

Gosling: county's committee connoisseur

By Tim Richard
staff writer

It's basic: The real work of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners is done in committees.

Ask Marilyn Gosling, R-Bloomfield Hills. A four-term commissioner, she attended virtually every meeting of the board's six committees last year, whether she was a member or not. Each committee and the full board met every two weeks — a total of 14 meetings a month.

A connoisseur of the process, Gosling dislikes the notion, advanced by county Executive Dan Murphy, of reducing the board to five or seven full-time members and doing away with committees.

"My preference has been, since 1980, that the maximum should be 15," she said. "I've always felt a smaller board is better, though that view is not popular with the (current) board."

BUT OAKLAND would lose dedicated and competent part-time commissioners, particularly lawyers and business people, if there were only seven full timers, Gosling said.

"I can see a group larger than seven. A real benefit is the diversity we have — the different backgrounds and experiences. And we can keep the salaries down (currently about \$19,000) and still have good people running."

A board as small as seven, she

feared, would have several other disadvantages:

- It could develop political "gridlock" if one member were absent and a 3-3 split developed.
- Each member would represent 157,000 people — twice as many as the average state representative. In her view, it's important for county commissioners to keep in touch with local units, and Gosling represents parts of three — Bloomfield Township, Rochester Hills and Troy.
- Each member would have to become familiar with every facet of county government. As it is, the work will be divided among five committees.

THIS YEAR the transportation committee was abolished — "probably a good move. It had very little work to do. That might change if we get into privatization (of public transit) or an urban mobility plan," she said.

The transportation committee spent 1 1/2 years looking over the Oakland County Road Commission's ideas for increasing taxes and fees for roads. The state Legislature rejected all plans but one, and county voters rejected it 4-1 in November.

This year the general government committee will take over the transportation committee's work. Gosling said the committee will have to change if it wants to accomplish much.

"The general government committee tends to be more of a reactive rather than a pro-active committee," she said. "That's a great danger. A lot could be done. You can't just sit in Committee Room A (where panels meet). You have to go

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— Marilyn Gosling
Oakland County commissioner



marks to Richard Kuhn, R-Orion Plains, for backgrounding himself fully on issues before the health and human services committee.

AT FULL BOARD meetings, Democratic commissioners present minority versions of issues, particularly on the budget. Republicans, who will have a 20-7 majority this year, rarely argue with the Democrats — just vote them down.

Gosling thinks that's a big mistake. "I've been restrained several times (from answering Democrats). They (fellow Republicans) tell me, 'Let them have their say.'"

"But it makes me angry. They (Democrats) sit through the finance committee meetings and don't say anything. Then they jump at up board meetings. I think it's prudent politics to answer them on the spot. They're making challenges which aren't answered."

Gosling was elected to the county board in 1980 after serving in non-governmental civic groups. This year the board re-elected her one of three delegates to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

You can probably spot her at all SEMCOG meetings, too.

to the Legislature, set up meetings, contact key people."

Most commissioners serve on two committees, but Gosling has three assignments — finance, where all tax and budget matters go; health and human services, and personnel.

THE BOARD has argued about whether the chairman should continue to serve on only one committee. "The rule is bad," said Gosling. "It cuts their (chairman's) sources of information."

"Doc Caddell (Dr. G. William Caddell, chair of the finance committee) depends on me to tell him what happens in the health and personnel committees — not only what they did but what was said."

If Gosling isn't sitting at the table as a committee member, she's in the

audience section at the side. More than one late-arriving reporter has received a synopsis of the proceedings by whispering to white-haired lady. "What's going on?"

She rates Caddell, R-Walled Lake, a master of the county budget, as the best committee chairman she has served with. She also gives high

Exec heads transit panel

Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy has been named chairman of the National Association of County Organization Transportation Steering Committee.

Murphy, previously vice chairman, was appointed to fill a vacan-

cy. His term expires in July.

The Transportation Steering Committee is a 12-member committee responsible for developing and adopting NACO's policy on federal transportation issues regarding roads, bridges, mass transit and airports.

Revis retires as OLHSA chief

Edward P. Revis is retiring after years as executive director of the Oakland Livingston Home Service Agency.



Edward P. Revis often honored

It will be difficult to find a successor with Revis' stature, personality, charisma, vast knowledge and dynamic approaches," said Carolyn C. MacAdam, chairwoman of the OLHSA board. A search committee is seeking a replacement.

Revis, 56, of Pontiac, has been with the two-county agency for 24 years. He will remain in the Pontiac area.

County commissioner Donald Jensen, a member of the OLHSA board, said the county places "great trust" in Revis' management.

