

Gros Cap Fund Balance To Compensate for Lawsuit

By Paul Gingras
The Moran Township School Board, meeting Monday, September 18, discussed the results of a draft audit from Anderson, Tackman and Company, which shows the school is in the black by \$241,000 for the 2005/2006 school year. The positive balance is important to the school because energy companies, which claim to have been overtaxed on their assets in recent years, continue to file lawsuits against municipalities which collected revenue from them. In Moran Township, much of this revenue was used to help fund Gros Cap school, and now the district will have to pay the money back.

An attorney from American Transmission Company has informed the township that the company plans to file a lawsuit with the Michigan Tax Tribunal over taxes the company paid between 2002 and 2006.

In response, the school board is preparing to restrict approximately \$50,000 of its fund balance to repay an estimated \$35,000 to American Transmission Company, and the board is also anticipating repayment of approximately \$5,000 to Edison Sault Electric Company and

\$10,000 to Cloverland Electric Cooperative.

Gros Cap School Superintendent Bill Peltier said the need to pay American Transmission Company was "unexpected," but it will not affect the operation of the school.

"It impacts the fund balance, and it hurts the school, sure. We'll have to get over it."

— Bill Peltier,
Gros Cap School
Superintendent

"It impacts the fund balance, and it hurts the school, sure," he told *The St. Ignace News*, but unless Gros Cap is surprised by more problems of this kind, "we'll get over it," he said.

"This is why having a fund balance is so critical," Mr. Peltier said at the meeting. "You just don't know."

Once filed, the suit will go before the Michigan Tax Tribunal, but a delay of several months is expected, said board president Janice O'Boyle, because a Dow Chemical Company case is currently occupying the Tribunal. When Dow's suit is settled, Mrs. O'Boyle said she expects the American Transmission suit against Moran Township to proceed quickly.

American Transmission has offered to settle out of court, said township supervisor Jim Durm.

The township board held a special meeting to discuss the matter Thursday, September 14.

Mrs. O'Boyle attended the meet-

ing on behalf of Gros Cap School. The meeting was also attended by township assessors Richard and Cynthia Oliver and Hudson Township Supervisor Al Garavaglia.

Mr. Durm said the township plans to make a counter offer to American Transmission. The board will offer to settle for a lesser amount, he said, but the township has not yet decided what it is willing to pay. Action is expected at the November township meeting, Mr. Durm added.

Moran Township Treasurer Sue Dionne said several cases involving energy companies have been settled already, but Moran Township is expecting more. Currently, the township is only dealing with American Transmission, but Cloverland and Edison Sault are expected to file suits as well and the township is especially concerned about a potential suit by Enbridge Energy, which is expected to generate a repayment request similar in size to American Transmission's request of approximately \$35,000.

Since the school system received the largest amount of tax money collected from the company, it will be the hardest entity hit, Ms. Dionne said.

To give the district time to set aside money, "We'd like to delay

these repayments as long as possible," she told *The St. Ignace News*.

Ms. Dionne added that the figures under discussion are "ballpark estimates" and don't include interest and penalties that could add to the total owed by Moran Township and Gros Cap.

Repayments to energy companies in Michigan is widespread. In recent years, a host of companies have disputed the amount of taxes paid to municipalities, saying that the method used to calculate their taxes was flawed. They have won case after case.

The lawsuits center around financial tools called "multipliers." Multipliers are part of a method used by assessors to determine the value of personal property and to generate appropriate taxes.

Over time, assets such as American Transmission's pipelines in Moran Township depreciate in value, and lower taxes are generated based on calculations made using multipliers. American Transmission, and many other companies, claim that municipalities have used incorrect multipliers in recent years.

Ms. Dionne said the proper depreciation schedule is currently being used and added that the township hopes to settle these long-standing problems soon.

"We'd like to see this end in 2006," she said.

