Citizens' Group Studies to Start On State Finances

Two study groups formed in Birmingham's Citizens for Michigan chapter began their work last week, and a third group on state finances meets at 8 p.m. Monday at Birmingham Community house.

The chapter recently received the second charter in the state from American Motors Vice President William H. McGaughey, CFM's chapter coordinator.

Along with state finances, chapter groups are studying and will make recommendations on the state government structure, and state services needed.

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In Oakland County . . .

Calls Township Roads 'Their Responsibility'

If Oakland county townships need more money for roads, this is their responsibility, Oakland county Supervisor Roy F. Goodspeed said last week.

Goodspeed made his statement in connection with a $100,000 county surplus fund slated for township road and bridge construction. The money is part of an $828,000 county surplus for 1959. Last week the board supervisors allocated $500,000 of the surplus to a special fund for the new courthouse.

Another $228,000 was allocated to replace funds into which the county's ways and means committee has already dipped for court house and other work.

THE TOWNSHIPS have long been on record that they would like part of the county surplus set aside for their emergency road repairs.

Former West Bloomfield township supervisor Hiland M. Thatcher, now a county road commissioner, said, "The budgets to townships of state road moneys are so small compared to what the cities get."

Townships don't have the money to make necessary repairs such as work needed on bridges, Thatcher said.

* * *

BUT GOODSPEED, Ferndale's city engineer, protested that cities would be paying more than $68,000 of the $100,000 fund. The money should go for general county benefit, Goodspeed maintained, and townships should raise their own funds for road and bridge improvements.

No date has been set for hearing on the issue.

Ferndale Backed In Resolution On 12 Town Drain

Ferndale's resolution calling for state intervention in the Twelve Town drain project has met with approval from some cities, delaying action from some and criticism from one. But the Twelve Town drain project won support from the state health department in other action last week.

Beverly Hills last week set aside Ferndale's request without taking action. Clawson, Huntington Woods, Berkley, Pleasant Ridge and Royal Oak backed Ferndale.

But Oak Park called Ferndale's proposal "premature". Oak Park officials said, "We do not feel it good judgment to scrap all completed work and leap into a piecemeal situation."

* * *

FERNDALE'S resolution calls for the attorney general's office and the state health department to intervene to get the drains built since court action is delaying construction. But Oak Park wants the two departments to give priority to getting an early Supreme Court decision on the Madison Heights case.

The Madison Heights suit against the Twelve Town drain project is scheduled for Supreme Court hearing in April.

"There is no physical way we can relieve our own drainage problems," said Oak Park officials, citing impossibility of breaking the system into segments.

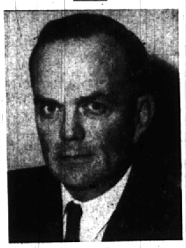
* * *

MEANWHILE, Madison Heights and Troy were told in Lansing last week that the state health department will support nothing but complete relief of the area's drainage and pollution problems.

Troy and Madison Heights had asked the department for the right to construct independently the Dequindre interceptor for relief in their areas.

The state health department, however, will try to get enforcement of a 1958 order calling for construction of both the Dequindre and the Twelve Town.

The state will continue to discourage independent sewage disposal, Chief Sanitation Engineer Donald M. Pierce said.



JOHN S. TOWNSEND

On County Board For National Fund

John S. Townsend, of 315 Chesterfield, Birmingham, has been elected to the board of directors of the Oakland county chapter of the National Foundation.

The announcement was made by the Rev. G. Burton Hodgson, of 2188, Derby, Birmingham, chapter chairman.

The chapter is currently conducting the New March of Dimes, which is the only source of financial support for the foundation. The drive, which seeks funds to combat birth defects and arthritis as well as polio, runs through January.

Townsend is assitant vice president of the Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan association. He is a member of the Birmingham Exchange club and the Detroit Mortgage Bankers association.

It's Official: Alexander Stays Oak Park's Mayor

The official okay was given to R. J. Alexander last week by the Oakland county board of public works, enabling him to remain Oak Park's mayor until his term expires in April, 1961.

Alexander had stated his intention to resign as Oak Park mayor after he was appointed director of the county DPW. He cited possible conflicts as the reason.

Lated 5,000 Oak Park residents signed petitions demanding that he remain as mayor.

Oakland Board of Supervisors Chairman Delos Hamlin said last week, "The board sees no conflicts at present between the two posts."

Group Suggests 5th Supervisor For Southfield

The board of supervisors' legislative committee, county lobbyists, has suggested a re-apportionment formula for the county which would give Southfield and Royal Oak each an additional seat on the board.

The formula would hold representation of all other cities. A committee spokesman said consensus was to hold down the number of supervisors.

The board now has 83 supervisors, 59 of them from cities. Under the present apportionment formula, the supervisors would increase to 94 after the 1960 census.

The new formula is devised to hold the number of supervisors at about the same level and still give recognition to the growth of Royal Oak and Southfield. Southfield now has four supervisors, while Royal Oak has six.

County Government Streamlining Ideas Listed by Group

PONTIAC — A three-part modernization program is being proposed for Oakland county's government by the county study committee headed by Supervisor John L. Carey of Springfield township.

The program recommends strengthening of the post of chairman of the board of supervisors, now held by Delos Hamlin, to make him the county's chief political spokesman.

A second recommendation would be for enactment of a permissive law much like cities' home rule for operating the county.

Also recommended is that the chairman of the board of auditors be given additional administrative authority.

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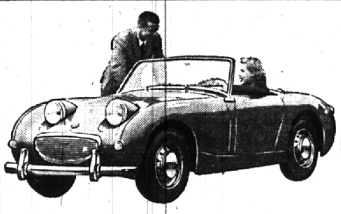

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