

Clark Township Board Discusses Senior Lunches, Road Commission Representation

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resurfacing. Future work would pave the gravel portion of the road, from Oglebay Norton's quarry road to M-48. The project is expected to take four years, but the Road Commission's new priority list did not anticipate work on the road until 2009.

Mrs. Hudson noted there was only one east district project on the list over the next two years, and that was Town Line Road in Pickford. There were no east district projects on the list for 2008, and a proposed five-year Three Mile Road project in Marquette Township had also been removed from the list.

She cited the January 18 article in *The St. Ignace News* that mentioned how contracted work with townships is a major source of income for the Road Commission, and how local jobs keep road commission employees paid throughout the summer months. Clark Township levies one mill for road improvements, and spends all of the more than \$168,000 collected from taxpayers on road contracts with the

Mackinac County Road Commission.

"We do have a significant amount of money we spend with the Road Commission, and I would think that would bear some weight with the Road Commission in making Clark Township a consideration for rural (Category D) funds," Mrs. Hudson said.

The state and federal money for road projects comes from gas taxes, which are allocated to local municipalities and road commissions based on their populations, and need. The money is disbursed for projects related to economic development as Category D Funds, specifically given to projects that improve secondary, all-season road systems by building or improving roads that connect existing all-season roads.

Mrs. Hudson suggested the board get a new list of all proposed road construction and maintenance projects in Clark Township. Mike Patrick of Cedarville, who was seated in the audience, reminded the board that he was told "Clark

Township is out of funds" for maintenance projects when he called the road commission requesting pot hole repair for Park Avenue. Treasurer Katie Carpenter, who lives on the road, said she didn't think there was any maintenance on Park Avenue last year.

"For the tax base along that road, that's a crime," Trustee Mike Lofdahl replied.

Mrs. Hudson said she has recommended the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners appoint former road commissioner John Duncan of Cedarville to the Road Commission if it is expanded to five seats. She wrote a letter to the Road Commission citing her concern about the composition of the commission, because there is no one on the commission representing the east end of the county. There is no requirement that commissioners serve a specific area of the county, and current commissioners include Paul Amacher and Frank Luepnitz of Moran and Lester Livermore of Engadine.

Clark and Marquette townships on the east end are approximately 30 miles from the Road Commission headquarters in St. Ignace. Mr. Duncan lost his bid for re-election to the Road Commission in November 2006 by 119 votes.

Mr. Patrick, who is now a county commissioner representing the east end of the county, said the Mackinac County board is considering expanding representation on the Road Commission, and if the measure is approved, he can recommend an appointment to represent the east end of the county. If Mackinac County adopts the appointment system, all future road commissioners will be appointed.

County commissioners are to decide whether it will appoint road commissioners this month.

Road Commissioner Manager Craig Kelso was to meet January 29 with East District Foreman Dale Williams and east district supervi-

sors to review road projects and hear township concerns.

Senior Lunches

About a dozen regulars and servers who participate in senior lunches offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the community center attended the January 18 meeting to protest moving the lunches from the large hall of the Clark Township Community Center, to a smaller room. The lunches are sponsored, in part, by Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action, and senior citizens pay a nominal fee for the lunches. Clark Township provides a free facility and utilities. Activities are often scheduled during the lunches, which promote social interaction among senior residents of the community. Many more seniors join the lunches in the summer. Similar luncheons are coordinated through Community Action in DeTour Village, Pickford, and St. Ignace.

Clerk Cathy Nordquist, who supervises community center functions, first proposed the switch last year. Participation is more than 40 in the summer, but drops to about 20 in the winter. Clark Township will save money on heating costs, she said, and the renovated smaller room will be more comfortable because it is easier to heat.

Township administrators say the Community Center's expenses exceed its revenues by \$19,000.

"We want to stay in the big room, and we feel you're pushing us into the small room," said Brad Smith, a member of the senior citizens group.

Community Action member Tony Autore said things are tough everywhere, and many counties levy additional millage to support Community Action programs. Mackinac County is one that does not, he said, in part, because communities like Clark Township pitch in by offering a free facility.

"What they are trying to do is cut back and economize," Mr. Autore said of the township. "Yeah, it's going to be a little inconvenient, but let's work at it."

