

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWNSHIP'S BOND RATING INCREASED TO AA

Grand Haven Township, Michigan, April 2, 2008.

“Standard and Poor’s increased Grand Haven Charter Township’s Unlimited Tax Long-term Bond rating from ‘A’ to ‘AA/Stable’,” Township Manager Bill Cargo announced.

“Standard and Poor’s underlying rating (or SPUR) is a critical factor in determining the level of risk and therefore the interest rate the Township will pay when issuing long-term debt,” Cargo said.

“Generally speaking, a community with a high SPUR has a better opportunity to issue debt at comparatively low interest rates,” Cargo continued. “Just like an individual with a good credit rating will have a better opportunity to get an exceptional interest rate on a home mortgage with lower monthly payments, a community with a good rating from Standard and Poor’s will have a better opportunity to get a relatively low interest rate on a bond, which will save taxpayers’ money through lower debt payments,” Cargo explained.

The rationale from the Standard and Poor's report stated that the upgraded rating *“reflected the township's maintenance of strong reserve levels as it continues to experience good tax base growth and keeps relatively low debt levels.”*

The report noted that *“the township's 2007 median household effective buying income was very strong at 135% of the state and 137% of the national levels. The township's taxable value continues to show remarkable growth, increasing more than 7% annually between tax years 2003 and 2007 to over \$675 million.”*

The report also stated that *“Standard and Poor's Rating Service considers the township's financial management “good” under its Financial Management Assessment.”*

“Grand Haven Charter Township continues to be a Michigan **‘bright spot’** that is bucking the economic malaise afflicting much of the state,” Cargo concluded.

END