

heard more than an hour of "public comment" from citizens both for and against allowing the vote. Of the 21 citizens offering public comment, nine indicated they were opposed to the measure.

Narrows case hearing to resume in T-C

By Amy Hubbell
Of The Enterprise Staff

A contested case hearing over the permit issued for construction of a dock along the Lake Leelanau Narrows will continue next month in Traverse City.

The hearing before an administrative law judge in Lansing began last week with witnesses testimony for developer Wayne Tyge and the Lake Leelanau Lake Association. Called to testify were Tom Bensley, who provided information about the safety of recreational vehicles such as boats; John Urthain, a design engineer with Elmer's Crane & Dozer; and Tyge.

Tyge proposes to install a 260-foot, 5-foot wide broadside dock with fenders extending 22 feet into the chan-

nel, or 27 feet from the shore. Tyge has received a permit from the state Department of Environmental Quality allowing the structure that is planned in conjunction with a 22-unit condominium development to be called "Provenom Village".

The Lake Leelanau Lake Association opposes the permit and called for the contested case hearing. Testifying on behalf of the Lake Association were Christopher Grobbel of Grobbel Environmental and Planning Associates; Jennifer Rogers and Deb Shanno, who live just north of the proposed development on the Narrows; Mary and Pete Taylor of the Lake Association; biologist Tom Kallison; Grand Traverse Band fisheries biologist Bret Fessel; Mark

producing \$300,000 to \$400,000 (per year in interest) for the general fund which we will no longer receive as we pay for the new government center."

Bunck pointed out that the county will face at least three additional costs

the new facility. Commissioners agreed by consensus that those issues should be explored as part of the county's budgeting process this summer.

Elmwood considers a new approach to development requests

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rewrite the zoning laws after the Planning Commission found them incompatible while reviewing an application for a massive waterpark known as Glacier Bay Resort.

Glacier Bay's application has been in the review stage for more than seven months, and appears far from a decision. At one point, resort officials put their applications "on hold" while the township rewrote PUD and Resort Commercial ordinances. While Glacier Bay has since restarted the process, which will continue under guidelines in present ordinances, the new ordinances will govern future applicants.

Two proposals for the PUD ordinance will be considered. The one so far favored by the Planning Commission says, commission chair Jack Kelly, would establish the hearing officer post-

tion to decide PUD applications.

Use of a hearing officer evolved through discussions between township attorney Jim Young and Val Lazdins, a Grand Rapids professional planner hired by the township to review Glacier Bay's application, Kelly said.

Working in the second ordinance would place PUD authority with the Planning Commission, which may still enlist a hearing officer to make a recommendation.

Presently, the Elmwood Township Board decides PUD requests, which are often sought by developers for larger projects. "Bonus densities" are written by some townships into PUD law which allow more residential units in exchange for design criteria sought by townships, such as preserving open space. Neither proposed Elmwood ordinance provide bonuses.

But they do head into bold, new ter-

the number of graduating seniors. The end result: a steady drop in enrollment that is expected to reduce the number of students in Leelanau's four public schools to 2,255 by 2008-2009. Enrollment in the districts is estimated at 2,417 this year.

The trend is statewide. Harwood said 368 of the state's 500 public school districts are realizing lower student enrollment.

"There are 400,000 fewer students in Michigan than there were 10 years ago," the superintendent said. Suttons Bay's student numbers have fallen from 1,045 in the 2003-2004 school year to 910 in 2005-2006.

With Proposal A linking revenue directly to student enrollment for three of the four county school districts, fewer students means less money for education — not a good thing for schools which are facing additional operational costs in addition to higher expectations from the state and federal government.

Outgoing superintendent Tom Harwood has suggested Suttons Bay consider adopting a 5-year plan to cope with declining revenue.

A continued cry for changes in the

priority, at least in Michigan where local governments rely on appointed commissions to handle the bulk of zoning requests.

"It's done in other states — generally in those states that don't have township government," said Elmwood staff planner Bill Swanson, also a supporter of the hearing officer proposal.

While a site plan review to deal with the nuts and bolts of development's plans would still be completed by the Planning Commission, much of that work would, too, be done by a hearing officer. The PUD proposed ordinance requires that the plan "complies with the standards (of) Site Plan Review."

The hearing officer could "approve, deny or approve with conditions" a developer's plans — and no appeal through the planning commission or township board would be allowed. "What that means is

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A continued cry for changes in the

Year	High	Low	Snow/Rain
Apr 9	56	28	-0-
Apr 10	60	31	-0-
Apr 11	75	41	.01"/0

SOUTHERN LELAND TOWNSHIP			
Year	High	Low	Snow/Rain
Apr 5	43	28	-0-
Apr 6	59	30	-0-
Apr 7	42	35	-0-
Apr 8	40	22	-0-
Apr 9	50	24	-0-
Apr 10	60	36	-0-
Apr 11	74	42	-0-

MAPLE CITY			
Year	High	Low	Snow/Rain
Apr 5	44	33	-0-
Apr 6	54	31	-0-
Apr 7	61	39	-0-
Apr 8	42	22	-0-
Apr 9	56	22	-0-
Apr 10	59	40	-0-
Apr 11	67	38	-0-

SUTTONS BAY			
Year	High	Low	Snow
Apr 5-12	-0-	-0-	-0-

Snow gauge Leelanau

(as of Wednesday morning)
Snowfall this week — 0"
Snowfall this season — 143"
By same day in 2005 — 128.5"
For the Month — 2"
Season's record snowfall (Since 1955-56)
231 inches in 1995-96
(April record 15" — 1966)
In April 2005 — 0"

March Snowfall — (17")
(March record 48 1/2" — 1989)
February Snowfall — (32")
(February record 57 1/2" — 1985)
January Snowfall — (18.5")
(January record 84.9" — 1982)
December Snowfall — (64.5")
(December record 86.6" — 1985)
November Snowfall — (25")
(November record 43" — 1985)
October Snowfall — (0)
(October record 5" — 1969)

Measurements taken at Suttons Bay
We Leelanau Enterprise 413-06