

Final decision May 12

Board ponders hike in school millage

Details of the long awaited millage boost that will be presented to the voters in the June 9 election were unveiled Monday night at the regular meeting of the school board at the high school.

If passed it will mean an increase in taxes for local electors. Exactly how much more is complicated by the variables affecting educational funding in Michigan. They include the Headlee tax limitation law, expected cuts in State Aid by the State and the enrollment next year at Cass City Schools.

The board will decide at its May 12 meeting the amount of increased millage it will seek. There are 3.5 mills expiring so the increase would be in addition to that.

It's much easier to pinpoint the number of dollars that Supt. Donald Crouse feels will be needed than it is the number of mills that will be needed to reach the figures.

Crouse said that his computations indicate that the school will need a total of \$328,000 more in 1980-81 than it operated on this year to balance the budget.

The increase represents an inflation factor of 9 percent which amounts to \$248,000 figured on total revenues in 1979-80 of \$2.752 million. This year's deficit of \$80,000 brings the total to the \$328,000.

Part of that money will come from increases in State Aid and the remainder will have to come from an increased tax.

To meet these costs a total of 21.25 mills is needed. A mill is \$1 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation. This year the district raised 19.9775 mills. Originally 21.25 mills was voted by the taxpayers but the Headlee tax limitation reduced it to 19.9775. This accounted for the \$80,000 deficit expected at the end of the current fiscal year.

While these figures boil down to about 1.5 mills increase it's very likely that the school board will ask for more than this.

That's because of the variables, Crouse explained. We did this once before, he said, and when it turned out that we received more than anticipated from the state we levied less than was authorized. We would do the same

with the current levy, he said.

FEDERAL GRANTS

A major project was approved by the board after it was announced that an energy grant to replace windows at Campbell, DeFord and Evergreen schools was approved. Total cost of the project is expected to be about \$132,000.

Cass City will not have to come up with \$66,000 cash. Much of the school's share will be "in-kind" costs for installation by school personnel.

Crouse had contacted the same firm that sold and guaranteed the replacement windows at the Intermediate School to furnish new windows.

However, the firm would not guarantee a fit as it did when the previous job was completed. For this reason the superintendent was instructed to investigate other suppliers. (Earlier story, page 16)

A second program that the board okayed, with restrictions, was a new CETA program that could provide four employees for 18 months.

Crouse was given the green light provided that the school was not obligated to hire these persons after the program ends.

UP CHARGES

J.D. Tuckey and Dean Hoag were appointed to a committee to investigate the costs of driver training cars. The board acted after receiving a notification from Rabideau Motors that it was upping the cost.

The proposed costs would be 2 percent per month of the cost of the car, plus 5 cents per mile. Presently payment is \$1.65 per calendar day. Crouse said that the Rabideau proposal would increase costs \$350 per vehicle.

Rabideau's also asked for all the van business as Chrysler no longer makes school buses.

CRACKDOWN

The crackdown on students parking in the first isle of the parking lot in front of the high school will be implemented as soon as the letter authorized by the board is received by the Cass City Police Department.

