CASS CITY, MICHIGAN-- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1980

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EIGHTEEN PAGES

ey, no major street improve-

ment projects or alley pav-

be some repairs on Seeger

The biggest priority will

The total major street

Despite the increase in

water and sewer fees, the

wastewater treatment fund

still must be augmented

with \$5,000 from the general

revenues and \$11,000 from

Total general fund reve-

nue is projected at \$452,000 (plus \$48,000 from savings).

The 14-mill tax levy will be continued, which should raise \$266,500 next year, up

from \$251,300 received this

projected at \$103,700, a de-

cline from \$114,750 the vil-

Federal revenue sharing

is projected at \$39,400, up

Althaver expressed the

fear that revenues may

prove less than projected

some hesitation about this

revenue," he commented.

OTHER ITEMS

The village Planning Com-

mission will hold a public

hearing on the proposed re-

zoning of the Engineered

Tools property on Doerr

Road from its present resi-

lage got this year.

Various state revenue is

the water fund.

vear.

fund is budgeted at \$33,500,

and local streets, \$30,500.

ing are planned in 1981,

Street.



Employees get 9% 1 400 Village water, sewer rate going up 20%

Cass City home and building owners will be paying an approximately 20 percent increase in water and sewer rates in 1981, the village council decided Monday eve-

Council members, before approving the 1981 budget, also okayed a 9 percent pay raise for village employees. The water and sewer rate

increase, Village President Lambert Althaver explained after the meeting, was needed because of the increasing cost of running the old sewage treatment plant, such as for chemicals, and the beginning of increased costs for running the new plant, now under construction.

A major chunk of the new expense will be the \$21,000 salary for the new wastewater plant supervisor. The hiring of Rick Mohr of Saginaw, who starts Monday, means expansion of the workforce at the treatment plant from two to three, needed for the new plant, part of which goes into operation late next year.

The new rates, effective

Heavy damage in Novesta fire; blaze destroys Argyle home

Damage was estimated at at least \$20,000 in a fire that leavily damaged the Milton (Mel) Johnson home in Novesta township Saturday night.

Elkland Township Fire

faulty electrical outlet in an somehow shorted out.

the cause was traced to a

upstairs bedroom which the west end of the home, spread throughout the entire The fire was reported at upstairs. That level was 9:10 p.m. The home is on gutted, Hartwick said.

home is repairable. Assistant Fire Chief The fire, which began in bringing two tanker loads of Shabbona Road, about 114 There was primarily water

water to the blaze.

Living in the home were

Johnson, his wife, Vi, and

their son John. They were home at the time of the fire. The family is temporarily staying at the home of the

couple's son, Bill, on Craw-

Reportedly, John discovered the fire when he saw smoke coming out of the

Thursday, Christmas Day. Argyle . Ire Chief George Jerome Root Jr. said an Simmons said estimated estimated 3,600 gallons of value of the home was water were used. The Caro \$25,000. The contents, includ-Fire Department assisted by ing many valuable antiques,

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with the three-month period ending Jan. 31, are as follows (old rate in parentheses): 0-5,000 gallons, \$21.12 (\$17.60); 5,001-15,000, \$1.98 per thousand gallons, \$(1.65); 15,001-25,000, \$1.716 per thousand (\$1.43); 25,001-200,000, \$1.952 per thousand

(\$1.21); over 200,000, \$1.128 per thousand (94 cents). Outside of the village, building owners will pay double, plus \$10 per quarter, the same as before. The rate of Huntsville Trailer Park, which has sewage treatment only (it has its own water well) will be \$3.75 per uni* per month, up from \$2.75. The charge is billed to the

park owner. For a family of four using 30,000 gallons of water a month, which is about average, the quarterly rate will go up from \$54 to \$65 (\$21.12 for 5,000 gallons, \$1.98 per thousand for 10,000 gallons, \$1.716 per thousand for 10,000, plus \$1.952 per thousand for the final 5,000 gallons).

