinoff threatened to leave the executive meeting, and Olson announced intentions to hold a press conference afterwards to "tell everything that went on."

Hoot reminded the press that the committee was then closing its doors, but no one moved except Hoot, who after a few moments hesitation bolted from the conference room.

"It doesn't look like they want to solve what they came here to do," Gabler said.

Committee advocates of the executive session followed closely behind their chairman. A building security guard appeared to clear

the room, but Murphy firmly ordered the officer to retreat.

At 2:25 p.m. Hoot returned to gavel the meeting to a close. Although only one item of the lengthy agenda was acted upon, attending committee members will receive their \$35 per day fee.

AS HOOT and his supporters milled about in the hallway, Olson took over the meeting in his capacity as vice-chairman. Without a quorum, he declared an informal session—no formal positions could be drafted but discussion continued.

Spreen, Jones, Whiterup and Murphy discussed for almost an hour and a half the lengthy problem of creating the new detention officer II positions, establishing a system of evaluation for the promotions, union negotiations and inter-departmental conflicts.

Olson, Quinn and Perinoff, joined by personnel practices member Commissioner Lillian Moffitt of Birmingham, R-15 were

told that at 4 p.m. 25 detention officers I would be taking the written test to qualify for the vacancies. Those chosen for elevation could be promoted and on their new jobs within two weeks, said Jones.

Spreen and Whiterup agreed to future monthly meetings of personnel and Sheriff Department officials.

SPREEN "appreciated the atmosphere of consolidation" and the opportunity of "shedding some light on the problem I inherited," he said.

Murphy quickly left as the session ended.

Democrat Eugene W. Kuthy, facing Republican Murphy in the November race for county executive attended the entire meeting and congratulated Olson for the informal discussion.

"I came prepared to protest any indictment of the sheriff but there was no need for that," Kuthy said.

McDonald, Farrell win bids

FARMINGTON — A small voter turnout gave candidates in the 27th county commissioner race small but adequate margins of victory in the Tuesday primary election.

John J. McDonald, 29681 Moran, Farmington Hills, took the Republican nomination with 615 votes.

Gerald J. Farrell, 31565 Marblehead Drive, Farmington Hills, won the Democratic nomination with 649 votes.

Unsuccessful candidates for the Democratic nomination were J. Andrew Ditzhazy, with 499 votes and William Hatton, with 511 votes.

UNSUCCESSFUL Republican candidates were August Barbrick Jr., 446 votes, Donna R. Sklar, 212 votes and Nancy Dittmar with 78 votes.

The 27th commission seat was formerly held by Wilbur V. Brotherton.

Farrell and McDonald will vie for the seat in the Aug. 5 general election.

The district includes the southern half of Farmington Hills, Farmington and the southwest corner of Southfield.

New plan

(Continued from page 1)

ily residential, is now proposed to be a combination of multi-family residential and office development.

South of the I-96 Freeway, other tracts of land on the east side of Farmington Road are designated by the updated plan for apartments, education-research-office and industrial uses.

THE OLD winery property on the south side of Grand River west of Orchard Lake Road, which in 1966 plan was designated for industrial use, is now designed in the updated plan for commercial development.

There are a number of other changes generally reflecting zoning decisions that have been made over the past eight years.

The master use plan will not replace zoning ordinances nor would it have any effect on the use of private property.

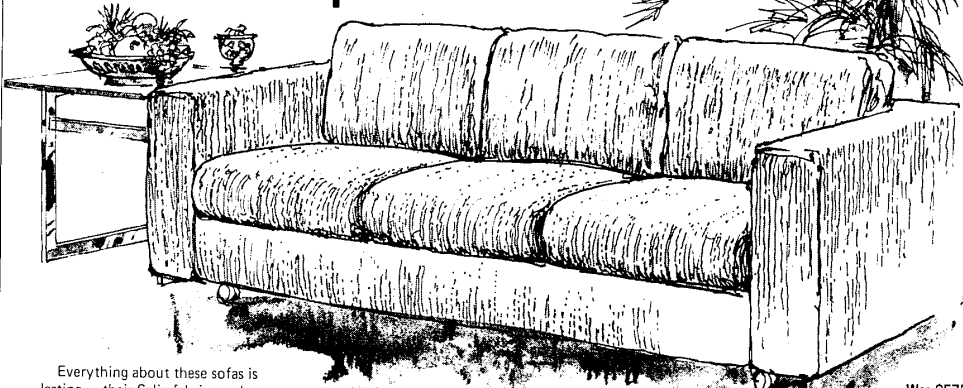
The plan is designed to provide a guideline and framework for the city's zoning decisions in the future. It is not designed to commit the city to specific zoning actions.

The planning commission's Sept. 9 hearing will begin at 8 p.m., at City Hall, on Library Street.

The plan will be posted in the city hall for 30 days prior to the hearing.

At the public hearing, comments and suggestions by residents and property owners will be considered by the planning commission before any official action is taken.

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