

\$6 million program underway

Ground breaking ceremonies for the \$6 million Cass City wastewater treatment plant expansion and improvement project will take place early Tuesday.

The village received a letter this past Monday from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) giving the final okay needed of the construction bid and cost breakdown.

The council will meet at 7 a.m. to approve a loan resolution from the Farmers Home Administration, which is loaning the village the money for the local share of the project, and the initial operating budget. Action on those two matters were awaiting the okay from the EPA.

In a non-related matter, the council will also vote on a contract with the state Department of Transportation to have it oversee the Doerr Road-Garfield Street reconstruction project. An earlier contract submitted by the DOT had been sent back by the village for revision.

After the meeting, village officials will go to the sewage plant site, off Doerr Road, for the ground breaking.

Village Superintendent Lou LaFonsie said they hope to have everything completed by 8 a.m.

The letter from the EPA authorized an increase in its originally authorized 75 percent grant of \$4,531,350 by an additional \$77,100 to cover the slight increase in the contractor's bid over the original estimate. The state pays 5 percent of the construction cost and local taxpayers, 20 percent.

The contractor, H.C. Weber Construction Co. of Bay City, started preliminary work at the site Monday, as soon as the letter from the EPA was received. The project should be done in 18 months.

Total cost is now set at \$6,041,890.

Seek murder clues

The Tuscola County Sheriff's Department is still hoping for a break-through clue that will enable them to solve the Wednesday, June 4, murder of Tommy Lee Smith.

The Saginaw man, 39, was shot to death between about 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. while fishing in a channel off the Quanicassie River in the northwest corner of the county.

Officers later questioned two male suspects at their homes in Saginaw, later in Caro, and finally released them after further investigation showed they were not involved.

Undersheriff Bruce Tail described them as "victims of circumstance," having been seen driving a car the color of the one being sought and having bought ammunition in Sebawaing the day of the murder and doing some shooting at a range near that community.

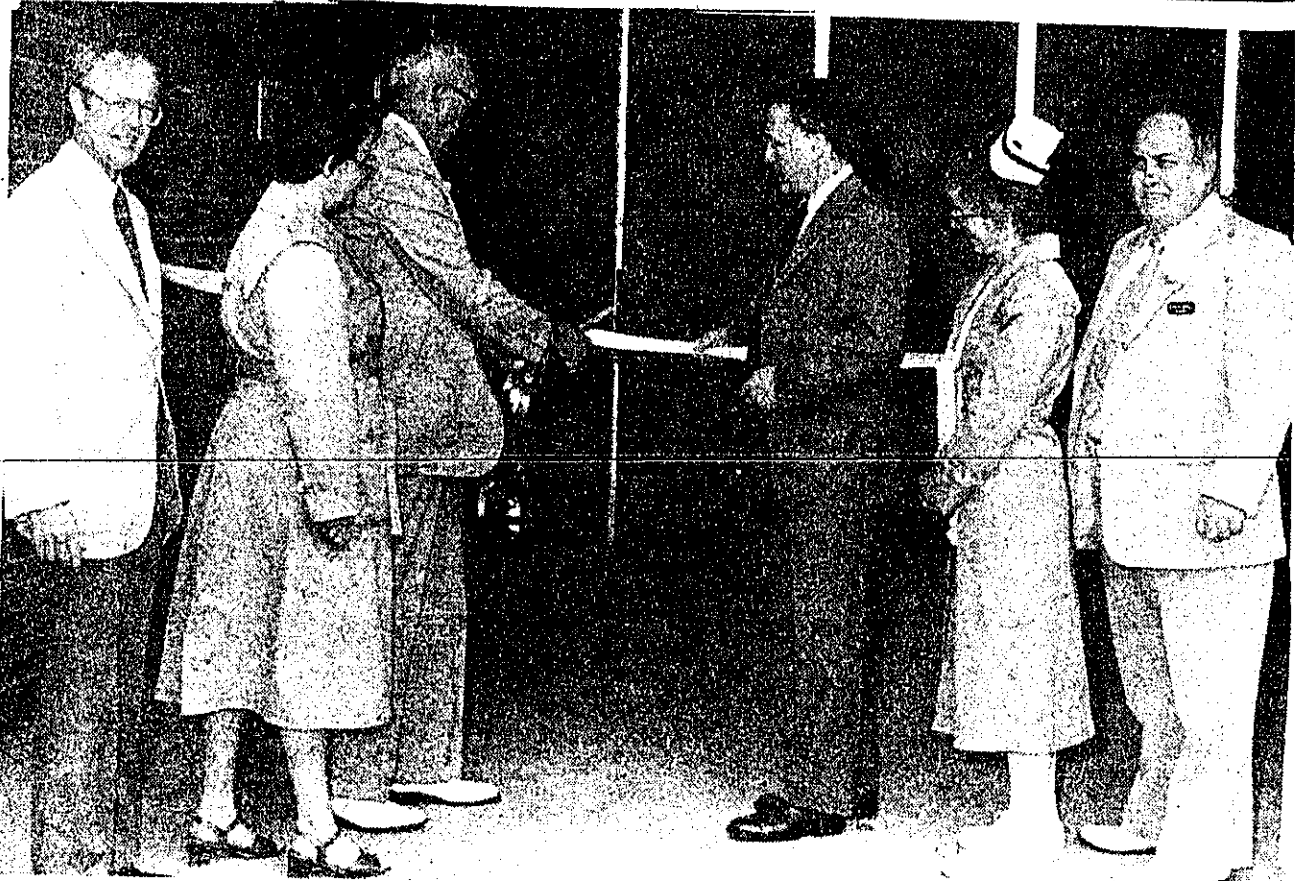
"We just don't have nothing right now," he commented. "If we had a motive, you got something to sink your teeth into."