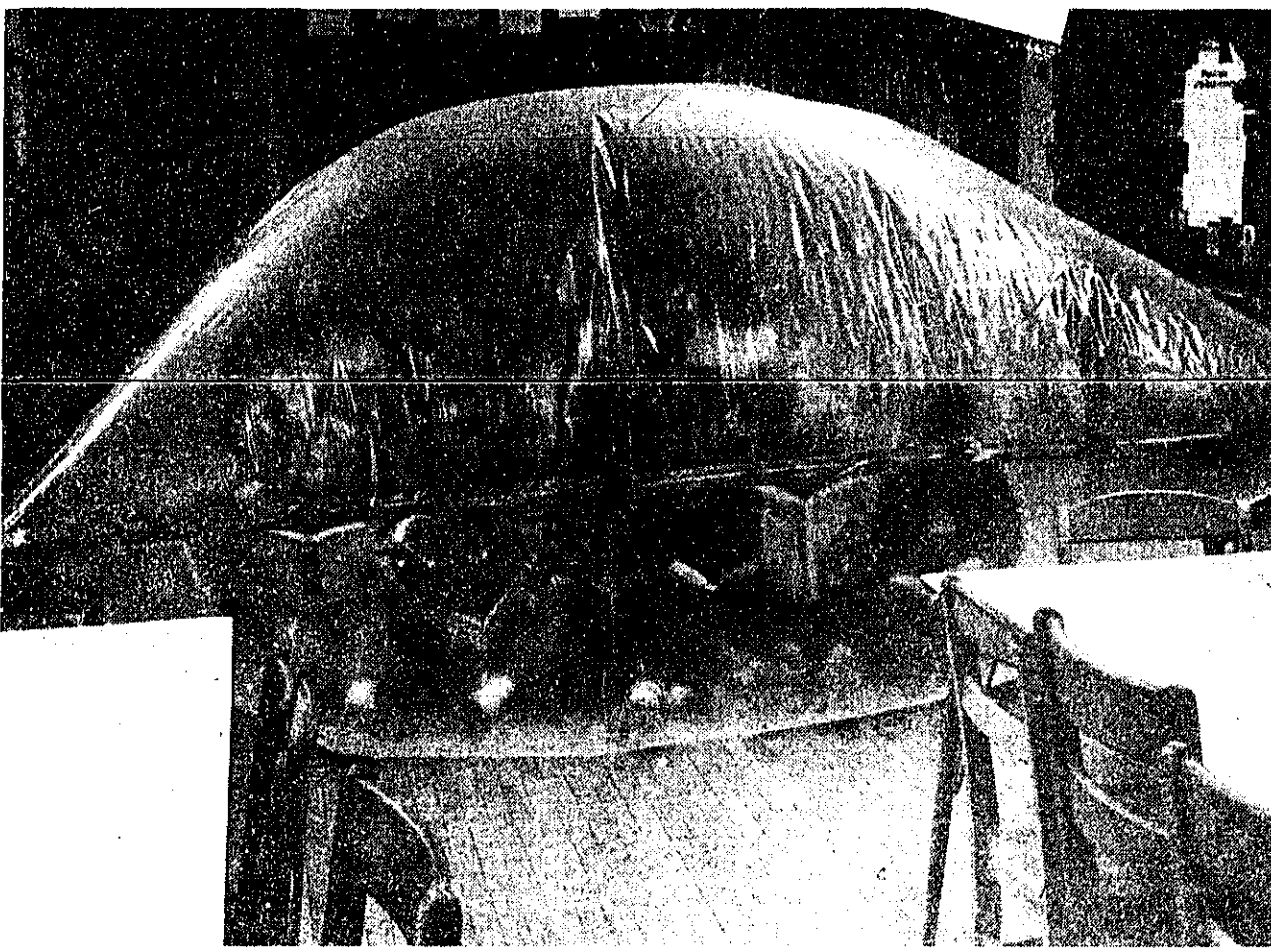
The authorization was needed before the village could act, Chief Gene Wilson said. Proposed are tickets for parking in the restricted area from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at anytime in the fire lanes.

OTHER BUSINESS

A hearing before the Michigan Employment Relations Commission for Ron Sieradzki has been set for Monday, May 5.

Sieradzki claims that he was not given a custodian's position when it was available and due him because of seniority. Sieradzki previously worked at the school as a CETA employee.

Mrs. Marilyn Mastie was granted a leave of absence from the first day of school until Sept. 29 next fall.



A FLYING SAUCER it isn't. It's the "book bubble" in the Cass City Intermediate School library, made by librarians Gail Nartker and Donna Emerson (intermediate and elementary school respectively) to create a different environment to encourage reading during National Library Week. A fan keeps the bubble inflated. Trying it out Monday were members of Peggy Flynn's fifth grade class.

CB radios for buses

Owen-Gage to seek renewal of eight mills

The Owendale-Gagetown Board of Education Monday night approved seeking of an eight-mill renewal for school operations at the June 9 school election.

The board accepted Supt. Ronald Erickson's recommendation that the present levy be retained, though he added a precaution. "I'm not sure that's going to be enough."

"We'll keep expenses at a minimum and only levy what we need," he added. Renewal of the levy -- \$8 per \$1,000 of valuation -- will give the district a total of 21.5 mills for operations.

