

County eyes millage levy

With the handwriting on the wall, Tuscola county commissioners Tuesday explored the idea of putting a millage proposal on the ballot for support of county operations.

The concern is that direct or indirect federal revenue sharing funds to the county will be eliminated.

Although the county may not lose the federal aid it receives directly from Washington, it appears the \$100 million the state receives in federal revenue sharing may be dropped after this year, which in turn would presumably mean Tuscola will get less money from Lansing.

"Kicked around," in the words of Commissioner Royce Russell of Elmwood township, was .8 mill, which if approved by voters, would bring in about \$400,000, enough to offset an aid loss from Washington.

The county board has until early June to decide and still get a millage proposal on the Aug. 5 primary ballot.

The board was presented with a request from the county Health Department to provide it with "pool cars" for use by employees.

At 17 cents per mile, it cost the county \$19,894 last year to reimburse them for use of their own cars.

Commissioners decided to explore whether the Health Department might make better use of some of the present county cars than those from other departments presently entitled to use them, instead of buying more cars.

In January, the board approved paying a 50 percent share, \$1,392, for purchase of various radio equipment to go into the car used by county Emergency Services Coordinator Frank Kroswek to enable him to be in contact with police agencies, fire departments, etc., during emergencies, such as tornadoes.

Federal funds were to pay the other half.

However, the state Department of Natural Resources, which controls the federal grant, has only authorized \$1,009, so commissioners Tuesday appropriated \$383 additional so that all the equipment can still be purchased.

The Michigan Employment Relations Commission was to have conducted a hearing Monday on the county board's complaint filed against the union representing courthouse employees over its negotiating a separate contract for probate court employees.

The hearing has now been postponed to May 5 at the county's request because the board wanted its labor attorney, Michael Ward, at the hearing. He couldn't be there Monday, hence the postponement to when all parties will be available.



CITIZENS OF THE YEAR - The 1979 Citizen of the Year, Bill Kritzman (center), presented the plaques to those receiving the 1980 honor, Esther McCullough and Dr. Delbert E. Rawson, DDS.

Authorizes condemnation

Council delays vote on levying of added millage

The Cass City Village Council Monday evening delayed a decision whether to levy an additional mill on summer tax bills until a special meeting April 7.

It did decide Wickes Agriculture had delayed long enough in tearing down the old grain elevators on Vulcan Street and authorized village attorney Clinton House to begin condemnation proceedings.

Main purpose of the special meeting will be to award construction bids for the wastewater treatment plant expansion and improvement project. Bids were originally to be opened March 20, then

postponed to March 27 and now to April 3, at the request of contractors who wanted more time to prepare bids. Fifty-five contractors have taken out the bid document blueprints for the estimated \$6 million project. The council delayed a decision on a possible 1 mill increase from the present 13-mill levy for village operations because two council members, Elwyn Helwig and Dorothy Stahbaum, were absent.

It continued its discussion from past meetings about whether the added mill is needed. It did have the recommendation before it

from Village President Lambert Althaver that the extra mill be levied.

He is also recommending that the 2.5-mill debt levy for the sewage plant project be continued for a second year. Council members saw for the first time Monday the 1980 assessment report, which shows state equalized valuation for the village of \$17,938 million, compared to \$16,104 million in 1979.

Of the increase, according to the report of Assessor Daniel Eria, \$263,100 is due to new construction; the rest is due to inflation in property values.

The \$17.94 million times 13 mills would produce revenue of \$233,193. An additional mill would bring in \$17,938 more.

The council appears to be leaning in the direction of adding the mill because, in the words of Althaver, "I'm looking at our budget and listening to what has been said in state and federal legislatures."

What it appears will happen is that Congress will eliminate federal revenue sharing to the states as a budget cutting move, which will cost Michigan \$100 million.

In turn, Lansing distributes some of that money to local governmental units. It now appears that Cass City will lose \$18,000 from that source, slightly more than the additional mill would replace.

In addition, it is expected that because of the recession in Michigan, sales tax revenue will decline, so Cass City will get less from that source.

The apparent consensus is that the 1980 village budget is so tight, there aren't

Martin top junior

McCullough, Rawson Citizens of the Year

For the first time in the 18-year history of the Cass City Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year program, two persons received the honor Saturday evening, Esther McCullough and Delbert E. Rawson, DDS.

Ken Martin was named Junior Citizen of the Year.

The 1979 Citizen of the Year, Bill Kritzman, presented the honor at the chamber banquet at the Colony House.

Mrs. McCullough came to Cass City from Illinois in 1927. She taught school here three years and two years elsewhere.

She married Raymond (Mac) McCullough in 1931, who purchased what was to be Mac and Scotty Drugs with his brother in 1937 (now Coach Light Pharmacy).

After her husband's death in 1951, she took an active role in the business until she sold her share in 1963.

Much of her contribution to Cass City has been in music. She taught piano and violin, performed at numerous public functions, played for a women's church chorus, belonged to a popular piano and string trio and for more than 40 years, until she retired in December, 1978, played the organ and piano at Salem United Methodist church. She still teaches an adult Sunday school class and sings in the church choir, having started doing both about the same time she started playing piano and organ there.

She has served on the local library board since the late 1950s and has been secretary-treasurer for the past several years.

She is also a member of the Tuscola County Library Board and the county Board of Canvassers.

Mrs. McCullough is an active member of the Hills and Dales General Hospital Auxiliary, American Association of University Women, Zonta Club, Historical Society, Arts Council, Hobby Club and for 40 years, the Order of the Eastern Star.

