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# Oakland Budget Approved As Commission Splits 16-5

Oakland County will operate on a \$29.4 million 1972 budget, a \$3.5 million increase over 1971 spending.

The new budget got the official nod last week from all but one county commissioner - Christian Powell (R-West Bloomfield) whose move to add \$350,000 to the budget for the road commission was defeated 16-5. With the solid Democratic opposition were Southfield Democrats Lawrence Pernick and Alex Perinoff.

Absent were Republicans Robert Pateneles of Birmingham, whose district includes part of Southfield, and Delos Hamlin of Farmington.

Powell said he was seeking to add that \$350,000 amount for supplementary funding of the County Road Commission. The board allocated \$100,000 in 1970 and \$100,000 in 1971 to the road commission.

He noted that the \$350,000 would buy more than \$1 million in state and federal matching funds and that the State Legislature failed to act quickly in approving increased gas and weight tax rebates for county roads.

Pernick commented that Powell's hopes for improved revenues from an improved economy were based on a "false premise."

"WE'RE SLOWLY rising from a three-year recession, but there is no indication we will suddenly get added financial strength," he said. "We are committed to a road program but not to detract from other essential services. A strong effort is being

made to get a legislative road package for needed revenues and we don't have to inflate the budget."

Paul McGovern, road commission chairman, said he was confident the county would get back part of the \$5 million it has shown "short-changed" through a revised gas tax distribution formula.

If not, he said, the road commission would ask for funds if needed.

Pernick called Powell's action "a political maneuver on the part of Republicans to embarrass the Democratic controlled finance committee."

The finance committee requested all county departments to assume one per cent budget cutbacks from the

amount recommended by the allocation board in an attempt to hold the line on expenditures. The budget reflects cutbacks in welfare programs.

"Powell was attempting to inflate revenues to come up with \$350,000 to insinuate budget cuts weren't needed," Pernick said, in an interview. "The budget commits up to \$700,000 for roads if a Legislature doesn't provide the money. If the road commission needs the cash, we will respond."

Republicans said they were afraid that if the money were not appropriated immediately for roads, Democrats would spend it on welfare programs.

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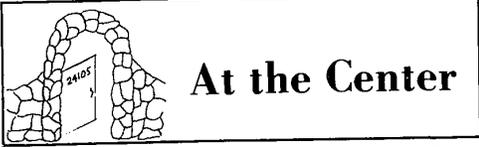
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REGISTRATION days for the winter classes will be Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Examples of arts and crafts which will be taught in the winter courses will be on display both days. Many of the arts and crafts instructors will be present Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to discuss their classes.

No mail or phone enrollments will be taken until Monday, Jan. 10. Registrations will then continue until class maximums are reached. Register early to avoid disappointment. Some classes fill very quickly. Others may have to be cancelled for lack of numbers if your interest isn't known in time.

Among the 13 new classes will be: one on investments, "The Stock Market, Security Investing and You," taught by Jack Main of Merrill Lynch; "Fly Fishing" by Neil Travis.

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Workshops which will be repeated because of their excellence this fall will be: Katherine Lemon's "Candied" and "Creative Needlepoint I," a highly organized presentation by team teachers Lynn Malpeli and Carol Kenyon who will show you ways with needlepoint that you never dreamed of.

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