

In tri-county area

Commission seeks millage for senior citizens

County commissioners in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties will be asked to put a millage proposal on the Aug. 5 primary ballot, with the proceeds, if approved, used for senior citizen activities.

The Tuscola county board got an advance preview Tuesday from Ron Cassie, director of the Thumb Area Commission on Aging (TACA).

The TACA board, he said, will be meeting Monday to decide whether to ask for .1, .2 or .3 mill and for how many years (probably 3-5). A .1 mill levy would raise a total of \$140,000 annually from the three counties.

The \$140,000, according to Cassie, would be enough to replace the money provided by each county from the general fund, pay the salaries of TACA employees

presently paid with federal funds, when those funds expire, and allow a minimal expansion of services. Huron and Tuscola are providing TACA with \$20,000 this year; Sanilac, \$17,000.

A .2 or .3 mill levy obviously would allow more expansion of services.

If the millage is approved, depending on the amount, priorities include expanding the number of meal sites

and persons served, including home-delivered meals, and possibly starting a meal site in Cass City.

Long-range plans call for developing the meal sites into senior citizen centers, to offer recreation and other services.

Beefing up the transportation service provided by volunteer drivers reimbursed for mileage is another priority.

Others are expanding the home health care program and starting a home repair service.

"I think our concern is the blank check approach," Commissioner Ken Kennedy of Millington said to Cassie.

Cassie's response was that TACA would prepare a separate budget for each county, which would have to be approved by that county's board of commissioners.

That would eliminate the problem if one or two counties passed the millage, so that they wouldn't be subsidizing programs in the county or counties without millage.

Also Tuesday, commissioners gave the go-ahead to formation of a county building authority, a procedure which should take about 45 days.

After that, Russell said, the board will decide whether to proceed with construction of buildings.

Being talked about is construction of an addition to the courthouse annex to house the county Cooperative Extension Service, at an estimated cost of \$600,000, and \$100,000 for a PATCH house, run by the mental health department for youngsters with emotional problems.

The authority would have the power to issue bonds to pay for construction of the buildings, which would be leased to the county. The lease payments would be used to pay off the bonds.

Bonding attorney John Axe and county Prosecutor

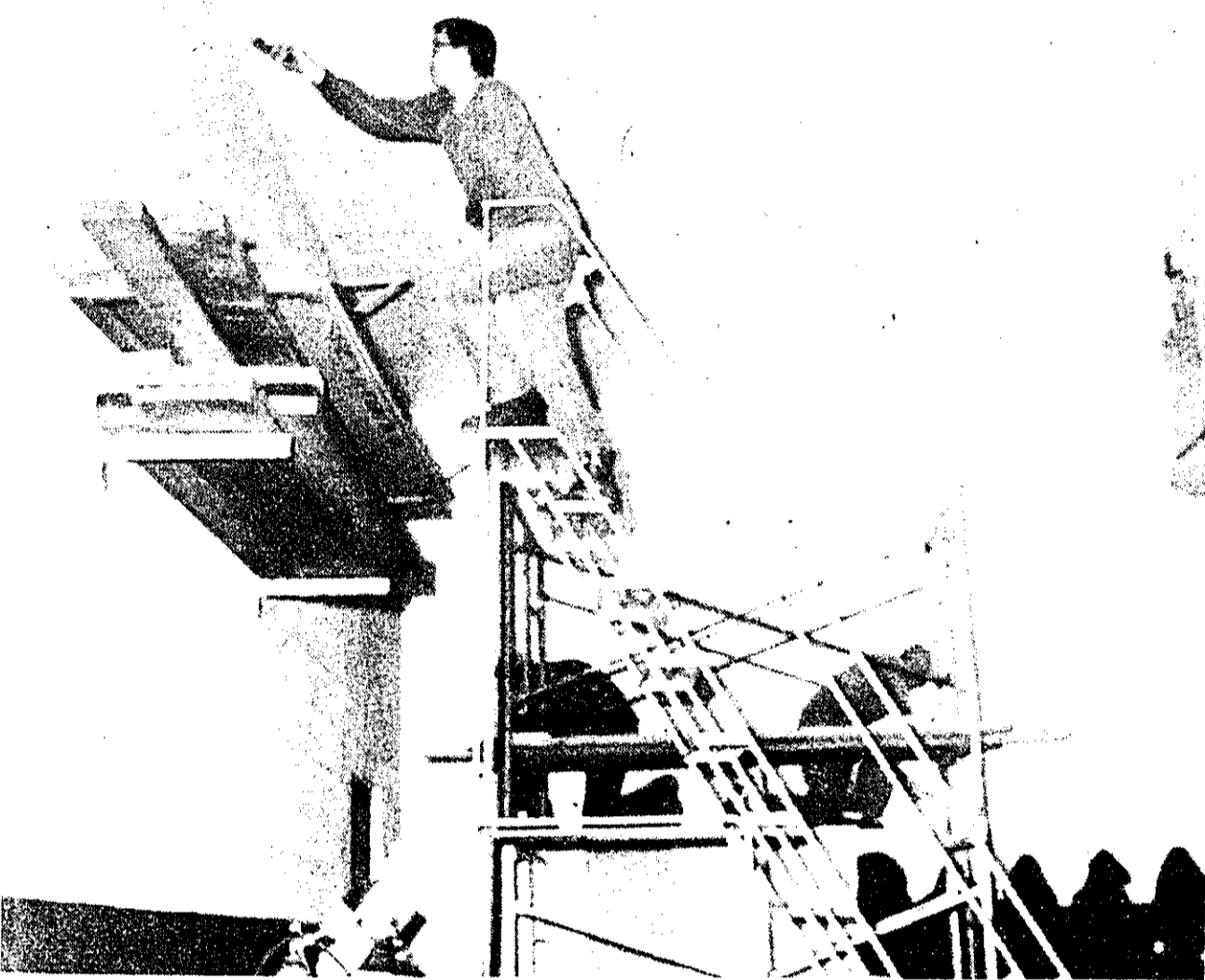
Artis Noel presented various possible schedules for bond repayment.

