

Mackinac Island Asks St. Ignace To Join Legal Protest

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In other matters, Council postponed a decision to help the City of Mackinac Island protest proposed electricity rate increases until council members can hear the electric company's side of the issue. The City of Mackinac Island has asked that St. Ignace join the island in a legal protest against Edison Sault Electric Company's proposed rate increase.

Mr. Dodson said Sault Ste. Marie is also debating the issue.

Mackinac Island contends that Edison's proposed rate increase is based significantly on the company's voluntary termination of a joint operating agreement with its parent company, Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO), which the city says is not reasonable.

"The new agreement allowed WEPCO to make substantially more money by selling the electricity on the open market at higher rates," stated Mackinac Island city attorney Tom Evashevski in a letter to Mr. Dodson. "The new agreement also caused Edison to have to purchase electricity on the open market, which was more expensive than what it would have paid pur-

suant to the Joint Operating Agreement."

Mr. Evashevski explained that if Edison Sault were to be allowed by the Michigan Public Service Commission to raise its rates, Mackinac Island residents could see a \$100 hike in their electricity bills. Without propane or natural gas, electricity is the primary fuel for heating homes on the island.

Councilman Don Gustafson said he would be hesitant to proceed on a decision before hearing Edison Sault's side of the story.

"Edison Sault has cooperated with the city many times on projects," said Mr. Gustafson, pointing out that the electric company donated a transformer last month, free of charge, for the city's marina construction project.

Mayor Grondin asked Mr. Dodson to invite a representative of Edison Sault to attend council's next meeting to explain the company's decision to raise rates.

Council adopted its recreation plan following a six-minute public hearing during which only one comment was recorded. The city is required to update its recreation plan every five years to be eligible for state grants.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Director Deb Evashevski reported that resident Kirk Stage-Harvey had asked Council to postpone adopting the revisions until after the city hires a new recreation director, but she said postponing the action is not necessary.

"We can make changes later on down the road," she explained.

Councilman Willie LaLonde asked why the proposed basketball hoops and nets have not been placed near the former McCann Elementary School, which is now tribal housing, and Department of Public Works Director Les Therrian said he will look into the matter.

Mrs. Evashevski said she also will seek approval by neighboring township boards who participate in the city's recreation programs.

Maverick Construction was awarded a contract to install a concrete base on the Railroad Dock for the steel lighthouse the city acquired two years ago. Maverick was the lowest bidder for the project, at \$15,950.

Glashaw Electric will install the electricity to the dock improvement project for \$10,900 and was the lowest among four bidders.

Harbor Authority Director Gene Elmer said the lighthouse should be installed by June 9, although the lights may not be operational by then.

The lighthouse will be equipped with a light which will be visible 14 miles across the water. A cover will block the light from homes on the mainland.

Norris Contracting was awarded

the DDA's contract to repave the city's parking lot behind the downtown stores. Norris outbid three other contractors with a bid of \$47,881.

Mayor Grondin appointed Paul Fullerton to the city's Zoning Board of Appeals, replacing Dean Baker, who accepted a position on the Mackinac County Economic Development Corporation, which meets at the same time. Councilman Tom Della-Moretta was appointed to the Cemetery Committee by Mayor Grondin, Councilman Merv Wyse was appointed to the Investment Committee, and Mr. Grondin will serve on the Insurance Committee. He dissolved the city's Windmill Committee, stating that it has not conducted any business for at least a year.

Dennis Kundinger Sr., owner of Kundis Fireworks Display Shows in Sebawaing, was issued a permit to display fireworks at St. Ignace's Fourth of July celebration this year for approximately \$7,500, just as he has been paid in past years.

Mr. Kundinger will use close to 500 kinds of fireworks, which will be fired from the mill slip.

Council adopted a resolution supporting Let's Get Moving Northern Michigan 100-day wellness program, which is aimed at getting people in northern Michigan up and moving. Several council members discussed each purchasing a pedometer to count how many steps they take throughout the day and competing with other groups to see who accumulates the most steps during the month.

The program is also being supported by the fourth grade class in St. Ignace, which sent a letter to Council informing it of what the students will be doing for exercise during the month of May.



'Last Cat In'

The catamaran *Island Express* is slowly lowered into the waters of Lake Huron by Arnold Transit's marine travel lift Thursday, April 27, from the Mill Slip in St. Ignace, the company's winter dry dock. The catamaran was the last of the company's three to be put in the water to be prepared for the summer season.