SALARIES

Eleven village employees will receive a 9 percent pay increase in 1981, the council decided, versus the 1212 percent they had requested. They will also receive dental insurance and retirees will be able to carry hospitalization insurance through the village at their own expense. That will allow them to get the insurance at a lower rate. Employees also sought but

didn't get longevity pay, an additional personal leave day, Blue Cross hospitalization college rider (covering children in college), sick day license plate fee revenue accumulation to 150 days from the state declining and (it's now 120 at 12 days per no more county bridge mon-

year), full retirement at 62 (65 now) and paid Blue Cross from 62-65. 'We just felt the way the

budget is, that's as far as we can go," explained Richard Hampshire of the council's personnel committee.*

With the increases, the three highest paid employees will be village Superintendent Lou LaPonsie, \$27,350 annually; Police Chief Gene Wilson, \$21,717, and Mohr, \$21,000. The three village police of-

ficers (not including Wilson) were not included in the new pay and benefits package because they recently joined the Fraternal Order of Police, which will negotiate in their behalf concerning pay and benefits. The union has yet to contact the village concerning the start of ne-

BUDGET

gotiations, Althaver said.

from \$32,250. with minor changes from what was first presented because of the poor state of the economy. "I really have

scheduled public hearing Monday, prior to passage of the financial plan. General fund expenditures are projected at \$500,000, up from \$437,880 spent this year, which will require

taking \$48,000 from savings. Big increases in expenditures include salaries increase, \$16,673, not including police; new tennis courts, \$30,000, to be defrayed by public donations; street lighting (electricity), up from \$24,500 this year to \$30,000, and insurance and bonds, up \$5,000 to \$35,000. With gasoline tax and

dential and general business zonings to light industrial. The hearing will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 20. The commission must make a recommenda-. tion to the council following the hearing. A letter was received from

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The budget was approved Dec. 1. No one showed up at the

Chief Jack Hartwick said miles east of Cemetery damage downstairs. The

Gifts galore await first baby of 1981

National Bank and Trust Co.

The cost to mom and dad

First babies of the year born in Hills and Dales General Hospital have come from all over the Thumb and have received a galaxy of prizes in the annual Chronicle First Baby Contest.

1981 will be no exception. Waiting for the first arrival are 14 different prizes given by area merchants. The first baby will be able

to choose whatever is needed with a \$10 gift certificate from Kritzman's and \$10 in merchandise from Albee True Value Home Center.

The youngster will be get-Loan Association has \$10 to ting off to a right start with deposit in a prestige ac-\$25 deposited in his name in count. a silver key account at the

\$5 worth of baked goods Cass City office of Thumb are available from Konrad's Bakery and Sommers' Bakery. Hobart's Family Shoes will decrease when they pick will give \$5 towards a new up \$10 worth of baby prod-ucts from Quaker Maid pair of baby shoes and the parents can read all about it Dairy Store and Erla's Food with their free subscription Center. Baby will have the to the Chronicle. choice of baby food or

merchandise worth \$12.50 Finally there is a vaporizfrom IGA Foodliner. Cass er given by Old Wood Drug City Gambles has \$10 in and \$10 towards any premerchandise for the winner scription from Coach Light and Mutual Savings and Pharmacy.

ture from the house before it could be damaged. While fighting the blaze, firemen found two new smoke detectors, still in the boxes, which were beeping. The last fire truck returned to the station at 11:40

p.m.

ford Road.

wall upstairs.

ARGYLE FIRE

Isabelle Cutright was left with only memories and ashes after fire destroyed her home east of Argyle last

Tuscola board tries for '81 property tax freeze

Enough is enough, said the The family was able to Tuscola County Board of remove its downstairs furni-Commissioners last week when they voted to try to freeze 1981 property valuations at their 1980 level. Such action would mean no increase in property taxes if millage rates remained the same.

