



# Iosco County News-Herald

“Local News Matters”



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## After legal opinion, BoC does not act on proposed Bill of Rights ordinance

by Jason Ogden

TAWAS CITY – Citing their attorney’s legal opinion, the Iosco County Board of Commissioners, during their committee of the whole meeting, passed on conducting any action on the proposed Bill of Rights ordinance given to the county by the Iosco County Republicans for potential adoption.

During the Oct. 6 meeting, Iosco County Clerk Nancy Huebel

brought up the ordinance again under old business at the meeting, and said the item had been sent to the county’s legal council for review.

“They have issued an opinion, however the opinion is confidential attorney/client privilege,” she said. “Unless the board votes, and the majority of the board votes to make that public, it will remain confidential.”

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## Tawas Lake aquatic weed control SAD may be ending

by Ryan Herzog

EAST TAWAS – Talks of Tawas Lake’s Special Assessment District (SAD) ending this year showed the East Tawas City Council’s hesitation to continue with city facilitation in lake management.

On Oct. 4, at the city council meeting, City Manager Brent Barringer noted that the city was getting calls asking about the status of SAD and what they’re going to do moving forward.

Mayor Bruce Bolen noted that the water is property of the state, and not necessarily the property of the city. Additionally, involvement in the SAD has dwindled

over the years, so there needs to be a change in the way the lake is managed, specifically a lake association.

“Don’t most communities that have lakefront property like that operate through associations?” said Bolen.

Barringer stated that a lake association has existed in the past, dissolved and he thinks one is operational again.

Regardless, it is up to the lake association and lake residents if they want to renew the SAD.

“We’re open to assisting in that facilitation and whatever we can do to help that communication.

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Photo by Jenny Haglund

ALL HANDS ON DECK – A number of individuals, many of whom had direct involvement in the project, showed up for the Sept. 29 ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the reconstructed pier at Tawas City Shoreline Park. Attendees included members of the Tawas City Council, planning commission, department of public works, fire department and police department; Foth Infrastructure and Environment; and local businesses and residents. Pictured here with the ribbon, from left, are Tawas City Manager Annge Horning, planning commission chairperson Mary Doak, Mayor Ken Cook and city clerk/treasurer Michelle Westcott. For more photos, see page B2.

## Meter read issue discussed by TC Council

by Jenny Haglund

TAWAS CITY – For 10 months, meter readings in Tawas City and East Tawas were in question, and the council members from each municipality discussed the issue at their respective meetings on Oct. 4.

When Tawas City officials met,

it was explained that there are two master meters in the Huron Shore Regional Utility Authority (HSRUA) system which meter the water coming to Tawas City.

City Manager Annge Horning noted that one is located on Cedar Street/West Westover Street at the Tawas City/East Tawas city limits.

The other is located on US-23, just north of O’Reilly Auto Parts, also at the city limits.

“It was discovered that the US-23 meter quit reading sometime in May 2020 and it didn’t get repaired until March 2021,” Horning stated.

As both she and Mayor Ken Cook pointed out, the accuracy of the meters is paramount to the operation of the authority so that they know how much water was used by each entity, as the municipalities’ contributions to the HSRUA budget are based on the usage which goes through the meters.

As reported, HSRUA provides treated water to East Tawas, Tawas City and the townships of Oscoda, AuSable and Baldwin. This issue, however, involves only East Tawas and Tawas City.

Horning explained that the regional manager for HSRUA reviewed 10 years of history of meter reads, usage, billing history and accountability for both Tawas City and East Tawas, to make recommendations on what the estimated reads should be for each city.

A spreadsheet was provided to officials, which summarizes the information with the recommended estimated usage. Both 10- and five-year averages and accountability, labeled as percentage difference were included, because

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Photos by Ben Murphy

HOMEcomings ROYALTY – Tawas Area and Whittemore-Prescott high schools held their annual Homecoming games Friday. Pictured at left are Tawas Area King David Stang and Queen Marleigh Moeller, while pictured at right are W-P King Jake Burr and Queen Hannah Jonsson.