Dr. Rawson is a lifelong resident of Cass City. His father, former state Sen. Audley Rawson, now living in Florida, was citizen of the year in 1970.

The dentist was one of the original members of the Cass City Development

Corp., first president of the Chamber of Commerce and is a past president of the Rotary Club.

A former member of the Gavel Club, he was active in the beginning of the Christmas decoration program started by that group.

He was a member of the Cass City School Board and Tuscola Intermediate School District Board of Education for several years in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Rawson has served on the village council since 1964 and presently is president pro-tem. While on the council, he worked to obtain land for park expansion and for support for construction of the swimming pool.

He has championed planting of new trees in the park and throughout the village.

A trustee of the Trinity United Methodist church for many years, he was in charge of the building program during its remodeling.

JUNIOR CITIZEN

Ken Martin will be graduating in May from Cass City High School fifth in his class of 163. He presently has a 3.952 grade point average.

He has been a member of the National Honor Society since the ninth grade, starting in the Junior Honor Society.

He has been on the football, basketball and baseball teams all four years, class secretary his freshman year and class vice-president his junior year.

Martin was a member of the Trip Club his first three years, served on the student council in 12th grade and has been in the Varsity Club the past two years. He is in the co-op program, working for his father as an apprentice electrician.

Outside of school, he has been active at Good Shepherd Lutheran church in its youth group and for the past two years as an usher. He has been a volunteer at the hospital gift shop for three years.

The Junior Citizen of the Year is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Martin of 4180 Hurds Corner Road. His award was presented by Intermediate School Principal Robert Stickler.

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

A traditional part of the Citizen of the Year banquet program is presentation of the State of the Village address by village President Lambert Althaver.

Although the village is in about the same financial condition as it was a year ago, he said, the future is cloudy because of the uncertainty of federal and state funds Cass City will receive. "We don't know what the future of those revenues will be."

The village will spend about \$770,000 this year, which includes some state and federal money.

In addition, Althaver pointed out, the village requests \$100,000 from the state.



JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR honors went to Ken Martin, who received the plaques from Intermediate School Principal Bob Stickler. The plaque in Martin's left hand hangs at the high school. He gets to keep the other one.

Seize \$150,000 in trucks, parts

A warrant has been requested by the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department charging a person in connection with the \$150,000 in trucks and parts seized last Wednesday morning when a search warrant was executed at a location in Greenleaf township.

Until then, there will not be an arrest. The search warrant was executed on a residence and large garage on property adjacent to the speedway on M-53, north of M-81.

Seized, according to the sheriff's department, were four semi-truck tractors, and numerous truck and other vehicle parts, all suspected of having altered vehicle identification numbers.

Two deputies from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department auto theft squad and an investigator from the National Auto Theft Bureau assisted at the scene.

The seizure culminates an intensive investigation by the sheriff's department and others.

According to Detective Sgt. Donald Trowhill, of the Sanilac sheriff's department, the investigation began in early January after some tips were received from citizens. The Federal Bureau of Investigation also received a call, he said.

A warrant has been requested from Prosecutor J. Anthony Sykora for the arrest of one man, with the charges to be decided by the prosecutor. As of Tuesday,

Sykora was trying a case, expected to take most of the week, so Trowhill didn't expect the warrant would be issued for a few days yet.

Until then, the person involved would not be named.

Trowhill added that investigation is continuing and there may be more arrests. "I don't know who it will encompass before we're through."

Part of the continuing investigation, the detective said, is to determine where the seized items were stolen from.

The Wayne county (Detroit) deputies were at the scene because of their expertise in such matters, he explained, not necessarily because the trucks and parts were stolen from there.

Roads bad, power out in Friday storm

Roads were in the worst condition Friday they have been all winter, according to Tuscola County Road Commission Clerk Jim Miklovic.

What that means, which everyone knows, is that it has been a mild winter. Still, that wasn't a consolation to those who had to be out driving Friday.

Classes were cancelled in the Kingston and Uby School Districts. Classes were held in Cass City, but students were sent home about two hours early.

The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department reported numerous traffic accidents Friday because of the poor road conditions, but none was in the Cass City area.

Road crews "had their hands full on primary and state highways Friday," Miklovic said. As a result, they didn't do any work on

local roads until late afternoon. They worked about two hours overtime.

Saturday, they started working on unpaved local roads first, while the surfaces were still frozen. The plow drivers had to be careful, lest they tear up the soft surfaces once the roads thawed.

Paved local roads were plowed last and by the end of Saturday afternoon, Miklovic said, apparently all roads had been plowed or if not plowed, were passable.

None of the roads was completely snow covered. The problem was the strong winds Friday which caused drifting in spots and at their peak, blowing snow sometimes made it very difficult for drivers to see.

The muddy unpaved roads and soft earth caused problems for utility crews trying

to reach downed power lines, which fell because of the heavy snow on them and the strong winds.

George Anderson, Detroit Edison supervisor for Tuscola county, said several repair trucks got stuck. Thumb Electric Co-operative Manager John Kutter said his men had to make use of a bulldozer-track vehicle borrowed from a contractor to reach all the downed lines.

Anderson said there were about 1,500 customers without power in clusters in the Fairgrove, Millington, Vassar and Indianfields township areas, plus scattered outages elsewhere in the county.

Power lines started falling early Friday morning and continued throughout the day.



SNOW GOING - Cass City school bus drivers had to contend with conditions like these and sometimes worse when they transported students Friday. This bus was making its way through a drift on Koepfgen Road to return students home. School was let out about two hours early.

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