

Council Considers Millage Hike Wednesday, June 21

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the general fund balance of \$9,000 at the end of its fiscal year March 31, 2005, and he estimates it had a \$30,000 balance for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

The positive movement in the general fund shown, he said, that Council is "monitoring the operation of the city."

In a related matter, Mr. Konicki advised the city to consider a one-mill tax increase for 2006 when it meets Wednesday, June 21.

Last year, he noted, the taxable value for Mackinac Island increased about \$6 million, or 3.41 percent, from

\$168,520,994 in 2005 to 174,262,069 in 2006.

The city levied 7.95 mills and generated \$1.3 million in property tax revenue in 2005 to support the city's general fund, and should see an additional \$45,000 at the same rate this year.

The extra mill, which would levy \$1 for each \$1,000 in taxable value, would generate \$174,262 for solid waste, which the Board of Public Works said last fall is losing money.

Alderman Jason St. Onge said that though Council did not know how the sale of the Rowe House condominiums would

progress, Council may be able to lower taxes in the future based on revenue the sale generates.

"Hopefully, (with) the proceeds from that condo sale left over from the remodeling job of

the former medical center building, we might be able to pay some debt down and lower some taxes in the coming year and add some funding to these capital fund accounts," said Alderman Jason St. Onge.

Accounts	2005 Actual		2006 Proposed	
	Millage	Revenue	Millage	Revenue
General Fund	7.2330	\$1,218,912	7.29850	\$1,271,852
Road Improvements	0.1000	16,851	0.10000	17,426
MI Trans Fund Debt	0.1190	20,054	0.11150	19,430
Fire Hall Debt	0.2500	42,130	0.20000	34,852
Fire Truck Debt	0.2480	41,793	0.24000	41,823
Solid Waste	0		1.00000	174,262
Total	7.9500	\$1,339,740	8.95000	\$1,559,645

Superintendent Interviews Scheduled For June 19-20

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principal at Morrice Area Schools, are the five candidates who will be interviewed by the school board this month.

The board received 37 applications for the position and those were narrowed by the board to four candidates and four alternates.

The 29 candidates who were eliminated did not meet three

"We need the right person, not the now person."

— Jason St. Onge
School Board Trustee

criteria, according to Ken Drenth, a retired superintendent from Cedarville who is assisting the board in its search - a lack of educational experience, not meeting the profile specified by the board, and having no experience at a public school.

For the successful candidates, the board looked also at leadership, community relations, and financial experience.

One board member questioned whether the board may be moving too quickly in its hiring of a new superintendent, who will replace Jack Dehring when he retires July 1.

"We need the right person, not the now person," said

trustee Jason St. Onge, who suggested the self-imposed July 1 hiring deadline be moved to so the board can have more time to review the applicants.

School Board President Ben Mosley agreed.

"I'm not in a big hurry to get this done," he said, but the board will assess the need for delay until after the interviews.

All board members will be present for the interviews, which will be held on Monday, June 19, and Tuesday, June 20. On June 19, Ms. Robb will be interviewed at 5 p.m., Mr. Bowden at 6:30 p.m., and Ms. Leaman at 8 p.m. On June 20, Mr. Schrock will be interviewed at 6:30 p.m. and Mr. Turner will be interviewed at 8 p.m.

The interviews are open to the public.

Mr. Drenth will be giving the board a list of prepared questions and the board will also be able to add their own questions. The board has yet to decide whether they will be allowing questions from the public during the interviews.

Trustees have discussed visiting the towns of the final candidates, but the board has not scheduled any trips.

The board discussed what salary it will offer a new superintendent in executive session and has refused to release to the public the salary range it has agreed on. Superintendent Jack Dehring receives between \$75,000 and \$80,000 a year.

Scavenger Hunts Teach Island History

By Bernie Nguyen

Student groups paying a visit to Mackinac Island are benefiting from a strategy designed to help them experience all the Island's charms: Scavenger hunts. By placing students into teams and assigning them a list of tasks or trivia about the Island, teachers and local businesses have discovered a novel, fun way to introduce Island history and lore to visiting groups while maintaining an atmosphere of enjoyment.

Stephanie Creasey, a fourth grade teacher at Davisburg Elementary School who brings her class to the Island each year, said scavenger hunts are an effective way to get her students to experience the entire Island.

"It's a great way to make sure they go to all the different sites," she said, explaining that the larger group of children breaks up into smaller groups, each with a chaperone, to explore the Island more freely.

Ms. Creasey explained that Davisburg's school has been using scavenger hunts as a teaching tool on Mackinac Island for 10 years, and that she uses travel brochures and her own visits to the Island to formulate the hunt, which includes

taking photographs or making sketches, data collecting, and tasks like collecting stickers from the Butterfly House.

"They get very excited about trying to find things," Ms. Creasey said. "It gets them excited about information, and they're really proud of themselves when they turn it in."

She also added that by including questions for students to ask local business owners and residents, the visiting children get a chance to interact with Island residents, instead of just other tourists, and that the visit

"Nobody knows how that's going to come out, so it's kind of difficult to say, but we still have some things up our sleeve yet to help alleviate some of the tax burden."

Ms. Creasey emphasized the value of the scavenger hunt is in its ability to make students pay attention to their surroundings and read signs without simply walking by them.

"It gets them off Main Street," she said. "This gets them out and going."

The scavenger hunts have proved their worth after other

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