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## Rossville Village Board gives green light to new fire station

ROSSVILLE—The Rossville Village Board on Monday removed hurdles blocking the building of a new fire station on the north side of the village.

In unanimous votes, trustees approved rescinding a

two-year-old vote made by the previous board that refused to amend ordinances to allow a special use permit to build a fire station in a residential district and then

See STATION on other side

## Forgotten paperwork nearly raises Hoopeston property taxes

A forgotten tax abatement nearly cost Hoopeston residents more in property taxes.

The \$300,000 abatement on water/sewer bonds, was approved at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

The abatement, which has been granted annually for 20 years, was forgotten when the bonds were refinanced last fall, said Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman. The missing paperwork was noted by an employee of the county's data processing department who was preparing tax bills, he said.

"I have no one to blame but myself," Goodwine said, adding he has added the abatement to a special file of yearly financial matters he brings to the council.

The near miss would have cost taxpayers approximately .01 percent more on their tax bills.

The unlevied tax is in place as insurance for bondholders but principal and interest payments are budgeted and paid from water/sewer revenues.

In other action, the council:

- approved a five-year contract with ERH Enterprises to manage the sewer plant at a cost of \$252,00 per year, saving the city more than \$8,600 annually in labor costs. ERH officials plan to hire a local person or transfer an employee to Hoopeston in the next six months.
- learned the swimming pool will open Memorial Day, weather permitting. The day will be a free swim day and passes will be discounted 20 percent.

## New officer joins police force

Adam Watson of Hoopeston joined the Hoopeston Police Department Monday as a new patrolman.

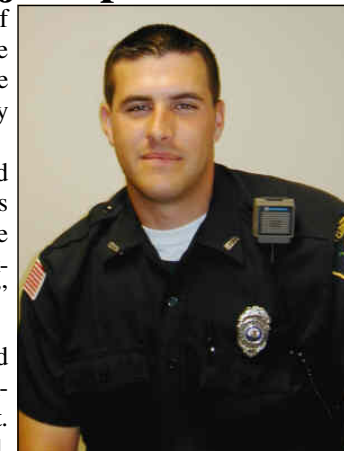
Watson will spend time on all three shifts this week before working the department's "power shift" from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m.

The 24-year-old learned of the opening, caused when Sgt. Joe Gaffney retired, from Officer Chad Smith and decided to apply. "I've always wanted to do this," he said. "It's just something I've always liked."

He will attending the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois starting June 17.

Watson is a 1997 graduate of Rossville-Alvin High School. After graduation, he worked at Wabash in Lafayette before moving to Kentucky. Most recently he was employed with Eric Houmes Construction.

The newest officer plans to spend a long time with the department. Announcing his hiring at this month's Neighborhood Watch meeting, Chief Mark Drollinger said Watson told the police commission he plans to be with the department long enough to become chief.



WATSON

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### Just the Facts will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. Publication will resume Tuesday

## DACC to offer ‘College for Kids’ program in Hoopeston

For the first time, Danville Area Community College will offer its College for Kids program in Hoopeston. The program is designed for students who have successfully completed the third, fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh grade.

The following classes will begin in Hoopeston July 8:

Creative writing (grades 3-4) Wednesday and Friday, July 10-19, 9-10:30 a.m.

Creative writing (grades 5-7) Wednesday and Friday, July 10-19, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Exploring theater Tuesday and Thursday, July 9-11 (10 a.m.-noon).

### Station continued from other side

amended the ordinance.

The final hurdle, a suit filed by the Rossville Fire District to force the board to allow the station to be built in a residential-zoned area, was also dropped.

“It’s time to put this thing to bed,” Mayor Terry Prillaman said before the vote. “It’s been a long time coming.”

“Finally!,” said Fire Chief Lloyd Smith after the meeting.

The issue of a new fire station has been burning since January 1999, Smith said. The proposed location, farm land on the northern village border, drew criticism from some residents of the area who were concerned about traffic hazards and whether the new station would blend in with surrounding homes.

Resident Ed Perkins, who lives just south of the proposed site, hired an attorney to block the project. Perkins has since sold his home and dropped his objections.

With the ordinance changed, the fire district is free to purchase the land and hire an architect to complete a design, said fireman Randy Lusk, chairman of the fire district building committee.

Although stumbling blocks have been removed, the fire district must still come before the village board to receive approval on final plans, which must meet other criteria for a residential area. “They can’t just put up a pole barn,” Prillaman said.

Smith was not sure when the district would have plans to submit to the board.

The Yester Years, Monday through Thursday, July 8-11, 9 a.m.-noon.

An Obedient Dog is Part of the Family (Part 1) - Monday, Thursday and Friday, July 8-26, noon-1:15 p.m.

Hyperstudio, Monday through Thursday, July 15-18, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

The cost of each program varies from \$3-=\$45 per session. Full payment is due one week prior to the start date.

For more information or to receive a free brochure, call (217) 443-8778. To register for a class, call (217) 443-8800.

Whenever that is, the project is expected to cost the district more than it had originally intended to spend. Costs have risen since 1999. Also, Prillaman said, the fire district had planned to apply for grants to help with construction costs. Cutbacks at the state level make finding such a grant less likely, he said.

In unrelated action, trustees:

- approved a \$14,560 bid from Birkey’s for a new mower. Trustee Richard Birkey abstained.
- are expected to have police begin issuing citations for illegal burning, residents who mow grass into the street and gutters and tall weed violations.
- approved Community Bank of Hoopeston as a depository for village funds, along with the Bank of Rossville.
- approved allowing Vermilion Waste to have license to haul waste in the village.
- approved a \$100 donation to Rossville-Alvin High School Beta Club to be used towards expenses of attending a national convention in Orlando, Fla.
- decided to send a letter of intent to withdraw from the Missouri Gas Commission. Officials plan to join another group that offers better prices.

## Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 69. Tonight partly cloudy. Low 53. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 77, low 55.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

## Police News



**Lonnie L. Cornell**, 45, of 510 W. Washington, was arrested following an incident 3:52 p.m. Monday in the 400 block of West Lincoln.

Cornell turned himself in at 6:10 p.m. and was charged with violating an order of protection and aggravated stalking on a complaint from a 39-year-old Hoopeston woman who reported he entered her home and argued with her.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

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