Appointments and Permits

Supervisor Linda Hudson said she is going to continue taking names of prospective candidates for Clark Township Planning Commission, but plans to announce an appointment at the February meeting. She said she has received two letters of interest from prospective candidates, and she also has had a conversation with one interested person.

Trustees allocated \$70 for each of the five Zoning Board of Appeals members, plus mileage for up to two vehicles, for any member who wants to attend zoning board training in Mount Pleasant, Gaylord, or Marquette.

Approved to serve on the Clark Township Airport Advisory Committee are Dan Carmichael, Tom Coyne, Ken Drenth, Fred Massena, Kent Stiner, Linda Hudson, and Katie Carpenter. The committee will review operations of the Albert J. Lindberg Airport in Hessel and make recommendations to the township board.

John "Moose" Strehler of Hessel was hired as airport manager in December and will receive \$150 a month. He replaces Jeremy Ridings, who resigned. Loren Dingman was hired as the relief airport manager \$50 a month. The men were two of the five applicants for the job.

The board authorized free use of Cedarville and Hessel parks by the Les Cheneaux Artisan Cooperative for Music and Art Dockside in Hessel Sunday, July 15, and Art in the Park Saturday, September 1.

Clark Township now charges \$100 to use the Hessel Marina and Cedarville Waterfront Park, but Clark Township can enter into service contracts with organizations if

the organization or event provides a service or benefit to Clark Township residents.

Trustee Dana Leach questioned whether there are any guidelines for determining which events the township can collaborate with.

Events are reviewed on a case by case basis, Mrs. Nordquist said, and they should bring revenue or business to the area.

Former Deputy Clerk Kathryn Hills was rehired to serve as Clark Township's recording secretary to allow the clerk to participate freely in meetings without having to record minutes and keep records of motions and actions. She will be paid \$11 per hour to attend board meetings and listen to tapes of meetings she does not attend, and record the minutes for Clark Township board, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Mrs. Nordquist said there is room in the budget for the expense.

Clark Township authorized reserving an ambulance with a 2007 chassis, and ordered it immediately after the meeting to ensure a chance to buy one of five remaining vehicles. Clark Township Ambulance Corps Captain Mark Merchberger recommended the purchase, which will save Clark Township roughly \$8,000 over purchasing a 2008 chassis. Early estimates on the vehicle were around \$120,000, but the vehicle with the 2007 chassis will cost \$111,575.

Mr. Merchberger said the savings on the purchase can be applied to the purchase of a new fire department tanker.

The two vehicles will be paid for with ambulance replacement funds and money collected from ambulance and fire department millage that was collected in the 2006 winter tax bills.


The next meeting of the Clark Township Board will be Thursday, February 15, at 7 p.m., at the township hall.

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AUDITIONS
 for the Les Cheneaux Education Foundation production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's
"Cinderella"
Monday, Feb. 12th
 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13th
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
 Cedarville High School Band Room
Those wishing to audition should prepare a short solo. An accompanist will be available.



2nd Annual Lake Millecoquins Winter Carnival Predator Hunt!
First Prize for heaviest Coyote is \$100.00 Cash
First Prize for heaviest Bobcat is \$100.00 Cash
First Prize for heaviest Fox is \$50.00 Cash
Grand Prize for most bobcat, coyote and/or fox taken is a Remington Model 700 SPS Stainless in .25-06 valued at \$712.00. Total weight will be used in case of a tie.
 Registration fee is \$10.00 and begins on
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9TH from 9:00 to 4:00 pm.
 at the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club Office on the east side of Millecoquins Lake.
 Late entries will be accepted any time the Hiawatha Club Office is open.
 All contestants must present their catches at the winter carnival on February 24th, between 9:00 am. and 12:00 noon. Judging and prizes will be awarded at 3:00 pm. Contest starts immediately after the first contestant has registered. All contestants will receive an object and zip ties at registration.
 The object must be zip tied into the mouth of the predator when harvested. Predators may be taken by any legal means anywhere in the Upper Peninsula! Only one prize will be awarded per contestant. Any questions can be addressed at the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club Office. (477-6592)
The Millecoquins Lake Winter Carnival is being sponsored by the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club, Big Mack Pack, U.P. Snow Gobblers of the Wild Turkey Federation, the Two Heart Chapter of the Trout Unlimited, the Engadine Athletic Boosters and the McNeil, Feneley, Nesbit American Legion post 290.