Smith and a friend, George Davis Jr., had gone fishing after work last Wednesday at the General Motors nodular iron plant in Saginaw.

At the time of the shooting, Tail said, Davis had been near Old State Road and didn't discover his friend had been shot until he walked back. He then went to a telephone and called authorities. That was at 6 p.m.

The nearest witnesses, according to the undersheriff, were .3 mile away. Gunshots are not uncommon in that area, as some people shoot at carp, so all witnesses noticed after hearing the shots was a green car being driven south on Van Buren Road, occupied by two white men. The car had a squared off rear trunk above the

Please turn to page 17.



OPENING SLICE - With the ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony, Hospital Board President James Bauer officially opens the ambulatory care unit of Hills and Dales General Hospital. Presiding with Bauer are (from left) Thomas Spence, general contractor; Janet Sticken, assistant administrator of medical services; Bauer; architect Dick Forsythe; Madelyn Skaggs, director of nursing, and administrator Ken Jensen.

(related picture page 17)

Lockwood, Albee elected

Millage defeats to cut school funds by \$95,000

Cass City School District voters okayed a renewal of 3.5 mills, turned down a request for an addition .6 of a mill and refused to allow the Headlee rollback to be repealed on school taxes in heavy balloting Monday.

In addition voters elected Incumbent Dr. E. Paul Lockwood and Dick Albee to seats on the board. Albee replaces Art Severance who retired after serving for 12 years.

There were eight candidates seeking the two board seats. The number of votes each candidate received were: Albee, 341; Lockwood, 289; Ben Hobart, 259; Dave Loomis, 255; Frederick Matthews, 224; Rev. Hafry Capps, 217; Dan Allen, 203, and Walter Zmierski, 128.

The refusal of the voters to approve all three ballot measures means that the school will be forced to operate with \$90,000 to \$95,000 less than requested. The cash shortfall could have been greater except that the Headlee rollback

will not be as great as it was last year.

Supt. Don Crouse was not prepared to say what measures he might recommend to the board because of the millage defeat.

He said Tuesday that he will talk with his principals and go over all the various options before proceeding.

The defeat at the polls will

have no effect on the window remodeling plans for DeFord, Evergreen and Campbell elementary schools.

The district will go ahead with the project. About a third of the school's \$45,000 investment will be saved in the first year and the superintendent, with board approval, feels that the project should be completed.

The vote on the renewal passed by about 58 percent, 590 to 429. The Headlee rollback repeal lost 480 to 538, a 53 percent margin, and the request for .6 of a mill went down, 455 to 555, a 55 percent margin.

It was a long day for the election crew. The final tally was not completed until after 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Kingston, Ubly, O-G pass millages; elect trustees

All millage proposals on the ballot in area school districts were approved Tuesday and all incumbents seeking re-election were returned to office.

Owendale-Gagetown - The request for renewal of 8 mills for operations for two years was approved, 262-53.

The two incumbents whose terms were expiring were the only persons on the

ballot. Board President Ronald Goad received 291 votes. Donald Cummins received 257.

About 26 percent of the approximately 1,200 registered voters cast ballots.

Kingston - Renewal of 14 mills for operations was approved, 264-83. The 1-mill levy for one year for parking lot improvements passed, 202-146.

The incumbents both were re-elected. Albert Ruggles received 193 votes and John Borek Jr., 172.

