



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLARE CITY TREASURER

For those of you who don't know me my name is Steve Kingsbury and just five short months ago I was selected to join the staff of the City of Clare as your City Treasurer and Finance Director. Those first five months have passed rather quickly and I have learned a great deal, made some new friends and had the opportunity to talk to several residents on a wide range of topics. Beginning this month and continuing on a regular basis I will be providing through this column summary financial information, articles on property taxes and other related topics along with answers to your questions in an effort to keep you informed about your city.

Providing information and exchanging ideas is an important part of management and provides an opportunity for positive growth and development within any organization, including governmental agencies such as the City of Clare. It has been my professional and personal experience throughout the years that many concerns can be resolved through open discussions and reviewing factual information. I am looking forward to providing this information and having the opportunity to discuss the City's finances with you.

This month I am going to start with an initial discussion of the very popular topic of property taxes. Whether you live in Clare, Lansing or some other location we have all felt and heard the statement that "my taxes are too high". Being a property owner I agree that I don't want to pay any more than required but I also understand that governmental services do have a cost. Included as an insert to this month's newsletter you will find a graph that breaks down the total millage that is collected within the City of Clare for a homesteaded, residential piece of property. Also enclosed is a spreadsheet that includes a complete listing of the 2007 tax millages that are collected by the City of Clare for properties located within the city (both within Clare County and Isabella County).

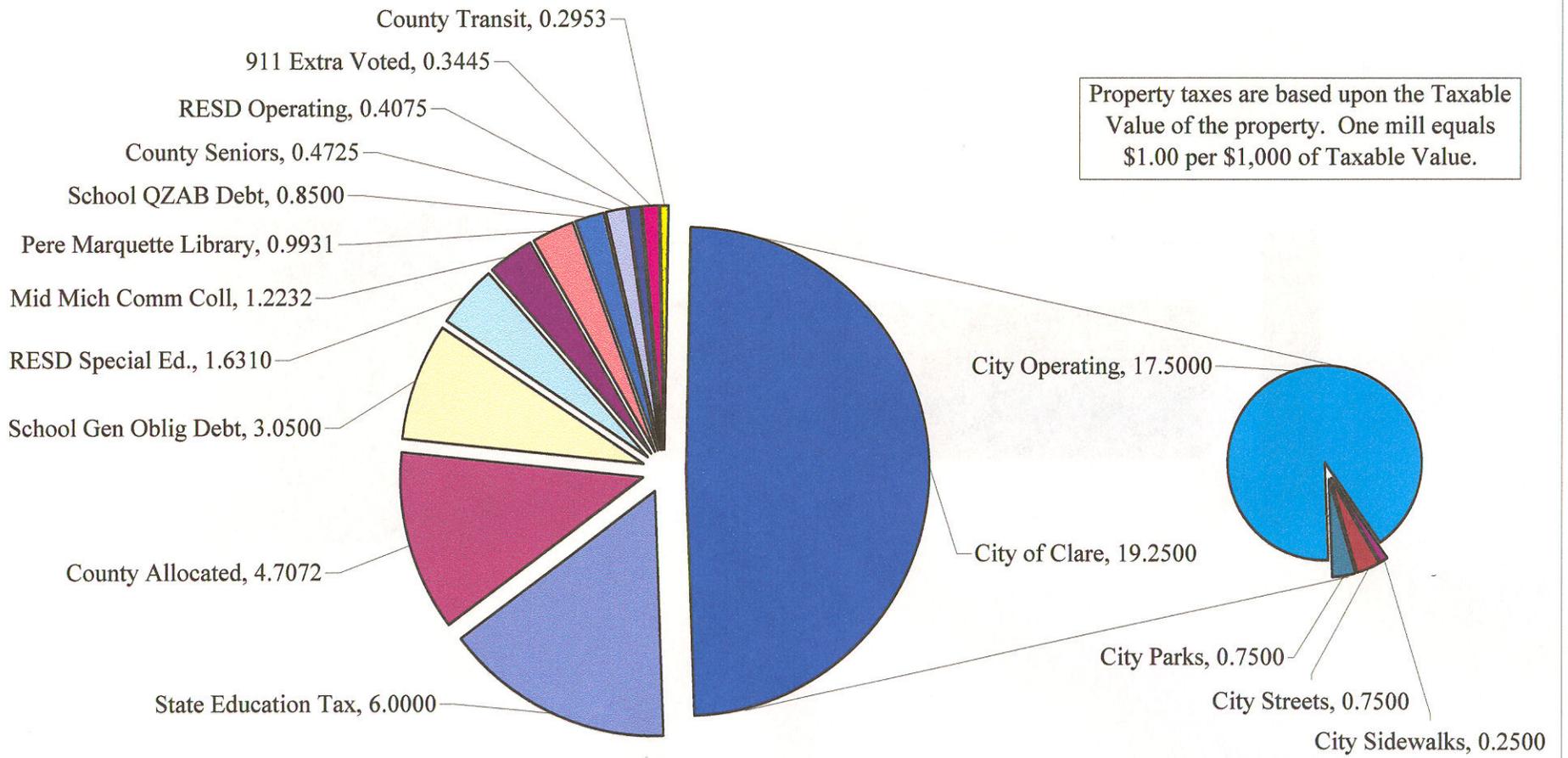
The first distinction that needs to be made is that not all property taxes that are collected by the city remain in the city. As the City Treasurer I am responsible for collecting the taxes for the city and all other taxing authorities that are authorized by law to receive tax revenues from properties located within the City of Clare. The insert of this year's millages graphically demonstrates that less than one-half (the right side of the pie chart) of the total taxes collected are for city operations and voter approved special assessments. The remainder is disbursed to other taxing authorities such as County Government, Public Schools and the District Library.