WINTER GARNIVAL **Millecoquins Lake East Side**
Saturday, February 24th
 → **Fishing Contest - youth and open classes**
 Top prize is a \$100 gift certificate from Cabela's! Fishing
 → **Soup and Chowder Cook Off!**
 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cash prizes. Top prize \$75.00 and a trophy!
 → **1st Annual Polar Bear X Country Ski race and fun run**
 → **Cessions and Games on the Ice**
 → **Youth Snowmobile Slalom Races**
 (12 and under)
 → **U.P Championship Euchre Tournament**
 → **Predator Hunt**
 With first prize being a Remington Model 700 SPS Stainless in .25-06 valued at \$712.00
 → **Snowmobile Radar Runs on the Lake**
 → **Fun Events for all ages:**
 Radar Runs, Poker Run, Ice Skating, Good Food, games and Lots of Fun on the Ice.
 Contact the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club Office 477-6592 for contest information

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A Night Out in Downtown Soo
 From February 1st to 14th Downtown Customers can register at participating businesses to
Win a GRAND PRIZE of...
 • A One Night Stay for 2 at the Ojibway Ramada Plaza
 • Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner for 2 • Two Massages
 • \$100 Downtown Dollars • a Bouquet of Flowers
 • Chocolates and a Bottle of Wine
 Hosted by the Downtown Business Assoc.
Stop and Register at the Following Participating Merchants:
 Parker's Hardware, Communication Partners, Ryans Jewellery, The Hub, The Palace Saloon, Superior Travel, Personal Touch, Pro Sports, Superior Coast Winery, Haller's Hallmark, Barrish Brothers, The Mole Hole, Das Gift House, Cup of the Day, Moloney's Alley Irish Pub, Frank's Place, Northwood's Gifts
 No purchase necessary, one entry per person at each participating store.




Car Abandoned on Mackinac Bridge

Michigan State Police in St. Ignace are investigating the possible suicide of a 57-year-old Sault Ste Marie man whose vehicle was found abandoned on the Mackinac Bridge early Monday, February 5. Michigan State Police had not released the man's name at press time.

The St. Ignace-based U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Biscayne Bay* assisted in the investigation, collecting items of clothing and additional evidence from the ice-covered waters of the Straits.

Bob Sweeney, executive secretary for the Mackinac Bridge Authority, said Michigan State Police are looking at all evidence, including video tape from cameras that are positioned on the bridge.

The Michigan State Police Underwater Recovery Unit was called to the scene to conduct a search, but unstable ice conditions have delayed the process. State police report it is unknown when ice conditions will allow the search to begin.

Rates Considered at Naubinway Marina

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It could take up to two years to get permits and approvals to prepare for work at the marina, UDA emphasized. Permit agencies may also require changes in construction plans, based on analyses of nearby wetlands and potential impacts on shore plants, water plants, and animal species.

In related news, the board reviewed a letter from the DNR describing rate increases for marinas in 2007 at its meeting January 14. For the upcoming boating season, fees for standard transient and seasonal rates will rise 3.3 to 5 percent, depending on location.

Board members believe that fees required by the state were too high in Naubinway already, since

the local marina's facilities are rustic but lie in a rate area where boaters can access other marinas with better amenities for the same price, such as those in St. Ignace and Menominee. This has been costing Garfield Township potential revenue each year, Mr. MacArthur said.

The problem may be solved next year, however, when the Waterways Commission changes the way it charges for marina use. In 2008, fees will be individualized based on local demand and amenities.

Currently, slip rates for seasonal boaters are based on defined "rate areas," regardless of the level of services various marinas have to offer.

There are five rate areas in the state. Area One includes the southern Lake Michigan shoreline and a portion of the Lake Huron shoreline. Area Two includes the mid-to northern stretch of the Lake Huron shoreline. Area Three includes marinas along the northern shoreline of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Area Four spans the length of Lake Superior. The fifth rate area is Mackinac Island.

Taking into account increases for 2007, a seasonal slip for a 30-foot boat will be \$2,005 in Area One, \$1,419 in Area Two, \$1,253 in Area Three, \$1,023 in Area Four, and \$2,426 on Mackinac Island.

Garfield Township lies in Rate Area Three.

To help generate use of the Naubinway Marina this year, the DNR has agreed to allow Garfield Township to sell slips for boaters who stay for seven days, at five-day rates.