

To: Mayor Pat Humphrey and the Clare City Commission
From: Steven J. Kingsbury, Treasurer, Finance Director and
Director of Information Technology
Date: October 28, 2009
Reference: Treasurer's Report for November 2, 2009

MERS Employer Advisory Meeting: On Thursday, October 22nd I attended/participated in the semi-annual Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) Employer Advisory Board meeting in Lansing. Selection to serve on this Advisory board is at the sole discretion of the executive management of MERS and includes just 26 of my peers from over 700 municipalities throughout the state. In addition to the invited municipal members present in the meeting MERS Chief Executive Officer Anne Wagner, Senior Actuary Alan Sonnanstine and several other members of the MERS management team also attended/participated.

The primary items discussed during this meeting included the recently developed Bridged Benefit Plan introduced by MERS, the updated Experience Study for 2010 including the analysis assumptions and process, the 2008 Consolidated MERS Report, an overview of the MERS Portfolio Performance as well as a discussion of part-time employees. The meeting was very productive for both the participating municipal members as well as the management of MERS who use the information exchanged in the development of future policies, procedures and initiatives both internally and through the Michigan Legislature.

Tentative Assessed and Taxable Values: Enclosed you will find an updated table and graph of the total assessed and taxable values for the City of Clare based upon the preliminary assessment roll for 2010. As anticipated there is a decrease in both assessed and taxable values for next year based upon recent declining market values of property and the deflationary nature of the CPI during the measurement period. It should be noted however in reviewing this information that the fifteen year average growth in assessed and taxable values is 5.7% and 4.7% respectfully. Furthermore, during this same fifteen year history the average cost of living increase has been a moderate 2.52%. Though negative values in any particular time period is not desired long-term growth and development is what is important and has been demonstrated in the City of Clare.

Part-Time Financial Assistant Selection: A total of fifteen individuals expressed an interest in the part-time financial assistant position that we recently advertised. After thoroughly evaluating all of the candidates Michelle Bott was selected for the position. Michelle is a graduate of Ferris State University with a bachelor's degree in finance with a minor in accounting achieving a grade point average of 3.97/4.00. Michelle has worked for a couple of local businesses in a several different capacities and has practical hands-on experience in accounting, cost accounting, capital asset management and auditing. Michelle is a lifelong resident of Clare graduating from the Clare High School.

City of Clare
Total Ad Valorem Assessed and Taxable Values
1995 to 2010

Property Tax Year	Assessed Value		Taxable Value		Assessed to Taxable	Consumer Price Index (CPI)*
	Total	Percent Increase	Total	Percent Increase		
1995	\$ 45,471,195		\$ 44,724,638		\$ 746,557	2.6%
1996	48,897,120	7.5%	47,451,166	6.1%	1,445,954	2.8%
1997	52,749,900	7.9%	50,859,932	7.2%	1,889,968	2.7%
1998	55,346,100	4.9%	52,653,011	3.5%	2,693,089	1.6%
1999	59,523,900	7.5%	54,332,603	3.2%	5,191,297	1.9%
2000	64,829,800	8.9%	56,022,505	3.1%	8,807,295	3.2%
2001	73,360,100	13.2%	61,705,663	10.1%	11,654,437	3.2%
2002	89,070,600	21.4%	65,385,011	6.0%	23,685,589	1.5%
2003	90,786,000	1.9%	68,779,069	5.2%	22,006,931	2.4%
2004	93,064,731	2.5%	71,433,094	3.9%	21,631,637	2.3%
2005	95,553,900	2.7%	74,413,478	4.2%	21,140,422	3.3%
2006	98,670,200	3.3%	78,942,652	6.1%	19,727,548	3.7%
2007	101,412,200	2.8%	82,560,007	4.6%	18,852,193	2.4%
2008	101,877,600	0.5%	84,821,983	2.7%	17,055,617	4.4%
2009	104,886,000	3.0%	90,508,926	6.7%	14,377,074	-0.3%
Preliminary 2010	102,691,900	-2.1%	89,198,944	-1.4%	13,492,956	
Total Increase (1995 to 2010)	\$ 57,220,705		\$ 44,474,306			
Average Increase (1995 to 2010)		5.7%		4.7%		2.52%

* The Consumer Price Index (CPI) expressed above is for the period of October - September.
(For example, the 4.4% CPI for 2008 compares the rate of inflation for the period
of October 2006/September 2007 to October 2007/September 2008.)

City of Clare Total Ad Valorem Assessed and Taxable Values 1995 to 2010

