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told me he wanted Buffa to succeed him.

"I promised the sheriff I'd give him (Buffa) my political and financial support," said Lozano, who is also a road commissioner and a fund raiser for county executive L. Brooks Patterson.

The process of selecting a new sheriff won't officially begin until 10 a.m. Monday, when the committee charged with appointing a successor meets to discuss procedure and protocol. That committee is composed of County Clerk G.

William Caddell, Prosecutor David Gorycyra and Probate Judge Eugene Arthur Moore.

But each has already received numerous calls on behalf of prospective candidates. "I'd say I've had at least a dozen calls," Caddell said. "And I tell everybody the same thing: We're not ready to talk about candidates yet."

Caddell himself was appointed to his position. That was two months ago when then-Clerk Lynn Allen retired and endorsed Caddell. Other outgoing officials have made

similar endorsements. When Patterson stepped down as Oakland prosecutor, he recommended his chief assistant, Richard Thompson, as his successor.

Caddell, Gorycyra and Moore could, in theory, appoint Nichols' successor Monday. Caddell said he has researched the topic and the constitution requires that the county clerk, prosecutor and chief probate judge appoint a successor. "It (the constitution) doesn't specify a time frame, nor does it require that we interview candidates.

"But there's little doubt we'll take our time and go about picking a successor with a deliberate and suitable process," said Caddell.

Caddell emphasized that he could only speak for himself, not the entire committee. Under the Michigan Open Meetings Act, any meeting between two of the three members on the committee constitutes a quorum, and therefore must be advertised and open to the public, according to the clerk. "So, if I see one of those other committee members (Gorycyra or Moore) in

the hallway, I turn and go the other way. I don't think you'll be seeing us have lunch together for awhile.

"I don't even make direct phone calls to those guys," he said.

If, however, the process of selecting a new sheriff goes as Caddell envisions, there will be a cutoff date for prospective candidates to submit resumes after which the most qualified candidates will likely be interviewed. "The process could take a month or longer," according to Caddell.

■ 'I'd say I've had at least a dozen calls. And I tell everybody the same thing: We're not ready to talk about candidates yet.'

G. William Caddell
—county clerk

OCC, union edge toward settlement

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oc.homecomm.net

Oakland Community College and Teamsters Local 214 appear closer to agreement on a collective bargaining agreement covering 106 administrators, deans and managers.

Local President Joseph Valenti said in a Dec. 21 letter to OCC attorneys that the members "have overwhelmingly voted to adopt the fact finder's recommendations in its entirety."

Fact finder John A. Lyons' recommendations, "combined with all articles previously tentatively agreed to during negotiations, will therefore constitute a complete agreement," said Valenti.

A settlement would end three years of tense relations between OCC and the management group.

Valenti added that members would be polled on the issue of which of two sabbatical leave options to accept.

Meanwhile, OCC Chancellor Richard T. Thompson told the board of trustees Dec. 14 that the college would implement the fact finder's wage adjustment recommendation for the bargaining unit covering the last three years — fiscal 1996-97, 1997-98 and the current 1998-99.

The result would be a 3 percent increase on base salary the first year, a 3 percent lump sum for the second, and another 3 percent base salary increase the third year.

College offices are closed for the holidays until Jan. 6. The board is scheduled to meet Jan. 25.

In a letter to this newspaper, Valenti was less sure a settlement is near. He repeated "our continuing observation that the college's representatives have no intention of ever allowing the administrative and management staff to achieve a collective bargaining agreement."

CLARIFICATION

The Senate roll call on the state revenue-sharing bill was reported as 32-6 on Dec. 9. That, however, was not the final roll call. The final vote, completed late Dec. 10, was 26-10.

Several senators changed their votes in that day. Here is the final tally for area senators:

YES — Loren Bennett, R-Canton, Mike Bouchard, R-Birmingham, Dianne Byrum, D-Onondaga, Mat Danksias, R-Lake Orion, Bob Geake, R-Northville, George Hart, D-Dearborn, Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek.

NO — Bill Bullard Jr., R-Milford, Mike Rogers, R-Brighton.

ABSENT — Alma Smith, D-Salem. She later said she would have voted yes had she been present.

Rogers, in a formal protest in the Senate Journal, said: "I have a lot of townships and one of the fastest growing counties and districts in the state of Michigan. The formula that is weighted here is totally against my constituents. We will never meet that threshold; we'll never be able to qualify. And if there is any area in the state that needs the money as badly as Livingston County, I don't know where it is. I just don't think it was right for my constituents to vote in favor of the bill."

Republicans to meet

The Oakland County Young Republicans meet 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at the party's Oakland headquarters in the Adams Square Plaza, Adams Road, Birmingham. Call (800) GOP-OCCY.

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