With a staff of 400 and budgets ranging from \$7 million to \$15 million, OLHSA administers programs for the low-income, elderly and disabled. Revis was credited with starting Project Growth, a vocational services for dropouts and adults; expanding the pre-school program; head start to include a home-centered program; and creating a department to administer home weatherization, repair and fuel assistance services for low-income persons.

A graduate of Pontiac Central

High and Central Michigan University, Revis has been honored by the Clinton Valley Boy Scouts Council, Pontiac Rotary Club, the Pontiac Central High hall of fame and the Boys and Girls Club of Pontiac.

Maccabees sold to British firm

Maccabees Life Insurance Co. of Southfield is no longer a mutual company, owned by policyholders.

It has converted to a stock company and sold its stock to Royal Financial Services Inc., a subsidiary of Royal Financial Services Inc. That firm is a subsidiary of Royal Group, Inc., which is a U.S.-based subsidiary of Royal Insurance Holdings PLC of London, England.

Maccabees spokesman Michael A. McGrath said policyholders approved the conversion and sale Dec. 19. The state insurance commissioner approved the reorganization Dec. 21.

Royal Financial Services last October contributed \$80 million to the capital of Maccabees through the purchase of a capital note.

MACCABEES was founded in 1878 in Detroit as a fraternal insurance company and became a mutual insurance company in 1901. It has more than \$20 billion of life insurance in force, and annual written premiums exceed \$250 million.

Maccabees will remain headquartered in Michigan under its present management, but Royal Financial Services will appoint three additional directors to Maccabees' board.

IN THE DEAL, Royal Financial Services paid \$110 million to Maccabees. Of that, \$100 million will be distributed to policyholders promptly.

An additional \$10 million may be distributed later, depending on the satisfaction of certain conditions, McGrath said.

Through subsidiaries, Royal Insurance Holdings PLC conducts business in 80 countries, with 20,000 employees in some 500 offices. Its combined assets are more than \$20 billion, and annual written premiums exceeding \$5 billion.

Rowe joins 'leaders' plan

Debra Rowe, director of Oakland Community College's Futures Institute, will participate in the Leaders program, an international leadership training program for women administrators in two-year colleges.

The program enhances the skills for decision-making roles in two-year institutions.

With the college since January 1982, Rowe will be paired with a mentor at OCC to work on projects that will aid the college and foster

individual professional growth. The daughter of Beatrice and Seymour Rowe of Southfield, she is a graduate of Southfield-Lathrup High School, Yale University and the University of Michigan.

The program is sponsored by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges, a consortium of community college districts in the United States and Canada, and by the American Association of Women in Community and Junior Colleges.

Natural gas prices drop

A typical residential gas customer of Consumers Power Co. will save approximately \$16 in January compared to December 1988 because of lower gas costs. A typical industrial gas customer will save about \$615 for the month.

The typical residential customer using 25,000 cubic feet will pay approximately \$120 in January compared to \$138 in December.

"We are the lowest cost, major gas utility in the state, and we intend to maintain our competitive position in 1989," said Michael G. Morris, execu-

tive vice president for natural gas for Consumers Power.

He said the Jackson-based utility has diversified its gas supply base through negotiating contracts with U.S. and Canadian suppliers. It has made maximum use of purchasing opportunities on the lower cost spot market.

Consumers Power, the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy Corp., serves most Oakland County suburbs and some Wayne County suburbs among 215 cities and villages in 40 Lower Peninsula counties.

Estée Lauder pioneers a new direction in color for 1989.

Heading West



Heading West Clear to Brilliant Eyes. Wide open spaces. And the colors that capture it all. Strong, sunbright colors and soft, muted neutrals. Swept from the prairie and desert land. Golden sunsets, prairie roses, vintage signs and uncommon days. The best of the golden west is now from Estée Lauder. Celebrate the new year with a new face from Estée Lauder. Warm sunny days with the ropes, bonnets and hats from the desert. Estée Lauder makeup artists will be demonstrating new techniques now through January 28. Call your favorite Hudson's store for an appointment.

Luscious Creme Monarchs in Luscious Black, \$17. Published Performance Red Lipgloss in Golden Red, Orchid or Orange, \$4. Tender Blusher in Golden Coral, \$15. Perfect Line Lip Pencils in Rose Border, Orange Sun, \$3.99. All-Day Lipstick in Wild Card, Aspen Card or Fire Raspberry, \$16. Eye Definer Base in Sage, Peachblow, \$16. Not shown: Pressed Satin Eyeshadow Trio in Canyon Rose/White Stone Pink, \$16. Eye Contouring Pencil in Berranette, \$16. Concealer.

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