The board voted Tuesday. Dec. 23, not to accept the equalization report presented by Equalization Director Donald Graf, which increased agricultural assessments an average of 6.31 going to stop it?" percent countywide; resi-

dential property, 8.06 percent, and timber cutover, .63 percent. The average for the three together is 6.93 percent. The figures are derived from the department study of property sales. The department is still preparing its study of commercial and industrial valu-

ations. "We just didn't like the increases," said Commissioner Royce Russell of Elmwood township, chairman of the board's equalization committee. "Where are you

As for what happens next, at the 1977 level, then dehe said, "I don't know where cided the STC would never we go from there."

Graf later told the Chron- equalized valuation of the county midway between the icle he will keep the report, which was supposed to be 1977 figure and the level sent to the State Tax Com- determined by the equalizamission (STC) by Dec. 31, The STC presumably will later write a letter to the county board, asking for the

There is precedent for

what the county board is at-

tempting to do. The last time

In 1978, the board first

tried to freeze assessments

they tried it, they lost.

report.

tion department. The STC rejected the

board's arguments and imposed the equalization department totals, which meant an average 15.02 percent increase in the valuation of agricultural property and a 5.53 percent boost in

approve it, so okayed a state

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Owendale woman dies in crash; Lori Schuette reported critical

Hannah McQueen, 68, of but his wife was found lying Owendale, was killed Satur- partially under the truck. day night when she was thrown from the pickup she was riding in when it rolled over.

Driver of the pickup was her husband, David, 73.

According to the Huron County Sheriff's Department, their pickup was northbound on Elkton Road, a quarter-mile north of Mc-Alpin Road, when it went off the west side of the road, rolled over once into a field and came to rest on its wheels.

township, the daughter of Both occupants were thrown from the vehicle. Neil and Nina (Grace) Mc-McQueen was thrown clear Larty.

She married David Mcpartially under the truck. Neither was wearing a safe-Queen April 8, 1931, in Flint. They moved to an Evergreen township farm in 1932 ty belt. Mrs. McQueen was pro-

General Hospital, where he

was reported in fair condi-

The 6 p.m. accident re-mains under investigation. The McQueens lived on S.

Mrs. McQueen was born

tion Monday afternoon.

Elkton Road.

and to Cass City in 1947, nounced dead at the scene where they operated a laundry and dry cleaning by medical examiner Dr. E.C. Holdship. Her husband was taken to Hills and Dales business until 1957. Mrs. McQueen is survived

by her husband; one daughter, Mrs. Patsy Evans, Pontiac; one daughter-in-law. Mrs. Peggy McQueen, Lapeer; one sister, Mrs. Eliza-

beth Ball, Pontiac; seven grandchildren and six greatgrandchildren. A son, Glenn, preceded her in death.

Oct. 12, 1912, in Evergreen Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Little's Funeral accident near that city.

Home, Cass City, with Rev. Eldred Kelley of the Salem United Methodist church officiating.

Burial will be in Elkland cemetery.

Mrs. McQueen was the 18th person to die in a Huron county traffic accident this year.

FLINT ACCIDENT

Ex-Cass City resident Lori Schuette, 24, of Flint, was reported in critical condition Tuesday morning at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, where she was taken following a Tuesday, Dec. 23,

Flint township police reported she was eastbound on Miller Road in heavy traffic when her vehicle crossed the centerline into the westbound lane and struck an oncoming vehicle head-on.

Reportedly, she had swerved into the other lane to avoid running into the rear of the vehicle which had stopped suddenly in front of her.

She was taken to McLaren General Hospital, then transferred to Hurley.

The driver of the other vehicle, Abner J. Espinosa, 43, of Columbiaville, sought Please turn to page 3.

TRAFFIC FATALITY -- Hannah McQueen was killed Saturday night when this pickup in which she was a passenger rolled over once. She was thrown from the vehicle.