Challenger Wesley Scott received 156 votes and Doug McCool, 151.

There are between 700 and 800 registered voters in the district.

Ubly - Renewal of 8.65 mills for operations for five years was okayed, 362-248.

Board President Bernard Puzalowski was re-elected with 402 votes.

Allan Moses was elected to the board with 389 votes. Gayleen Lindquist received 209 votes.

The 610 persons who went to the polls were about 24 percent of the registered voters.

Hassle over tape highlights routine Cass City board meet

Trustees had an easy time of it Monday night as most of the important business before the board was delayed pending the outcome of the millage and trustee election.

Two items outside of the regular routine of the board highlighted the session.

The first was the result of a hassle between Mrs. Ellen Toner and Supt. Donald Crouse over a tape of Mrs. Toner's speech in Bay City. It was made part of the file of Todd Toner, the Toners' autistic child. The purpose was to have a record for use

of others with similar problems. Crouse said that Mrs. Toner in the past had sent persons to hear the tape and that the tape belonged to the school.

Mrs. Toner said that she wanted the tape destroyed and when Crouse refused to do so, she wrote the superintendent a letter.

After more exchanges, Crouse destroyed the tape. Mrs. Toner appeared before the board and wanted the date the tape was destroyed in the meeting. Crouse said that he did not remember the exact date.

Trustee J.D. Tuckey said that he felt the date was immaterial now that the superintendent had said for the record that he had destroyed the tape.

Mrs. Toner was adamant in requiring a date and Crouse said that he couldn't give one but could check with Dr. Bruce Dunn on the day he discussed it with him before destroying the tape.

President Geraldine Prieskorn ended the discussion by saying that an attempt would be made to establish the date and Mrs. Toner could have a copy of the minutes of Monday's meeting.

The second issue causing comment was a request of John A. Carroll of the Millington area to provide literature and advice to consi-

entious objectors.

The request was by letter. An informal poll indicated that the board favored no action on the request by a 4-3 margin.

The issue that Carroll brought to the attention of the board was the work of Army recruiters soliciting volunteers for the armed forces.

He wanted an equal chance to prevent an outlet for students opposed to war. The door is open for further discussion if Carroll appears in person to present his case, conversation at the table indicated. Voting for tabling were Tuckey, Dean Hoag, Dr. E. Paul Lockwood and Art Severance. Opposed were Prieskorn, Thresa Burnette and Dr. Ed Scollon.

APPROVE EXPENDITURE

The board proceeded with plans to revamp windows at DeFord, Evergreen and Campbell elementary schools at a total cost of \$96,000. Half of the money will come from a Federal grant and the other half from district taxpayers. It is expected that the cost will be recovered in three years or less because of savings in fuel.

Cost of the new windows at DeFord is \$24,800 and at Evergreen, \$24,900. They

will be completely new units including frames. At Campbell the frames are in good condition and only the glass will be replaced with a panel at top and thermopane windows at the bottom. The cost will be \$41,300.

ACCEPT STUDY

The board accepted a study with recommendations for barrier free buildings for handicapped students. There are 11 recommendations and the board will study them and secure cost estimates for the work.

It is not expected that many of the plans will be started in the very near future. The study is necessary because it was requested by the Federal government and if no effort is made there could be a chance of losing Federal funds.

OTHER BUSINESS

The school will not receive as much Title I money this season if tentative budgets are finalized. Last year \$161,553 was received and next year \$143,999 is budgeted.

The school is expected to adjust to the cut because it did not fill the home-school council position last year and there is a \$38,000 surplus in the fund. The same post Please turn to page 16.

Boards one judge for county

The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday to form its own one-judge circuit court district, instead of sharing three judges with Lapeer county.

Its unanimous vote came despite being told by the senior judge for the circuit, Norman A. Baguley, that by doing so, "You would really be doing a disservice to the people of your own county."

The final decision now rests with the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners, which must also approve the split, in accordance with a bill recently approved by the legislature and signed by the governor.

Baguley, who spoke to the Lapeer commissioners last week, predicted they will approve the change. "Their feeling is, why should they save Tuscola county. Let them fall on their face."

The Lapeer commissioners referred the matter to committee. They have until June 27 to make a decision.

Baguley based his argument on the fact that a single judge in Tuscola, who will be Patrick Joslyn of Caro, will have a bigger caseload than the two in Lapeer.

As of March 31, there were 627 pending cases in Tuscola, with 166 of them ready for trial.

