

County board swallows Thompson's medicine

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

It was bitter medicine. But like an 11-year-old forced to eat his vegetables, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners grimaced, held its nose and swallowed.

"The medicine was a consent judgment forced on commissioners by county prosecutor Richard Thompson, who two months ago filed suit against the board for violating the Michigan Open Meetings Act," he explained, a point that some lawyers believe is valid.

One of them, William Hampton, who represented the board on this matter, said ambiguities in the 1976 act contributed to a misunderstanding that spawned the ill-conceived meeting.

For one thing, Hampton said, the act does not define "deliberation." Commissioners knew the act prohibits deliberations. But commissioners did not believe they were deliberating. No vote was taken, no minutes kept.

"The state Legislature should take note of this case," Hampton said. "The original act did not define 'deliberation,' but we did."

More irksome for commissioners, was the thorny issue of whether or not the meeting itself was wrong.

In September — when the prosecutor offered a similar agreement

"I didn't realize we were violating

the open meetings act," board chairman Roy Rewold, who called the meeting, said Thursday afternoon during a press conference with prosector Thompson.

For most it was a matter of principle, although some worried such an admission might be used against them in a future election.

But the judgment — signed by Circuit Judge Hilda R. Gage — states the meeting in Washington, D.C., "may have constituted an unintentional violation of the Open Meetings Act."

WITH STINGING WORDS, the prosecutor summarized what he considers the impact of the agreement. "It gives commissioners clear direction of their responsibilities under

the Open Meetings Act," said Thompson.

It also stipulates:

• The board can not convene a quorum outside the boundaries of Oakland County.

• The board must give notice of upcoming meetings, open them to the public and keep minutes — all requirements of the open meetings act.

"The agreement provides everything we would have gotten in court," said the prosecutor. "But we avoided costly litigation."

Just how costly was indicated by Hampton, who said his bill for representing commissioners thus far was "about \$2,000." The bill would have been higher, he said, but he routinely reduces his legal fees to \$100 an

hour for Oakland County business, compared with \$200 an hour for other clients.

Rewold, a Republican from Oakwood Township, said he too is satisfied. "We never meant to violate the open meetings act and it will never happen again," he said.

At the same time, however, many commissioners were concerned. "It grinds me to have to say I might have done something wrong," said commissioner John E. Olsen, R-Huntington Woods.

Besides reaffirming the contention she had done nothing wrong, commissioner Krause suggested the prosecutor was toying with board members. "He (Thompson) says he won't plea bargain. But what's he doing here . . . ?"

Before Krause could finish, commissioner Thomas Law answered with a chuckle, "plea bargaining."

Law, an attorney from West Bloomfield, was one of the most vocal critics in September when Thompson proposed a similar settlement. He changed his mind, Law said, to save tax money.

"Two weeks ago, when the prosecutor first offered the consent judgment, commissioner David L. Moffitt, R-Farmington Hills, urged his colleagues to accept. 'He (Thompson) might take us to court just to teach us a lesson,' warned Moffitt, a lawyer.

As Thursday's caucus drew to an end, Moffitt said with bittersweet satisfaction, "I hate to say I told you so"

Moods, foods on tap

Zonta International of Southeast Oakland County will hold its monthly membership meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.

The program is on "Moods 'n' Foods and Time of Day" — or how to manipulate food choices around the clock for the highest productivity each day.

Zonta International is a worldwide classified services organization of women professionals and executives. For information call Maureen Meadows at 435-0538.

Chelsea Community Hospital presents:

A Public Education Forum HEADACHE

Continuing Dialogue on Topics of Current Interest

Guest Speaker: JOEL R. SAPER, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Author, Educator & Head Pain Expert
President of the American Association for the Study of Headache
Director of the Michigan Head Pain & Neurological Institute

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1991

- Advances in Research
- New & Current Treatments
- More Myths About Headaches
- What You Can Do for Yourself
- The Development of a Michigan Support Group
- The American Council for Headache Education (ACHE)

Novi Hilton
I-275 at 8 Mile Road

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Educational Material Distribution & Refreshments
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Lecture
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Questions & Answers, General Discussion

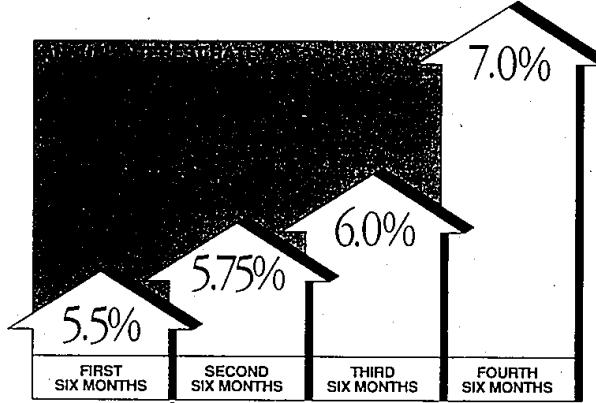
CALL (800) 612-5077
To Register or for Additional Information



Chelsea Community Hospital
775 South Main Street
Chelsea, Michigan 48118

There is no charge for this lecture thanks to a generous educational grant from Glaxo & Sandoz Pharmaceuticals

INTEREST IN OUR NEW CD IS RISING.



Get increasing interest without being locked in.

By offering a safe investment that gives you a rising rate of return and liquidity as well, interest is running high in our new Rising-Rate CD.

The rate earned for each six-month period rises as the chart above indicates. Giving you 7.0% APR during the final six-month period. You can withdraw all of your investment within the first 10 days of any six-month

RISING RATE CD

The rate earned for each six-month period rises as the chart above indicates. Giving you 7.0% APR during the final six-month period. You can withdraw all of your investment within the first 10 days of any six-month

interval during the certificate's initial two-year term without penalty, or a portion, as long as you keep a \$1000 balance.

The Rising Rate CD. Another example of how one of the Midwest's largest financial institutions is looking after your best interests. To open yours for as little as \$1000, visit any of our over 450 community banking offices.

ONLINE OF THE MIDWEST'S BIGGEST BANKS, BUT ONLY WHEN YOU WANT US TO! FIRST OF AMERICA.

Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. At the fourth maturity, your CD will automatically renew as a new CD. We reserve the right to limit the amount of the certificate of deposit. Offer good through 12/14/91. For information call 1-800-333-1111, 1-800-333-1112, 1-800-333-1113, 1-800-333-1114.

BANK LIQUIDATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

▪ FORCED TO LIQUIDATE BY BANK ▪ MUST RAISE CASH IMMEDIATELY

Natural Female Mahogany Mink Coats \$7,000	\$999	Canadian Beaver Coats \$4,000	\$982	Full Length Leather Coats With Dyed Fox Tuxedo \$1,800	\$399
Canadian Raccoon Jackets \$1,000	\$122	Golden Dyed Raccoon Jackets \$2,200	\$425	Natural Raccoon Coats \$4,000	\$895
Leather Jackets With Dyed Fox Tuxedo \$1,600	\$366	Lunaparis' Natural American Female Mink Coats \$9,000	\$1,969	American Ultra' Natural Female Mink Coats \$8,600	\$1,999
Natural Finnish Raccoon Coats \$4,000	\$982	Saga' Natural Silver Fox Coats \$9,000	\$1,969	Dyed Ranch Mink Coats With Dyed Fox Trim \$6,800	\$995

STORE HOURS: MON-FRI 10am-8pm • SAT 10am-6pm • SUN 12-6pm

LEONE FURS

At the corner of Hunter and Hamilton in Birmingham. One block north of Maple. 647-9470

All furs labeled to show country of origin.