Sportsplex Operators and Developers Association
SODA
"Since 1981"
Smiles, Wisdom & Editorial
Comments For The Day !
- Special Reports -

NY Regional Office:
Box #24617*Westgate
Rochester, NY 14624-0617
(A Kansas 501C3 Corporation)

Visit Us At Our Website @:
www.SportsplexOperators.com

Sports Centre hit with tax lien !

Written by
David Andreatta

The financially troubled nonprofit organization that oversees **The Sports Centre at Monroe Community College** now has another financial burden — a federal tax lien of $146,950.

The **Internal Revenue Service** issued the lien against Monroe Community Sports Centre Corp. last month, around the same time that the organization was sued by Monroe Community College for neglecting to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in lease payments and lost its longtime president after it was reported that he had been ineligible to serve for more than a year.

The lien reflects the amount in uncollected penalties imposed by the **IRS** against the organization for failing to file required annual tax forms on time in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Even though the organization is exempt from paying taxes, it is required — as are most nonprofit organizations — to file a document known as a Form 990 that discloses its revenues and expenses. Records show the filings from those years were in some cases submitted two years late.

"We have made a demand for payment of this liability, but it remains unpaid," the lien reads. "Therefore, there is a lien in favor of the United States on all property and rights to property belonging to this taxpayer for the amount of these taxes, and additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue."
January was a brutal month for the organization, which, in addition to the lawsuit and seeing its president resign, came under scrutiny for making campaign donations that appear to breach federal tax laws.

Capping off the month was a saber-rattling letter from the holders of the majority of the millions of dollars in unpaid bonds that financed the construction of the 167,000-square-foot ice arena that hinted at their desire to have the bonds called in.
IRS spokeswoman Dianne Besunder declined to comment on the lien, citing IRS privacy policies. The organization's most recent annual audit, another requirement of nonprofits, noted that IRS penalties of $109,000 that the organization had contested were forgiven in May 2010.

John Heveron, the organization's auditor, said the lien stemmed from those penalties and appeared to include an "additional assessment of an amount the IRS previously indicated they were willing to forgive."

The current acting president of the organization, Roger Rassman, and its counsel, Michael Townsend, said last week they were unaware of the lien. Townsend called the penalties "grossly excessive," particularly since the required tax documents were eventually filed and the organization owed no tax.

The End . . .