

Bond issue allows \$6 million in road work

The Board of Oakland County Road Commissioners has adopted a revised fiscal 1986 budget which provides \$6 million of additional road improvements, largely from the proceeds of \$5.5 million worth of bond revenue.

The bond money will be used to resurface 40 miles of county roads that have badly deteriorated, according to John R. Gnaou, road commission chairman.

Reconstruction of the intersection of Big Beaver and Dequindre roads in Troy also is included.

In addition to the \$5.5 million of bond proceeds, other additions to the revenue side of the budget are \$453,000 of federal aid, \$320,000 of interest and \$754,000 of appropriated fund balance.

The OCHR operating budget now totals \$53.3 million — compared to \$46.4 million as adopted in September.

Michigan Department of Transportation reimbursements for work on state trunklines is up \$18,000. The federal aid total becomes \$1,020,000. Bonds and loan proceeds become \$5,020,000. Many of the areas remain unchanged.

"Modifications to our liability self-insurance and risk management program account for many of the adjustments,"

Gnaou said.

Another major difference between the revised budget and the one originally adopted is that only four new positions are authorized, instead of 22.

"PART OF the reason is the need to make up the \$770,000 net cost of debt service on the bonds in fiscal 1986," Gnaou said.

"Another part is the uncertainty about outlays for liability damage awards in 1987 and beyond."

"A single catastrophic loss could force us to use general funds. We don't

feel it's a good idea to add staff now that might have to be laid off in less than a year," said Gnaou.

"Claims against reserve funds for accidents this year will begin to have an impact in fiscal 1987. Also, until several months from now, we won't know whether insurance will be available or affordable to cover liabilities occurring in 1987 and beyond," he said.

PROJECTS ADDED to the fiscal 1986 road improvement program are all for resurfacing of existing pavement which has deteriorated.

"Without borrowing, we wouldn't have the money for such work. Yet, the roads targeted are badly deteriorated and should be resurfaced now," he said.

"They'll only get worse if we wait."

The resurfacing projects slated for intersections in West Bloomfield and Troy are among 16 new projects. Re-

construction of the Big Beaver/Dequindre intersection is one of two projects to get substantially more funding than previously expected.

The other project to get more funding is the reconstruction of the intersection of Pontiac Trail and Middle in South Lyon.

AREA ROADS targeted for resurfacing include:

- Richardson Road between Hagerty and Green Lake roads in West Bloomfield Township.
- Franklin between Long Lake and Maple roads in Bloomfield Township.
- South Boulevard between Adams and Livernois in Troy.

Ross talks tonight on economy

Doug Ross, director of the Michigan Department of Commerce, will discuss "Michigan's Economic Development Program" at 7 tonight on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community

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