

# Board approves salary hikes for district judges

By MARY LOU CALLAWAY

The West Bloomfield Township Board reluctantly agreed to raise 48th District Court judges salaries beginning Jan. 1.

"I have no enthusiasm for this, but we have to parallel Oakland County's contribution to the 52nd District," said Supervisor John Doherty Monday.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved a supplemental salary of \$19,962 earlier this month. The state pays each judge \$29,950 mak-

ing the total pay beginning in January \$49,912.

The township board vote was 4-2 with Trustees Raymond Holland and Dennis Valsis dissenting, Trustee Welton Yeager was absent.

Bloomfield Township has already agreed to the raise, but Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham have not yet voted, according to 48th District Court Administrator Lana Hanrahan. Each is a control unit.

The salaries are to be pro-rated upon the case loads of each control unit. The

court also serves the communities of Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake which have no voting controls and do no fund the court.

"In the last few years, we told them (judges) if the county went to the state (pay) limit, we would. I admit the court has come down off its marble pedestal in the last three years," said Doherty.

BUT HOLLAND complained, "the judges come in here every two months for raises."

He referred to Presiding Judge Gus Cifelli's frequent appearances at board meetings and special meetings asking for higher salaries.

Holland has consistently voted against every raise since the court was established more than 10 years ago, replacing the former justice of the peace system.

"This is the third or fourth raise they've asked for this year. They should go back to private practice," complained Valsis.

Doherty warned, "They will be back.

But I'm not going to have him (Cifelli) coming in here again to get on the agenda. It's for the birds."

Doherty added the three township officers will meet with Cifelli in any future negotiations rather than tie up board time.

"I don't want to see Cifelli in here in 1980," said Clerk Betty Sue Dupree.

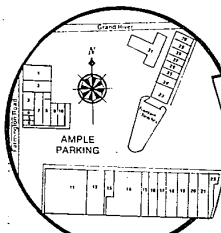
The other district court judges are Carl Ingraham and David Breck.

BOARD MEMBERS also complained that the court's pension and fringe ben-

efits are greater than those of the 52nd district.

In September, the board voted against a raise on the grounds that the 52nd district wasn't getting a pay hike. It was because of that commitment that Doherty said he felt the board must keep its word to match the salaries of the 52nd district.

Doherty has long wanted the 52nd district to take over West Bloomfield. But attempts at transferring the court have failed.



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