17 Local Students Earn Scholarships From Tribe

Seventeen local students have earned scholarships from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, totaling \$16,150. Scholarship winners are:

Pamela Cable Gershon Memorial Scholarship, \$150; Kalvin Harwig of Sault Ste. Marie, a freshman at Michigan Technological University. Joseph K. Lumsden Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 each: Elizabeth Carr of Sault Ste. Marie, a senior at Grand Valley State University; Ashley Corbiere of Sault Ste. Marie, a junior at Ferris State University; Steven Knauf of

Sault Ste. Marie, a senior at Northern Michigan University; Sarah Leask of Cadillac, a junior at Grand Valley State University; and Danielle Sigelko of Portland, a student at Michigan State University. George K. Nolan Tribal Judicial Scholarship, \$1,000: John Kellis of Sault Ste. Marie, a junior at Michigan State University.

Bernard Bouschor Honorary Scholarship, \$1,000 each: Norma Castro of Sault Ste. Marie, a sophomore at Lake Superior State University; Matt Collins of Sault Ste. Marie, a junior at Lake Superior State University; Angela



St. Ignace Saints varsity cheer captains Whitney Robinson (left) and Sydney Schroeder are raising \$1,500 each to participate in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York November 23.

St. Ignace Cheer Captains To Participate in Macy's NY Parade

Sydney Schroeder and Whitney Robinson, co-captains of the St. Ignace cheerleading squad, are planning to be a part of the 80th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York November 23. Each must raise

\$1,500 for the week-long trip.

The two LaSalle High School seniors were invited to take part through the Universal Cheer Association (UCA) during the cheer team's July camp at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. The UCA invites all high school junior and senior cheer captains across the country to participate in the parade, in which they will walk down Broadway Avenue with other cheer captains, floats, balloons, bands, and celebrities.

The girls raised \$500 at a spaghetti dinner at Java Joe's Tuesday, September 12. They plan more fundraising until they leave for the parade.

The girls, accompanied by their mothers, will spend a week in New York, enjoying a tour of the city and will stay at the Hilton Hotel.

Both 17, they have four years of varsity cheerleading experience and participated in the traditional Detroit Lions Thanksgiving Day football game two years ago with their squad.

Donations to the girls' Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade trip can be dropped off at the LaSalle High School office.

White of Newberry, a junior at Northern Michigan University; Nicholas Bott at Traverse City, a freshman at Michigan State University; Cody du Pont of Clarksville, a freshman at Grand Rapids Community College; and Stephan Hall, a sophomore at Albion College. Fred L. Hatch Memorial Teacher Education Scholarship, \$1,000 each: Jennifer Bosanic of Manistique, a senior at Northern Michigan University; Bernadette Garren of Belleville, a senior at Eastern Michigan University. Victor Matson Sr. Tributary Scholarship, \$1,000: Nicholas Reo of Williamston, a student at Michigan State University. Martha Miller Tributary Scholarship, \$1,000: Jessica Martin of Sault Ste. Marie, a senior at Lake Superior State University.

Pickford Birthday Calendars Available Through Sept. 30

Pickford Community Calendar is being offered by the Pickford Chapter of Family, Community, Careers Leaders of America, and calendar orders must be placed by Saturday, September 30. Calendars contain Pickford area birthday, anniversary, service, and memorial listings.

Calendars cost \$6 each, and each listing in the calendar costs 50 cents. People placing listings are also asked to provide their information by September 30. Forms are available for providing this information, and people are asked to pay for their calendars and listings when ordering, to make delivery quicker.

Anticipated delivery is early December, and calendars will be mailed to people who have not picked them up by December 15.

Contact any FCCLA member to order calendars, submit a listing, or obtain an order form.