Noel presented one calling for \$700,000 to be paid off in 10 years at 9 percent interest per year. That works out to annual payments of \$106,407, which would come from the county general fund.

Axe reported he had recently handled a municipal bond issue that sold for 8.5 percent interest.

VEHICLE BIDS

The bid of Jerry Gould Chrysler-Plymouth of Caro, the lowest of 10 submitted for five sheriff's department patrol cars, was accepted. The bid was \$6,884 per car. Ouvry Chevrolet-Olds, Cass City, had the lowest of seven bids for one van for the sheriff's department. Its bid, which was accepted, was \$7,340.



PAINT JOB -- Elkland township firemen painted the inside of the garage portion of the fire hall Saturday, Sunday and Monday, the first time it has been repainted since the structure was built 10 years ago. On the scaffold in front is Roger Hurley. In the background are Roy Tuckey (left) and Milt Connolly.

BUILDING AUTHORITY

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Taylor skips out on court

A bench warrant for the arrest of Donald D. Taylor was issued after he failed to appear in Circuit Court Monday for sentencing on charges of assaulting a police officer and felonious assault while armed with a dangerous weapon.

Taylor, 22, of 1650 Ambrose Street, Mayville, was found guilty of the charges Feb. 6 by Judge Norman A. Baguley, of having sprayed gas from a "gas ejecting device" into the eyes of state police Trooper Oren Johnson. The incident took place Dec. 24, 1978, in Fostoria.

When Taylor failed to appear for sentencing, Baguley ordered his bond cancelled and the bench warrant issued.

Also Monday, Duane R. Spencer, 20, of 5807 Fulton Street, Mayville, pleaded innocent to both counts of supplemental information. His pleas were accepted and bond continued.

Spencer is charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle and unlawful use of a motor vehicle, in connection with entering of a Juniata Baptist church bus Jan. 17 and driving away of the church's van.

Conviction on either charge, the supplemental

information charges, would be a second felony offense because Spencer was convicted in August, 1977, in Macomb county of breaking and entering.

If found guilty of one or both of the new charges, plus the supplemental information, his maximum sentence would be increased by half, from 5 up to 7 1/2 years for breaking and entering, and/or from 2 up to 3 years for unlawful use.

DISTRICT COURT

Richard Skinner, 18, of S. Kingston Road, Kingston, was assessed \$100 court costs and ordered to pay \$55 restitution by Judge Richard F. Kern Monday for malicious destruction of property under \$100. He was also placed on probation.

Skinner pleaded guilty to the charge Feb. 11, on a complaint from Rev. Gilson Miller concerning damage done to a building at 3442 Washington Street, Kingston.

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