

County Supports Transfer of Assets, Liabilities to New Hospital Board

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to rest questions raised by commissioners in February and is designed to eliminate potential future litigation issues.

County ownership of the Burdette Street property is clarified in Thursday's agreement. The property was conveyed to the county in 1991 by the Authority, and the deed included real estate and buildings. Since then, the Authority has leased the property from the county.

Terms of the letter of understanding are based on the successful transfer of assets and liabilities from the Authority to the new corporation.

The lease would transfer with the assets to the new corporation, which would continue to make payments on the approximate \$1.3 million bond debt until it is paid off. The bonds are estimated to be retired in

approximately 2014 or earlier, if the corporation decides to prepay the debt.

"They can prepay them," said Mr. McNulty, "and leave that premisses earlier if they want to avoid continued operating costs, but they have the right to stay there until 2014, if they want to, or until the bonds are paid off, whichever occurs first."

The corporation, he said, also can sublet the property, although any agreement would require the county's consent.

The bonds were refinanced in 2002, and were issued to pay for a 39-bed addition to the Long Term Care Facility. At that time, the Authority agreed to pay rent on the Burdette Street property equal to the annual bond payment, "so long as any of the bonds are outstanding."

Also in the letter of agreement, the county agrees to assign the

health services agreement to the new corporation. As part of that health services agreement, the county collects 1.2 mills, or approximately \$900,000, from county property owners for hospital operations. The millage expires in 2009.

Also under the health services agreement, said Mr. McNulty, the county has the right to attend an annual meeting of the corporation. The meeting would include a report to the county commission and corporate leaders would address any commission questions. The corporation is required to present copies of a tax form, which will provide a detailed financial summary that addresses profits and losses of the corporation.

The title transfer for land at the

new hospital site from the tribe to the new corporation is hoped to be approved soon by the U.S. Congress, reported Fred Paquin, a corporation board member who represents the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The tribe has deeded 16.5 acres of land worth \$1.2 million on State Street for the new hospital. Under an 1834 law, the transfer must be approved by the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Paquin said he is hoping the matter will be resolved soon and that several people are working to make it happen, including U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak and U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin. The matter must be addressed to allow title insurance to be issued.

"Everyone that we have met with

in Congress or in Stabenow's office, they're pretty impressed with this," said Mr. Paquin. "This is historic. There is no other tribe and entities that have done something like this in a joint venture. It's positive all the way around. It's just getting the right people to sign it and getting the paper work in."

County resident Reinette Murray, who attended the meeting, asked hospital CEO Rod Nelson who would be responsible for the loans if the new hospital fails.

There are two loans, said Mr. Nelson, a \$26.8 million guaranteed United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan through Arbor One Financial of South Carolina, which is a certified USDA lender, and a \$10.4 million direct loan with

USDA Rural Development. The USDA would cover 90% of a default, he said, and the corporation would be responsible for 10%.

"My assumption is," said Mr. Nelson, "that we can work with the USDA and the government to get back on our feet, if that situation ever arises."

Annually, about \$6 million is allocated for Michigan projects by the USDA. The hospital, said Mr. Nelson, was able to garner the extra loan dollars for the new hospital through networking with state legislators. Also, he said, timing played a role, with few other big projects seeking funding.

County commissioners voted unanimously to draft a resolution of support for the new hospital.

OBITUARIES

Roy Pemble

Roy C. Pemble, 98, of Bay City, died Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at West Court Retirement Living in Saginaw.

He was born May 25, 1909, in St. Ignace to Charles and Mary Clara (nee St. Onge) Pemble.

He was self-employed for many years in retail sales.

Mr. Pemble was married to Mary Jones in 1937, and she died in 1981.

He married Margaret Ellen Smith in 1983, and she died in 1997.

Surviving are his four children and their families, Mary Vivien Siefferlien of Essexville, Beverly and Jack Sparling of Alpena, Harlean and Ted Huebner of Saginaw, and John and Mary

Pemble of Massachusetts; 21 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; two sisters, Alta McFarland and Wanda McGuire, both of St. Ignace, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wives and parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Dorothy Dickson; three brothers, David, Blair, and Richard Pemble, and his sister, Delia Leo.

A funeral took place Friday, April 25, in Mission of Infant of Prague Catholic Church. Father Jaime Pazat presided and the Rite of Committal was at St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the charity of the one's choice.

Robert Siira

Robert A. Siira, a former Sault Ste. Marie and Drummond Island resident, was known as an expert crane operator, and family members said he was known for his sense of daring, and his nickname was "the daredevil." Mr. Siira passed away peacefully at age 79, in Goldthwaite, Texas, February 22, 2008.

He was born December 16, 1928, in Sault Ste. Marie, the youngest of two children. His parents, Olga and Andrew Siira, moved to Drummond Island in his early childhood. He readily fit into life on the island, where he made friends easily and loved spending time outdoors.

Mr. Siira served overseas in the United States Army during World War II. Following discharge from the service, he settled in Richmond, Virginia, where he and his wife, Fay, reared their son, Raymond.

Shortly after his wife, Fay passed away, Mr. Siira became involved with the hobby of operating H.A.M. radios.

