Grand jury gets funds; courthouse plan held

passed, but another resolution requesting an additional \$25,000 for innance committee. The courthouse pre-design didn't even make it onto the agenda during Thursday's meeting of the Oakland Share Sh

Area superintendents aren't counting money from ruling

By Philip A. Sherman stoff writer

At least four area school superin-tendents expect an appeal of the re-cent Michigan Court of Appeals rul-ing that would turn over \$360 million to local school districts.

to local school districts.

The ruling stems from a suit filed
by Oakland County that challenged
the constitutionality of a 1980 law
that reclassified some state spending
rules in apparent contradiction to
the Headlee amendment, passed in
1978.

Headles

the Header amendment, passed in 1988. Headlee amendment, passed in 1989. Headlee required the state to recurrent of the tax money it collects to local schools and governments. The suit was filled because he 1890 law said money for mental health and schools already was folded into the 11.6 percent returned.

THE APPEALS COURT ruled the 1980 for a long time, the said. The collects of the said that the said Headlee required the state to re-turn 41.6 percent of the tax money it collects to local schools and govern-ments. The sult was filed because the 1980 law sald money for mental health and schools already was fold-ed into the 41.6 percent returned.

money was not in that 41.6 percent, and in fact the state illegally had withheld the funds from local gov-

withheld the funds from local governments.

"I think that's a very appropriate decision," add floger Garvelink, Birmingham schools superintendent. "I hought all along the state had misinterpreted Headtee."
Garvelink expects the ruling to be appealed by the state, however. "That means we're several years added, John Schultz, Rochester schools. John Schultz, Rochester schools."

schools. "But I would be surprised if it isn't appealed. I happen to agree with the decision the court made."

Michael Flanagan, interim super-intendent for Farmington schools, said "it seems like everything relat-ed to that, from day one, has not worked out in our favor," when asked if he thought the state would appeal.

"WE'RE DELIGHTED with any interpretation that's going to get this back within the spirit of the Headles amendment," Flanagan added.

State budget director Shelby Solomon said tast week he doesn't know where the state would get the money to return to local governments. He did say, however, that evan if was state didn't appeal, the money probably would not come from new taxets.

member citizen's grand jury, which will begin Sept. 1. He was confident his resolution would be accepted by the committee and passed July 20 by the full board because it already had been through the public services committee and has "widespread support from the community," the sheriff and the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce.

Thompson's funding request had to go through the committee because seating a grand jury is not a planned, and therefore not a budgeted, item.

"THE JURY was not on my budget when it (budget) was approved. It's an extraordinary part of the criminal justice system that can only be called into existence by the court, "Thompson said.

Since the county has not seated agrand jury since 1972, Thompson said disto office used figures from a Macomb County grand jury as the basis for its request. That jury, seated from January through September 1986, cost \$30,840.



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As proposed, the Oakhand County grand jury line items include:

• \$47,056 for juro's fees and onlies ge.

• \$7,000 for professional services.

• \$2,860 for reporter and stenopshaper services.

• \$10,400 for transcripts on appeals.

• \$11,70 for wilness fees and miles ge.

• \$15,000 for special prosecuting interrepts.

• \$45,014 for building space and stallogations.

Pernick was folned by several cost allocation.
Thompson added he will seek additional funding if the grand jury runs longer than six months.

AT THE OPENING of the meeting, chairman G. William Caddell, R. Walled Lake, asked the committee to a gend and and a resolution that, if approved, would have



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New county snow trucks on order

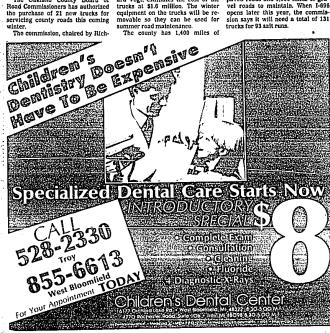
The Oakland County Board of Road Commissioners has authorized the purchase of 21 new trucks for servicing county roads this coming winter.

The commission of the commission o

585-4520

ard Vogt, estimates the cost of the trucks at \$1.6 million. The winter equipment on the trucks will be re-movable so they can be used for summer road maintenance. The county has 1,400 miles of

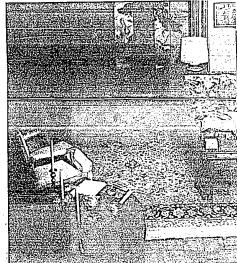
paved roads and 1,000 miles of gra-vel roads to maintain. When I-696 opens later this year, the commis-sion says it will need a total of 131 trucks for 93 salt runs.



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