The levy will be for two years. Should the courts ultimately decide in favor of Owen-Gage in the Goslin and Elenbaum property transfer cases, it was stated, the millage would be reduced.

The only two persons running in the school board election June 9 will be the incumbents, Ronald Good and Donald Cummins.

The superintendent reported the district is presently in good financial condition. The \$350,000 borrowed in the form of tax anticipation notes have been repaid, employees are being paid

and no financial difficulties are anticipated for the remainder of the school year.

OTHER ITEMS

The board tentatively decided to buy citizen band radios for all school buses, after hearing a report from Erickson and Good, who investigated use of CBs in the Port Hope district.

Elementary Principal William Britt was directed to obtain bids for nine mobile CB radios and two base station radios.

Construction of the 1967 addition to the high school required moving First Street in Owendale to the east to make room for the addition. The road also forms the entrance to the east parking lot on that side of the building.

The board approved a deed which gives the new portion of First Street to the village in exchange for the old portion.

The legal procedure will allow Owendale to begin collecting Michigan Motor Vehicle Highway Fund money for the affected portion of First Street.

The largest portion of the

meeting was devoted to a presentation by Orie Gnagey of Sebewaing on a new type of roof coating called Rapid Roof.

The roof over the old gym, now the cafeteria, at the high school is leaking slightly and the district is exploring various options for having it repaired.

The board now wants to inspect a large roof elsewhere coated with the material. It previously received bids from two other firms for use of conventional re-roofing materials.

The resignation of Leslie Sigsby, home economics and Spanish teacher now on maternity leave, was accepted. She resigned in order to care for her child. She had taught two years.

Carolann Crawford of DeFord was hired as the high school special education teacher for the remainder of the year, replacing Doris Denson who accepted another job.

The board voted that after this year, graduation caps and gowns will be the school colors.

It was announced that a retirement party honoring State Rep. Quincy Hoffman,

who isn't seeking reelection, will be conducted from 8-11 p.m. Sunday at Sherwood on the Hill in Gagetown. The party is being given by some of his supporters in the Owen-Gage district. The public is invited. Admission will be charged.

Erickson announced that a computer terminal will be installed at the high school which lists job openings available for seniors in the upper Thumb area. The state pays the cost. The terminal will be installed before the end of the school year.

He also said an effort will be made to get a Headstart program for 3-5-year-olds started in Owendale. The district would provide a classroom at the high school.

March student of the month was senior Dawn Wissner.

The board approved a request from the Huron County Department of Social Services to allow it to use a classroom at the high school once a month for a class in teaching public assistance recipients skills needed to apply for jobs.

Area accidents

County teen killed, local man "critical"

A 16-year-old Millington boy, Ward M. Leach, was killed early last Thursday in an accident between Millington and Mayville.

A Cass City man, Thomas Hawkins, remained in critical condition Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Hospital, Saginaw, where he was taken after being struck by a motorcycle last Wednesday night while he was walking in Caro.

Leach, according to Caro state police, was westbound on Swaffler Road, east of Leix Road, when his pickup went off the north side of the road and rolled over onto its side.

The driver, not wearing a seat belt, was thrown out and pinned underneath the truck.

Officers believe the accident took place about 4 a.m., however, it was not discovered until 8:30 by a passing motorist.

The victim was a junior at Millington High School.

He was the sixth person to be in a Tuscola county traffic accident this year, compared to five as of this time a year ago.

MOTORCYCLE-PEDESTRIAN

Hawks, 65, whose address was listed as the Cass City hotel, was struck by a motorcycle driven by Alan Lee Wisenbach, 20, of Remington Road, Caro.

According to Caro police, Wisenbach was headed southwest on State Street (M-81), near the entrance to the fairgrounds, when his cycle struck Hawkins, who was walking in the middle of the traffic lane.

The victim was wearing dark clothing and according to two witnesses in a car in the other lane headed in that direction, Wisenbach couldn't see Hawkins until he was almost on top of him.

The motorcyclist was treated and released from Caro Community Hospital for minor injuries.

The accident took place at 8:40 p.m. As of Tuesday, it was still under investigation.

