

County board backs Rewold—'no conflict'

By Kathy Parrell
staff writer

An Oakland County commissioner, criticized by a fellow builder for constructing the new Rochester Hills courthouse, has received bipartisan backing from the county board.

"I think it's all resolved," said Commissioner Roy Rewold, R-Oakland Township. He denied any "conflict of interest" between his roles as commissioner and president of Frank Rewold & Son Inc., Rochester Hills.

"Hopefully, it's a dead issue."



Roy Rewold
"This looks wrong"

THE BOARD OF commissioners last week approved 24-0 a resolution acknowledging Rewold as a principal in the construction firm building the 52nd District Court-3rd Division.

Abstaining from the vote was Commissioner Rewold, who is president of Frank Rewold & Son Inc.

Rewold sought the board action after a state legislator asked Attorney General Frank Kelley to rule on whether Oakland County properly awarded a contract for the new courthouse.

AT THE REQUEST of Rochester Hills builder James Baldwin, state Rep. Matt Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, sought an opinion on the board's hiring of Dryden as developer for the district court.

Rewold's firm bid to construct the project for R.G. Dryden and Associates, which will lease the space to the county for 10 years.

Dunaskis said state law requires three-fourths of the board to approve a contract in which a commissioner has an interest.

The vote in March to lease a courthouse from Dryden was 14-7. At the time, Rewold abstained from voting on the project.

"I'm not a lawyer, but this just looks as though it's wrong. But the resolution passed by the commissioners may take care of it."

THE HEAD OF the Republican caucus, Rewold said he told other commissioners he would be bidding on the project. He also asked the county's corporation counsel and his own attorney if there were any conflict of interest.

"I haven't bid on any work that has gone through the Planning and Building Committee," said Rewold, who sits on the committee. "But this isn't a county project or a county structure. It's being built for a private corporation."

A third-generation family firm started by Rewold's father in 1918, the firm has built several area churches, the Avon Township Public Library and all Oakland University structures except Meadow Brook Hall and the Dodge farmhouse. It constructs new buildings as well as renovations.

Hearings slated on public transit

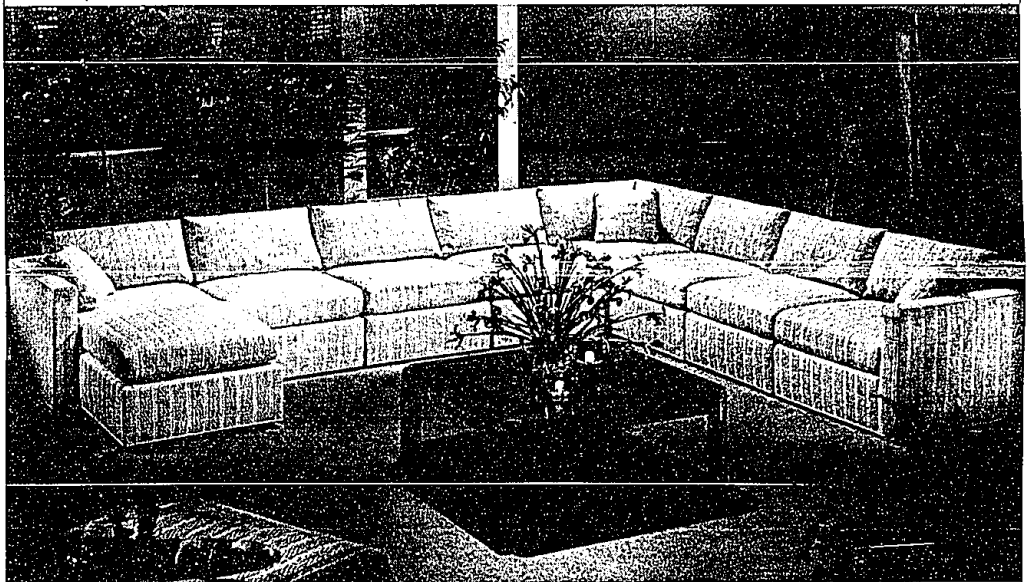
Public transportation will be the subject of a series of public meetings in Oakland County. The hearings will be hosted by Urban Mobility Corporation, the firm conducting the Oakland County private sector feasibility study.

Funded by a \$108,500 grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, the study will examine the potential for private sector investment in providing public transportation.

Consultants will seek opinions of area residents on transportation needs at three locations on Tuesday, May 21. The sessions will be from 9-11 a.m. in the CAI Building, 5640 Williams Lake Road, Waterford; 2-4 p.m. in Southfield City Chambers, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield; and 7-9 p.m. in Royal Oak City Chambers, 211 Williams, Royal Oak.

The public is invited to attend. For more information call Jean Willoughby at 858-1422.

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