Pickford Farmer Kronemeyer Reelected to Dairy Board

Pickford dairy farmer John Kronemeyer was recently re-elected to serve a three-year term on the Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) board of directors. Mr. Kronemeyer represents association members in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

As a participant on the 13-member board, he will help guide the direction of the 2,400 member dairy cooperative. He was elected to the position at a meeting in Engadine February 18.

Mr. Kronemeyer and his wife, Julia Kronemeyer, milk 300 cows and farm 1,200 acres in a family partnership at Taylor Creek Farm.

Mr. Kronemeyer also serves as

secretary of the MMPA Chippewa Local, is a former member of the Upper Peninsula State Fair Board, and has served on the Michigan Dairy Market Program Committee. He is Marquette Township supervisor and previously served on the Rudyard Christian Reformed Church Council. He is the former president of the Michigan Holstein Association and the Chippewa County Farm Bureau. He was on the Michigan Agriculture Commission for four years, serving one year as president.

Mr. and Mrs. Kronemeyer are past district winners of the MMPA Outstanding Dairy Couple program.

St. Ignace To Host Kayak Event in August

'Ladies of the Lake' To Feature Classes

St. Ignace will host a Women's Kayak Symposium August 17 through August 20, said Janet Peterson of the Chamber of Commerce.

The city has been selected as the site for the third annual Ladies of the Lake Symposium, which will feature several hands-on classes

about kayaking techniques for registered participants.

The event is expected to draw 180 people or more to the city, Mrs. Peterson said. At the group's previous two events, 120 people participated at Munising and 180 participated at Houghton.

"We may even do a little better at the St. Ignace event, being more centrally located," Mrs. Peterson said.

Symposium planners will visit

St. Ignace the first week of May to scout beach locations for kayak demonstrations. Sand Bay, Kiwanis Beach, or American Legion Park are being considered. Mrs. Peterson said she would like to see Kiwanis Beach or American Legion Park used for the event, owing to their visibility downtown, but the final decision will be dependent upon prevailing weather and wave conditions at the sites.

St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce Streamlines Goals

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budget and not knowing where they will be a year from now, the Chamber board hopes that they can help bridge that gap by becoming more of a business resource center, assisting owners and entrepreneurs in many aspects of business. We will offer varied resources on business issues. If we don't have the information in the office, we'll find it for you."

Projects are already underway to help meet some of the Chamber's goals, she said. A quarterly newsletter is being prepared to improve communication

to members.

Another proposed project will be an online community calendar, to be used by all local organizations to plan activities. The calendar would be posted on the Chamber of Commerce Web site.

To secure the agency's financial future, Mrs. Schlehuber said, "We have developed a marketing project we believe will allow us to be self sufficient. Our income is dependent upon membership dues. Hopefully, with the marketing plan, we will attract more membership."

Still being worked out, she said, details of the plan will be announced at the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner Thursday, May 18, at Little Bear East

Conference Center.

A copy of the Strategic Plan Summary developed during the planning process is available for review at the Chamber of Commerce office, 560 North State Street.

Rudyard Church To Host Bazaar

A Spring Fling Bazaar is planned at St. James Lutheran Church of Rudyard Saturday, May 13, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Salad luncheon costs \$5 and includes a ticket for door prizes. Plants, baked goods, crafts, and raffles will be offered.

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Mackinac Real Estate

#337-05-0016 - NAUBINWAY - Nice lot on the Millecoquin River on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club with view of Lake Michigan. Great spot for your home or cabin. Fish right out the back door or sit by the sandy beach just a few feet away. Prior membership approval required. **\$69,900**

#337-05-0030 - REXTON - Darling 2 bdr, 1 bath home that is immaculate & has been remodeled. Surrounded by State Land. Nice size lot with room for expansion. New detached 2 car garage. Move right in and enjoy. If your looking for a nice place, this is it!! **\$69,900**

#337-04-0013 - NAUBINWAY - PRICE REDUCED!!! Nice quaint 2 bdr, 1 bath home in the Village overlooking Lake Michigan that would make a great starter or vacation home. Big addition with gas fireplace. Sitting on 2 lots on a quiet street. Will look at all reasonable offers. **\$72,000**

#337-06-0008 - NAUBINWAY - Cute 2 bdr, 1 bath cabin on 100' of sandy Lake Michigan frontage on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club. One Mile Creek runs through the property. New roof on house and garage. Prior membership approval required. **\$259,000**

#337-05-0034 - NAUBINWAY - PRICE REDUCED!!! Nice 4 bdr, 1 bath home sitting on a corner lot. Many updates have been done, including new water heater and extra insulation. New deck built around East side of home and enclosed heated porch. Will consider renting also. **\$66,500**

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