

BENTON TWP.

Lake Michigan College tuition going up

Officials blame rising expenses

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BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College is raising tuition by about 3 percent under a plan taking effect this fall.

LMC trustees voted 6-1 Tuesday in approving the increases, with Trustee Stephen Small dissenting. He

said now is not the time to raise tuition for local residents trying to get an education.

“I think the college has a strong financial position. It’s solvent, and there’s no need to raise tuition,” Small said. “As a taxpayer, I’d prefer to pay additional taxes to support the education of people who don’t otherwise have enough money to attend school.”

Board President David Maysick, Vice Chairman Paul Bergan, Treasurer Mi-

chael Lindley, Secretary Mary Jo Tomasini and Trustees Judy Truesdell and Renee Williams supporting the tuition hikes.

LMC President Bob Harrison said that the increases are consistent with Gov. Rick Snyder’s request for community colleges to keep them at 3 percent.

“It’s going up by \$2.50 per credit hour, so it works out to about 2.9 or 3 percent — so we took that guidance coming out of Lansing very seriously,” he said after

the meeting.

The changes include a \$2.50 per contact hour increase for in-district students to \$89.50; a \$3.90 per contact hour increase for out-of-district students to \$138.40; a \$5.20 per contact hour increase for out-of-state students to \$184.70; and a \$5.70 per contact hour increase for international students to \$202.70, according to a college news release.

The new rates officially take effect for the fall 2014

semester, for which enrollment begins in April.

“When we make these decisions, it comes down to striking a balance between delivering affordable, high-quality education and addressing rising operational costs,” Harrison said in a prepared statement. “Our focus is always on student success and what we need to do to meet the emerging training and education needs within our communities.”

According to Harrison,

LMC’s rates are still about 75 percent lower than public universities, as well as many neighboring and statewide community colleges.

In the grand scheme of things, the latest increases will help the college offset some of its own major on-going costs, Harrison said.

“Energy costs go up, health insurance is going up, and we’re continuing to focus on paying competitive wages. It’s just the cost of doing business,” he said.