In Lapeer, which will have two judges, there are 820 pending cases, which means Baguley and Judge Martin

E. Clements will have 410 each. Baguley described that as a "light load." He hadn't counted the number ready for trial.

In response to a question from Commissioner Donna Rayl of Akron, he said the state pays the entire cost for visiting judges who are retired, but due to the state's budget crunch, it has suspended paying them for the rest of the fiscal year, until Sept. 30.

If it is an active judge who is visiting, the benefiting county must pay him 1-250th per day of the difference between the supplement he receives in his own county and that paid in the benefiting county (Tuscola's supplement is low), or \$25 per day, whichever is greater.

Clements told the commissioners that having a lone judge means lawyers and their clients are always subject to that judge's prejudices "because every judge has a different viewpoint."

"The flexibility of the present system is of benefit to the people," he commented later.

Commissioners ended their morning session by voting to refer the matter to the personnel committee for further study and a recommendation.

After lunch, however, they continued discussion and called some lawyers by telephone, then voted unanimously for the split.

According to Commissioner Royce Russell of Elmwood township, the lawyers expressed varying opinions. The members of the Tuscola County Bar Association met last week to discuss the matter but decided against taking an official position.

One reason commissioners voted the way they did, Russell told the Chronicle, was resentment over Lapeer county commissioners setting their supplements higher than the amount desired by the Tuscola board. Lapeer pays each circuit judge \$8,500 in addition to what they receive from the state. Tuscola pays \$4,500.

They also feel some day Tuscola will have two circuit judges.

Please turn to page 17.

O-G residents air concerns with board

No study halls. Noontime rowdyism. Students roaming the halls. No high school play.

Lots of concerns were expressed by some parents at Monday night's Owendale-Gagetown School Board meeting. No final answers were given but a promise was made to more fully explore some of the issues at the board's July meeting.

In other action, the district may again face payless paydays, Supt. Ronald Erickson warned, unless the Municipal Finance Commission quickly approves the district's request to borrow \$395,000 in tax anticipation notes.

The discussion of various concerns at the high school began with parent Sandy Peters asking for reinstatement of study halls.

Erickson responded that those who remember when the district did have them were split, with some considering them as having been a waste of time. Others "got a lot of work done." He later promised to put the issue on the board's July agenda, with the possibility of scheduling study halls come fall.

Questions were asked about high school students driving down Main Street in Owendale in a reckless manner during lunch hour and causing other mischief.

Erickson and High School Principal James Barr responded it was the same 10 percent of the students causing the problems "over and over and you don't get any backing from parents."

Concern was expressed by Sally Draschil about students roaming hallways when class was in session. The response was that it is sometimes harder to solve the problem than it is to define it and that perhaps study halls might help, for students who don't have a full schedule of classes.

Questions were also asked about the poor condition of textbooks, whether band should be considered an extra-curricular activity, why only 12 of 47 seniors went on the senior trip, and why there was no school play this year.

The poor condition of textbooks stems from their having to be provided free to the students, because of a court ruling several years ago.

Students kept better care of them when they had to pay for them, it was noted. The books are checked by teachers at the end of the year and some will be rebound, Barr said.

Students involved and the teacher director decided not to conduct the play, he explained, because they didn't have enough rehearsals due to other activities.

Erickson promised to put some of the issues discussed on the July agenda. Mrs. Draschil commented that she didn't know if anything was resolved, that "I think we will have to continue next month."

PAYLESS PAYDAYS

The board approved application to the state Municipal Finance Commission (MFC) to borrow \$395,000 in tax anticipation notes, which is half of the amount anticipated in property tax revenue during the 1980-81 school year, the maximum allowable limit.

Such borrowing by school districts is routine, to fill the revenue gap until they start receiving property tax revenue in December. The money is borrowed from banks.

However, Erickson warned that unless the MFC approved the loan request within about three weeks, the district may have to temporarily suspend pay to its employees, who receive their paychecks year-round.

As part of its application, the district has to submit a tentative 1980-81 budget, which Erickson described as of "probably very little validity" except for projected revenue.

Property tax revenue, not including the Goslin or Elenbaum properties, is listed at \$791,023, based on a state equalized valuation of \$36.79 million, compared to \$34.25 million last year.

State revenue is listed at \$56,350; federal, \$86,000; miscellaneous, \$48,600; and special education and tuition, \$9,500, for total revenue of \$991,473.

Expenditures are projected to be the same amount.

During the last school year, Owen-Gage borrowed \$350,000. The regulation then in effect required the first \$350,000 received in property Please turn to page 18.



ELLEN TONER demands satisfaction over disposal of tape from Cass City school board.