It is also important to note that many of the millages that are collected have been approved by a vote of people for specifically defined purposes. These taxes are identified on the enclosed spreadsheet as being "Voter Approved". This second insert also includes the 2007 millage rates for the portion of the City of Clare that is within Isabella County (the graph reflects the Clare County side of the City). The spreadsheet also includes the School Operating Millage which is paid by non-homesteaded property owners (businesses, second residents, etc.), not homesteaded property.

This initial presentation contains a lot of information and will likely develop additional questions. If you have questions about this information or any other finance or property tax matter within the City of Clare I encourage you to give me a call (386-7541, extension 107), stop by City Hall or if it is more convenient you can send me an e-mail message at skingsbury@cityofclare.org.

**2007 Homestead Property Tax Millages
Collected by the City of Clare
For all Taxing Authorities
(Clare County side of the City)**

Property taxes are based upon the Taxable Value of the property. One mill equals \$1.00 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value.



Total Millage = 39.2243

Collected for other taxing authorities (51% of the total)

Collected for the City of Clare (49% of the total)

**2007 Homestead Property Tax Millages Collected by the City of Clare
For All Taxing Authorities**

<u>Clare County Side of the City</u>	
<u>Property Tax Type</u>	<u>Millage</u>
<u>Summer</u>	
City Operating	17.5000
City Parks - Voter Approved	0.7500
City Sidewalks - Voter Approved	0.2500
City Streets - Voter Approved	0.7500
County Government (Allocated)	4.7072
Pere Marquette District Library	0.9931
State Education Tax	6.0000
<u>Winter</u>	
County Transit - Voter Approved	0.2953
County Seniors - Voter Approved	0.4725
911 Extra Voted - Voter Approved	0.3445
Regional Educational School District (RESD)	
Operating - Voter Approved	0.4075
Special Education - Voter Approved	1.6310
Mid Michigan Community College	1.2232
School General Obligation Debt - Voter Approved	3.0500
School Debt (QZAB) - Voter Approved	0.8500
HOMESTEAD TOTAL	39.2243
School Operating	18.0000
NON-HOMESTEAD TOTAL	57.2243

<u>Isabella County Side of the City</u>	
<u>Property Tax Type</u>	<u>Millage</u>
<u>Summer</u>	
City Operating	17.5000
City Parks - Voter Approved	0.7500
City Sidewalks - Voter Approved	0.2500
City Streets - Voter Approved	0.7500
County Government (Allocated)	6.4700
Pere Marquette District Library	0.9931
State Education Tax	6.0000
<u>Winter</u>	
County Transit - Voter Approved	0.9000
County Seniors - Voter Approved	0.8776
County Medical Care Facility - Voter Approved	0.9000
Regional Educational School District (RESD)	
Operating - Voter Approved	0.4075
Special Education - Voter Approved	1.6310
Mid Michigan Community College	1.2232
School General Obligation Debt - Voter Approved	3.0500
School Debt (QZAB) - Voter Approved	0.8500
HOMESTEAD TOTAL	42.5524
School Operating	18.0000
NON-HOMESTEAD TOTAL	60.5524