



October 11, 2009

Leslie receives high fiscal score

LESLIE - The city of Leslie has received the highest score on the Michigan Department of Treasury's Fiscal Indicator test.

The Treasury Department reviews indicators of fiscal stress for all of Michigan's 1,858 local units of government.

Leslie was the only city in the region to receive the highest cumulative score for the years 2006 through 2008.

"We are thrilled that we scored this high," Leslie Finance Director Cheri Neu said. "As a small municipality, we have plenty of challenges, and we certainly have felt the impacts of the economic downturn. We do our best to provide our residents with services today while planning for the future."

City Manager Brian Reed said, "For cities, it is getting extremely difficult to manage financially. We have made cuts and tough decisions daily. In the end, you have to figure out ways to pave roads, fix your water and sewer systems and provide public safety in this era of rising costs and shrinking revenue. We work hard to be accountable to our taxpayers."

According to the Treasury's Web site, www.michigan.gov/treasury.html, the fiscal indicator scores are intended to provide state and local officials and the general public with objective, measurable and straightforward information concerning the degree of, or absence of, fiscal health in units of local government.

This information provides the public with information that might not be publicly displayed from their local officials.

The fiscal indicator scores are similar to the school district report cards available for Michigan school districts.

The study indicates that local units that score in this category are deemed to be managing its financial circumstances appropriately.

Leslie shared the top honor with eight other cities, including Chelsea, Harrisville, Hartford, Ludington, Marquette, New Buffalo, Utica and Zeeland. It marks the second consecutive year that Leslie received the highest score.

Leslie has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3 million and a general fund of approximately \$1.2 million. The city has 11 full-time staff.

- From the city of Leslie
