



County roads: few repairs ahead

Don't look for any new local road paving, resurfacing, new equipment and staffing from the Oakland County Road Commission during 1981.

All were deleted by the road commission to balance the \$35.2 million OCRC budget.

Although paving and resurfacing projects will suffer in this year's budget, road grading and pothole maintenance will continue at last year's levels, road commission officials said.

THE THREE-MAN Road Commission approved its 1981 budget at a special Dec. 30 meeting.

To offset depressed 1981 revenues, \$315,000 was appropriated from the 1980 balance, and a one-time equipment allowance of \$640,000 was taken from the State Trunkline Fund, said John Grubba, OCRC managing director.

Grading roads and patching potholes will require spending 7 percent more than last year, but revenues to the 1981 budget increased by just half of one percent, officials said. The road commission will use \$2 million of state gasoline and weight tax revenues for road construction in 1981 in contrast to \$4.7 million last year and \$6.2 million in 1979.

Federal aid totaling \$5.3 million will help the county's construction efforts. According to Grubba, "If it weren't for federal aid, we would scarcely have a construction program next year."

Income from the state-collected gas and weight taxes is down by 11 percent, Grubba said. Twin reasons: higher gasoline prices and smaller cars have meant less fuel consumption per mile, and the recession has meant less driving by Michigan motorists.

The road commission will defer \$900,000 of spending on new road equipment and add only one new position to the 536-member staff — an attorney to assist with increasing liability claims and lawsuits, Grubba said.

FIVE PROJECTS are planned for Oakland County roads this year with federal aid:

- **Glengary Road:** Commerce Township will provide \$610,000 and the road commission \$270,000 of the estimated \$880,000 cost to upgrade the gravel road to a two-lane pavement. Construction during 1981 will provide skirting around an environmentally sensitive quaking bog between Wixom and Benstein roads, road officials said.
- **Big Beaver road:** A four-lane boulevard from west of Coolidge and east of Livernois will undergo construction this year. Federal funds amounting to \$2.9 million, with \$660,000 of county road funds will pay for the improvement.
- **Ten Mile Road:** Right-of-way acquisition and part of reconstruction for widening between Telegraph and Northwestern in Southfield will cost \$776,000 in federal money, \$130,000 of county road funds and \$130,000 from the city of Southfield. Most of the \$3.5 million funding will arrive in 1982, according to county road officials.
- **Twelve Mile Road:** \$180,000 in federal funds will help offset the \$240,000 bill for widening between John R and Dequindre. The road commission will pay \$30,000 and Madison Heights will provide \$30,000.
- **Orchard Lake road:** right-of-way acquisition for widening between Grand River and I-696 in Farmington Hills will be possible this year with \$600,000 in federal funds, \$100,000 from the road commission and \$100,000 from the local community.

Classes include dance, bankruptcy

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