JR's TAILGATE PUB

Happy Hour 4-7 p.m. Daily

Friday, Sept. 22
Maryoke Karaoke
9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Win a Jacuzzi Room

Saturday, Sept. 23
Live Music
by Ronnie Raygun
9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

Downtown Mackinaw City
at the Light
101 East Central Ave. • 231-436-8540

Retired School Employees To Meet Sept. 29

The Chippewa-Mackinac Area Retired School Personnel Chapter will meet Friday, September 29, at noon in the Presbyterian Church in Stalwart.

Luncheon will be served and a program will be presented. Reservations are required by calling Rodney Kauppula at (906) 478-6841.

MARLEE'S CRUISERS

END OF THE SEASON SALE

ALL in stock BIKES & Everything Else
All 2006 Rental Bikes must go!

OPEN 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tue. - Sat.
Located upstairs in the Pavillion
Downtown St. Ignace (906) 643-8060

4th Annual

Oktoberfest!

Sat., Sept. 23rd
Noon to Midnight

Portage Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, MI
(between Ashmun St. and Gov. Osborn Blvd.)

Farmer's Market Noon to 6 p.m.
Vendors Noon to 6 p.m.
Food & Beverages All Day
Downtown Restaurants and Tavern will be serving on streets

Kids Games Noon to 6 p.m.
Ten Live Bands Playing
from Noon to Midnight

Come Celebrate the end
of Summer in Downtown
Sault Ste. Marie!

For additional information or to register as a
farmer or vendor contact Lee at 906-635-6973

SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

52 Chances To Win

Year Long Raffle Tickets on Sale NOW!

Every Friday for 52 weeks Match your Ticket Number to the Michigan Daily 3 Midday Numbers & Win Prize for that Week!

There are only 1,000 Tickets Being Sold! \$50 per Ticket.
Tickets Can be Purchased & a List of Prizes can be viewed at www.curtischamber.com and at local businesses in Curtis!
You can also mail a check to Portage Anglers Club, P.O. Box 62, Curtis, MI 49820 or Call (906) 586-3454.
Proceeds to go towards lake improvements. Sponsored by Portage Anglers Club, Curtis, MI

36 Guns Nascar Tickets

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Free Entry

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Bring your Buck to Bumpus' We'll hang your trophy & take your picture!
Your picture is your entry to Win Prizes!

Oct. 1st thru Nov. 30th

Prizes

STOP IN WE'RE LOCATED DOWNTOWN CEDARVILLE
BUMPAS' HIGH TIMES ON THE BAY (906) 484-3338

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL

9 Months for only \$29 per month*

NO SERVICE FEE

NO YEARLY COMMITMENT

Now that school has started, TAKE SOME TIME FOR YOURSELF!
✓ takes 30 minutes
✓ burns body fat, not lean muscle
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OPEN Mon.-Thurs.
7 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Fri. 7 a.m. to Noon & 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Sat. & Sun.

For more information call:
906-643-6430
440 N. State St., St. Ignace

*Restrictions may apply. St. Ignace Location ONLY.

Mackinac Grille

Station 2643

South State Street on the Waterfront St. Ignace
(906) 643-7482
Mon-Sat. 11 a.m.-Midnight • Sun. 8 a.m.-Midnight

Friday Fish Fry
Perch • Walleye • Whitefish

SATURDAY SPECIALS

18 oz. Rib Eye or
8 oz. Tenderloin...\$18.95
includes our 50 Item Salad Bar

SUNDAY BRUNCH 9 a.m to 2 p.m.

Late Night Happy Hour
10 p.m. to Midnight Nightly

Come Join the Fun at our Waterfront Pub
Late Night Menu Served until Midnight

Save Our Softball

Silent Auction Fundraiser

Thursday, September 28th
LaSalle High School Cafeteria
5 to 9 p.m.
(during the girls basketball game between St. Ignace and Cheboygan)

Various Items to be Auctioned Including:
Mackinac Bridge Tower Tour,
Handmade Adirondack Chair, Tool Box,
Artist's Prints, Gift Certificates to Various Businesses
and Much More!!!

Proceeds will Benefit the LaSalle Girl's Softball Team