OTHER ACCIDENTS

Reva Dillon, 42, of 5658 Gregory Road, Gagetown, was admitted to Hillsdale General Hospital after a 1:30 a.m. accident

Sunday. Deputies reported she was westbound on Hoppe Road, east of Bell Road, when she lost control of her car, which went into the south ditch.

According to the hospital, Ms. Dillon hadn't given permission to release information on her condition or when she had been released.

George P. Janssen, 36, of 5446 Schwegler Road, Cass City, and two passengers in his car sought their own

treatment for injuries following a 12:15 a.m. accident Friday.

The passengers were Evelyn M. Adamczyk, 26, and Violet A. Westover, 27, both of Marlette. Two other passengers were unhurt.

Huron county deputies said Janssen was eastbound on Kinde Road, east of M-53, when he lost control of his car, which went off the north side of the road. Please turn to page 16.



END OF THE LINE -- The Grant Trunk railroad depot in Cass City is slowly coming down. The railroad contracted with Mike Bryant (left) and Don Twomey to demolish the structure. They are doing the job by hand and selling the salvaged materials. They started about a month ago and should be finished in another month. Friday, they were chipping the cement off bricks that had formed the chimney.

Owendale Speedway suit finally settled

The judge in the long-standing law suit concerning ownership of the Owendale Speedway has, in essence, declared a draw over the issue of financial damages.

Huron County Circuit Judge M. Richard Knoblock in an opinion issued March 11 ruled that the agreement of Wayne Dubs to sell the track to the Cass Land Co. was rescinded.

The judge's opinion became official March 28 when he signed the judgment prepared by Dubs' attorney.

The agreement to sell the Sebewaing Road track was made in August, 1977; however, the two sides were never able to develop a satisfactory contract to finalize the sale and the matter wound up in court.

During earlier legal proceedings, Dubs regained possession of the track, in May, 1978, and resumed running races there that year.

The Cass Land Co., according to Knoblock's opinion, was the assumed name (for legal purposes) of Florence and David Duncan, operators of Thunder Road

Speedway on M-53, Cass City.

The Duncans were listed as plaintiffs and counter-defendants in the suit, along with Cass Land Co. and Huron County Speedway, their new name for the Owendale Speedway the short time they operated it.

Knoblock's opinion and judgment were issued following a trial he conducted to hear the suit, Oct. 15-18 and Dec. 14 of last year.

He ultimately ruled that the plaintiffs (Duncans) were entitled to the \$3,000 they had deposited with Dubs as down payment for the track. (The total sale price was to have been \$60,000.)

Knoblock further ruled, however, that the Duncans owed \$1,573 to Dubs for damage done to the track during a disturbance there

Sept. 4, 1977, when the Duncans were running it, plus \$565, the cost of restoring a motocross track there, plus \$778, an insurance settlement paid to the court by Central Mutual Insurance Co. pending the outcome of the principal action. That is a total of \$2,916.

Dubs was also awarded \$97, the costs and attorney fees taxed against the plaintiffs.

Knoblock also held that "plaintiffs have failed to establish by a preponderance of the evidence a right to recover on the remaining counts of their complaint."

Cass Land Co. had sought \$10,000 compensation for damage done to the track, claiming Dubs had been the instigator of the disturbance there, plus \$50,000 exemplary damages.

Dubs had countersued for a minimum of \$10,000, but all he got was the \$2,916, plus \$97.

ACCORDING TO HIS ATTORNEY, Karl Kraus of Bad Axe, Knoblock's decision ends the case unless the Duncans decide to appeal.

However, Mrs. Duncan told the Chronicle a few weeks ago the trial in October and December was only to decide the issue of damages. The issue of "performance," that is, honoring of the land contract to sell the track, remains and will be pursued.

(An agreement as to the terms of the land contract was placed on the record in May, 1978, by the attorneys for the two sides. According to Knoblock's opinion, "plaintiffs failed to abide by this agreement . . . and possession of the premises was restored to defendant.")

According to Mrs. Duncan, the Cass Land Co., in which her husband was a partner, owned some farms and was involved in the purchase of the Owendale Speedway, but did not own the Thunder Road Speedway.

SHE WAS THE SOLE owner of the latter and in February sold the track on a land contract to John R. Please turn to page 4.