

GENESEE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND TREASURERS
DECEMBER 1, 1993, 12:00 P.M., R. C. COOPER'S RESTAURANT

ATTENDANCE: 67

Meeting was called to order by Don Becker, President, at 12:55 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Becker said County Commissioner, Rose Bogardus, had an announcement.

Commissioner Bogardus said the County Board voted to buy a new laser printer for Bill Fowler at the County.

Doris Carpenter said the Treasurer's met on Tuesday, November 30, 1993. She said some of the maps are still being printed at the County. Annual updates will be done for the units of government at no charge. Please, DO NOT laminate the maps or they will turn black.

Darene Woodbury said the Clerk's will meet on December 9th at GISD for a short business meeting and Christmas luncheon. Please return your reservations to Jackie Hamilton as soon as possible.

Don Becker said the MTA Convention will be held January 18th through the 21st and there will be no meeting in January. The December meeting will be held in Genesee Township on December 16th.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mr. Bassett said he would like to speak on the ups and downs of the Village and share some reflections of this past year. He explained that 50% of the budget comes from millage and 50% from fees and charges. The County Board gives money for the campgrounds, village, etc. Half of the funding comes from business aspects. We are operating in two different areas. Tourism is how we can make money.

At the beginning of the year we were very optimistic about the Genesee Belle. We had high hopes and projected a good year. The boat was the old Au Sable River Queen, which was taken out of service in 1988. Part of the contract for the boat was it had to be rebuilt. The contractor said he could rebuild the boat. It was built and inspected by the marine surveyor and licensed and inspected by the DNR. The Captain was a U.S. Coast Guard Operator. When the boat was rebuilt, the weight was shifted toward the back of the boat. It was totally rebuilt from shell on up. There was an opening in the back which allowed the chains to go through to feed the paddle wheel and that opening was never closed. The boat sank on the third day. When the boat backed out onto the lake, the paddles allowed the water to come through the opening in the back and fill the hull. At sometime in the future, we hope to pursue another paddle boat. This could have been a major disaster because the people were panicked. The attendance was down 15% this year, but we will pick up the pieces and move ahead.

Mr. Bassett said when something like the boat incident happens, so much misinformation goes out. The DNR had jurisdiction over the boat and brought in the Coast Guard. The hull would have to be completely rebuilt. Mr. Bassett said his recommendation to the County Commissioners would be we never get into the boat business again unless the Coast Guard is involved to avoid the types of problems we had.

Mr. Bassett then took questions from the audience.

Mr. Bassett said the overall attendance at the Village is down 15%. The attendance for the Halloween program was up 13%. There were 31,000 people who took part in this program and 40% of the reservations were from people outside of Genesee County. We expect this years Christmas program to bring a good year if the weather cooperates. There are groups planning to make additions to the Village. Some of these are moving a barn from Fenton to the Village; the Pierre Marquette Caboose sits next to the depot. Heat has been added to the Chapel and hotel and office space has been added. We had major lay-offs in five (5) full time positions and 50 seasonal people. The Fair Board agreed to move their office off the fairgrounds. We have some major grants which have been approved for various items.

Mr. Becker thanked Mr. Bassett for the tickets to Crossroads Village and for sharing the events at the village.

Mr. Becker adjourned the meeting at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Secretary

CML