

Stadium road project revived

OAKLAND COUNTY—The widening of Opdyke Road near the Pontiac football stadium, which last week appeared dead for lack of funding, has been revived by an eleven-hour contribution from the Pontiac Stadium Building Authority (PSBA).

The PSBA, which had insisted it lacked funds to spend on stadium roads, finally surrendered \$50,000, which, with some juggling of figures, is enough to make the almost \$1 million road project operative again.

The county road commission announced Tuesday that road work

would begin May 1 and should be ready in time to handle the 15,000 automobiles and 400 buses expected to converge on the new sports complex for the first Detroit Lions exhibition game Aug. 23.

Until that surprise announcement, it appeared that two-lane Opdyke would not be widened in time for the stadium opening.

What seemed like the last chance for the project to get underway evaporated last week when the board of county commissioners decided it would not help with funding.

Despite the road commission's pledge of \$500,000 and the City of Pontiac's pledge of \$250,000, the Opdyke project still needed \$100,000 and, until Tuesday, no alternative funding source was in sight.

THE PSBA, however, suddenly emerged, but with only \$50,000.

Eager to get going on the project, the road commission decided to assume an additional \$50,000 of the project cost, and the Opdyke Road contract at last was awarded.

The Tony Angelo Cement Construction Company, of Detroit, was low bidder on the project. It will widen Opdyke to five lanes along a one mile stretch in front of the stadium for \$875,000.

This means, once engineering and other related costs are added, that the Opdyke project, once estimated to cost \$1 million, can be completed for \$930,000.

HAROLD COUSINS, PSBA chairman, denied that PSBA had been holding out contributing to the Opdyke

project until all other funding sources had been exhausted.

Cousins said it was simply brought to his board's attention that if Opdyke were widened the PSBA would no longer have to build deacceleration lanes leading to the stadium parking lot.

The \$50,000 saved by abandoning those lanes was then available to give to the Opdyke project, Cousins said.

THE ADDITIONAL cost assumed by the road commission was for engineering work toward the project. The road commission already paid for this but had hoped to recover its investment, according to John Denman, road commission spokesman.

However, when it looked that the project would be scrapped, Denman said road officials decided to assume the extra cost.

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Officials report

No Bloomfield closed doors

All local government meetings in Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills are open to the public.

"Study sessions," often a euphemism for policy-formulating meetings that are closed to the public, are almost non-existent in these communities.

"I don't think we've ever really had a study session as such," said Bloomfield Hills City Manager and Director of Public Safety Robert Stadler. "If we have had a personnel problem or a union contract to consider we have met for dinner and discussion. We would do that only because we couldn't discuss it openly without tying the commission's hands."

Stadler said the city commission does not meet before the regular

monthly meeting, although sometimes commissioners discuss issues after the meeting.

THE REGULAR monthly meeting of the Bloomfield Hills City Commission is held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the city offices, 45 East Long Lake Road.

Stadler said that, other than at this meeting, the commissioners seldom get together during the month. "I bet I can count the number of special sessions on one hand," he said, "and I have been here since 1949."

Stadler said the commissioners sometimes get together for dinner at someone's home. "I'm sure they do discuss city business — but it's far from official."

Similarly, while the mayor is chosen at a public meeting, Stadler said, "I would imagine the commissioners talk it over on the phone about who to make the next mayor pro tem, because that's who usually becomes the next mayor."

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP Clerk Deloris Little said all township meetings are open to the public.

Neither the township board of

trustees, the planning commission nor the zoning board of appeals have study sessions.

The board of trustees meets the second and fourth Monday of each month, the planning commission meets the first Monday of the month, and the zoning board of appeals meets the second Tuesday of each month.

All meetings are at 8 p.m. at the township hall, 6380 Telegraph Road.

Members of these boards receive agendas one week prior to the meeting. Planning commission members and those on the zoning board of appeals are expected to inspect those sites that will be acted on at the meeting.

While township business is usually discussed informally before and after meetings, the public is invited to take part in these discussions.

Minutes of the township board of trustees meeting are published in the Observer & Eccentric.

Law does not require agendas to be posted, but those persons directly involved in agenda items are notified of the meeting by telephone.

Residents whose property will come under special assessment are notified by first class mail 10 days prior to the public hearing.

U-Turn raises \$2,000

An art auction for U-Turn, the Bloomfield-Birmingham Center for Human Development raised more than \$2,000 for the self-help program for young people who are having special problems.

The auction, which was held Friday in the auditorium of the Church of Saint Owen in Bloomfield Township, sold more than \$5,000 worth of art. The Center got 20 per cent of the total after taxes, and an additional \$1,000 in ticket sales.

Harry Weinsalt, whose art gallery is in the Kingsley Inn, was the auctioneer.

The Center, which is on Franklin Road in Bloomfield Township, is looking for volunteers to supplement the work of its two full-time and four part-time staff. It is now helping 28 young people, but has more on the waiting list.

The head of the 17 member board of

directors is Harry Keller, assistant principal of Groves High School in Birmingham.

Church sale

The Episcopal Church of the Advent will hold its annual spring rummage sale on Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The sale will include clothing, toys, books and many other items. Proceeds of the sale will be used to assist needy people in the Pontiac-Keego Harbor area.

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