

County 'not going away' in dispute with hotel

MT. MORRIS TOWNSHIP

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MT. MORRIS TWP - Genesee County has come up empty in its latest attempt to collect a judgment from the operator of a fire-damaged hotel.

The former Ramada Inn on West Pierson Road, just west of I-75, remains closed two months after its second fire in less than a year, and operator Morry Jabero said he's still working with his insurance company to reopen it.

The county used a court order recently in an effort to seize Jabero's assets - trying to make up for more than \$44,000 in overdue hotel taxes.

But county Treasurer Daniel T. Kildee said the orders served on eight area banks turned up nothing.

"We're back to pursuing other assets," Kildee said. "We're not going away."

Jabero would not comment on his running dispute with the county over hotel taxes.

One year ago, he lost a default judgment in Genesee Circuit Court, but the county hasn't yet found a way to collect.

Jabero said he still wants to reopen the hotel, which once was among the most successful in the county. Recent fires -one in April 2005 and one in February -both have been determined to have been accidents, said Chief Rick Johnson of the township's Fire Station No. 2.

Johnson said he's like others in the area who would like to see the hotel return to its glory years.

"It's a shame," Johnson said of the hotel's problems. "I remember back when that hotel was the place to go.

"I'm really hoping something can be done. It's going to need a little work but it definitely" could be saved.

QUICK TAKE

About the former Ramada Inn

- Size: 190 rooms
- Status: Closed since a February fire caused about \$250,000 damage.
- History: Opened in late 1968
- Changing names: Once a Sheraton Inn, the property changed affiliations and became a Ramada in 1990. It lost the Ramada affiliation several months ago.
- Famous past guests: Rocker Alice Cooper, former heavyweight champion boxer Leon Spinks, and actor Dom DeLuise.