He is the former president of the Coppernas Cove CB Radio Club. He and his second wife,

Joyce, participated in the hobby together, and made friends over the airwaves all over the world. They had several albums full of photographs and memorabilia commemorating events and activities they experienced through their hobby.

Mr. Siira lived away from the area for many years, but his heart was always on Drummond Island, friends recall. He was especially close to his three nieces who kept in touch with him through the years.

Mr. Siira is survived by his sister, Gertrude Napoleon, a former Sault Ste. Marie resident who recently moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, and three nieces, JoAnn (nee Napoleon) Landini of Barbeau, Vikki (nee Napoleon) Bittner of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Debbie Napoleon of Mattawan.

He was preceded in death by his first wife and second wife, and by his son, Raymond.

Mr. Siira's ashes will be buried together with his second wife, Joyce. Private services will be held at a later date.

Cedarville High School Principal Randy Schaedig resigned from his position as head varsity

football coach, announced Athletic Director Dave Duncan in his report to the Les Cheneaux Community

School Board Discusses New Policy

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Action on adopting policy changes was tabled to the May meeting. Trustees visited the topic because of proposed changes to the policy for drug testing of athletes, among other policy changes.

"At least this is a big step," Mrs. Ter Haar said. "I have heard this murmured around the school and community, but I have never heard this brought up around the table before."

Superintendent Rod Goehmann said the policy committee is interested in random drug testing for athletes if there is reasonable suspicion of use.

Trustees questioned why the

policy does not also cover the entire student population and all staff, especially as the district is mandated by the state to be a drug free zone.

"It's not in the teaching contract, and if we want to have it, we would have to negotiate it," Mr. Burrows said. "We have a random drug testing program in place for bus drivers because it's a state mandate."

Mr. Goehmann is unsure if the district can introduce random drug testing for the entire student population because public schools cannot deny a student an education based on drug use that may or may not have occurred off campus.

Forest Clean-up Day To Be May 10

Volunteers are asked to meet Saturday, May 10, at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of Castle Rock near St. Ignace for the annual spring Hiawatha Forest Clean Up.

Over the last 16 years, volunteers have eliminated more than 90 illegal dump sites in the forest and have hauled away more than 105 tons of trash from the St. Ignace District of the forest.

The clean-up session will take place rain or shine.

Mothers Day Craft Is May 3 in Engadine

The Engadine Friends of the Library will sponsor Mothers Day craft day at the Engadine Library Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to noon. Each craft is \$1.

The staff of the Moran Township School would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for contributing to the very successful Bob Buchholz Scholarship Spaghetti Dinner:

Joe and Sandy Krause	McDonald's Restaurant
Dan and Connie Litzner	Bentley's B-n-L Cafe
Kim Welch	Marshall Brothers
Helen Graichen and	Gros Cap PTO
Stephanie Damron	Ed and Laurie Radecki
Rick Siler, Ed Lester,	Mark and Cathie Sposito
Joseph Visnaw, Rick Marshall,	The United Methodist Church
Skip Moore, Rich Cullen	St. Ignace Schools
Glen's Market	

Thanks also to the businesses who displayed our posters, to all our students and parents who sold tickets, set up tables, and helped with clean up. The entire staff is very appreciative of the continued strong community support for this scholarship fund. Thanks again.

Schools Board of Education Monday, April 21.

Mr. Schaedig has coached football at Cedarville for 11 years, first for a seven-year stint from 1993 to 1999, when he stepped down for four years after he was hired as principal.

He resumed the position in 2004 and served through this year. "He had a great deal of respect from fellow coaches, his staff, and all the players involved with our program," Mr. Duncan said.

Scott Barr was named the new head coach. Kevin Hill was hired as assistant varsity coach to replace Mr. Barr. Kevin St. Onge was hired as the junior varsity football head coach, and Dennis Polk will remain the assistant junior varsity coach.

The district will seek bids to install a sprinkler system in the



Randy Schaedig

athletic field and practice area south of the school before the summer, Mr. Duncan reported. The district will also seek bids to renovate the aging press

box at the field.

The box needs updates, he said, including a new area for coaches, a better view of the field for the people keeping the clock, making announcements, and for radio personnel.

Also, a better filming area, and a possible meeting room and renovated storage area below the upper level of the box are needed.

Pam & Fran Gierlaszynski would like to welcome you back for another great season.

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SATURDAY - Homemade Polish Platter, Keilbasa, Pierogies and Cabbage Roll (No Potatoes Included) \$13.95

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Waleed Doghmi, MD, FACC

TAKING CARE OF YOUR HEART

Q: How common is heart disease?

A: Coronary artery disease is the number one killer in the United States. It affects more than 5 million Americans each year. If you have coronary artery disease, you may want to learn more about the disease and its treatment. If anyone in your immediate family has suffered from a heart attack, chances are that you are at increased risk. However, there are a number of lifestyle changes you can make to significantly reduce your chances of developing heart disease. These include controlling your blood pressure, maintaining a healthy weight, not smoking, eating healthy, and regular exercise.

For more information on your risk for heart disease, contact your primary care physician, or Soo Cardiology in Sault Ste. Marie at (906) 253-2760.

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