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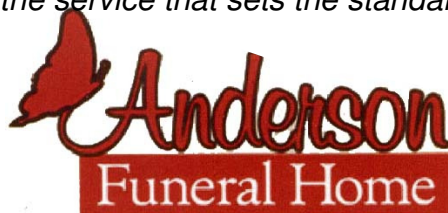
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owner/publisher

Just the Facts[©]

Tuesday, August 21, 2007

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State, property tax tardiness have no impact on HA budget

An unresolved state budget and late property tax bills have not tanked Hoopeston Area's finances..

At last Thursday's meeting, business director Don Dean told the school board that Friday marked the fourth payroll period without a state aid payment and without new property tax revenue.

A state budget was approved by the legislator and sent to Gov. Rod Blagojevich who said he would eliminate money for various projects across the state, which he called pork, shifting it to his statewide healthcare initiative. Legislators have said they will override the changes but Senate President Emil Jones has said he will not call for a Senate vote on Blagojevich's changes.

Meanwhile, changes in calculating property tax on farmland caused county tax bills to be late but the first installment was due Monday and Dean expects to receive a payment from the county next week.

Dean presented the board with a tentative budget, which will be on display in the superintendent's office until the budget hearing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20.

Overall, the budget predicts balances will be in the black on June 30, 2008, with estimated shortfalls covered by cash on hand. "We're going to be solid," Dean said.

The district education fund will go into the 2008 fiscal year with a cash balance of \$1,502,000. Income for the fund is estimated at \$9,139,000 and expenses of \$9,529,000, resulting in a \$390,000 shortfall. The deficit includes a one-time payment of \$140,000 as the district's share of money paid for employees who opted to retire early and includes the possibility of a late state aid payment next June. "We're just assuming the worst," Dean said.

See BUDGET on other side

Hoopeston Area 2008 Budget Preview

Fund	Revenue	Expenses	Difference	FY 07 Ending	FY 08 Projected Balance
Education	9,139,000	9,529,000	-390,000	1,502,000	1,112,000
Building	306,000	545,000	-239,000	261,000	22,000
Transportation	432,000	554,000	-122,000	146,000	24,000
Retirement	219,000	291,000	-72,000	1,021,000	949,000
Working Cash	92,000		92,000	1,245,000	1,337,000
Life Safety	30,000	30,000	0	1,000	1,000
Bond/Interest			0	3,000	3,000

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Illinois Mainstreet Program representatives to visit Hoopeston, hold town hall meeting

Hoopeston is in the process of applying for the Illinois Mainstreet Program. As part of the application process, the Illinois Mainstreet staff will visit Hoopeston on Monday, Aug. 27 and will hold a town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

It is important that we have the community well represented at this meeting to learn more about this program and show support for Hoopeston's participation.

Designation as a Mainstreet community is based on

broadbased community support shown by all Hoopeston residents and businesses. It is important that we have representation from both downtown business owners/residents and those outside of the designated downtown district. Having Hoopeston designated as a Mainstreet community would provide the structure and technical assistance needed to aid in revitalizing Hoopeston's downtown. Please plan on attending the Mainstreet Town Hall Meeting on Monday August 27 at 6:30 p.m.

and show your support for Hoopeston's application to this program!

Police News



A **36-year-old** man reported Sunday that someone took his debit card from his home in the 700 block of South First Ave., withdrew money on it and then returned it to his home.

A **41-year-old** man reported Sunday that someone took money from his home in the 700 block of South Sixth Ave.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 5:45 p.m. Sunday at 306 E. Main.

Police said Brad Homath of Hoopeston, in a 1999 Dodge Ram truck, hit a parked 2006 Mustang owned by Tosha Piper, also of Hoopeston.

Budget continued from other side

The ending balance at the end of the 2008 year is projected at \$1.1 million.

The building fund is estimated to have \$239,000 more in expenses than income, including \$139,000 for the middle school roof repair and a \$100,000 contingency. With cash on hand, Dean expects the fund to end the year with a \$22,000 balance.

The transportation fund is expected to have a \$122,000 shortfall which is "probably accurate" because the district has zero property growth.

The state is supposed to pay for 80 percent of eligible transportation expenses but often ends up paying a smaller amount, such as 80 percent of the 80 percent, leaving the rest to be paid by the district.

Despite higher costs, the fund is expected to end the year with a \$24,000 balance, down from \$146,000 on June 30 of this year.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today. High 87. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 71. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 91, low 71.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Obituaries

BURTON - Earl Leon Burton Sr., 73, of Champaign, formerly of Hoopeston died at 11 a.m. Sunday, August 19, 2007 at Helia Health Care, Champaign. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at First Church of God, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 10-11 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

KINCADE - Larry E. "Two Dogs" Kincade, 52, of Henderson, Ky., died in a construction accident on Friday, August 17, 2007 in Henderson. Memorial service was at 10 a.m. Monday at Tapp Funeral Home, Henderson. Visitation was 3-8 p.m. Sunday and 9-10 a.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Alzheimer's Association or Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 BR downstairs apt. Refrigerator furnished. Washer/dryer hookup. \$300 dep./\$300/mo. (217) 495-0103

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start is accepting applications for teachers, teaches assistants and bus aides at the Wellington site. Please send resume to P.O. Box 136, Wellington IL 60973 or fax to (815) 984-4500. Call (815) 983-3706 with any questions. EOE

Waitresses, evening shift cooks needed. Send resumes to Box D, c/o Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 BR duplex. Trash, water included. \$325 dep./\$325/mo. Available immediately. (217) 304-2145

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Seeking Health Center Board Nominations

The Hoopeston Regional Health Center Board of Directors is seeking nominations for three of the nine Board of Director positions. The Board of Directors plays a critical roll in the oversight and governance of Hoopeston Regional Health

Center and its success in meeting the mission and vision of the organization. Listed below are general outlines of the personal and professional qualifications for being a Board Member.

Personal Qualifications

Certain basic qualifications must be possessed by all Directors for the Board to function effectively. Those qualifications are:

- Honesty, Integrity, having a sense of justice, and of sound moral character.
- Availability to participate in Board and Community Activities
- Objective and deliberative approach to problems
- Experience translatable to Health Center Operations
- Understanding the role of the Board of Directors as related to the overall organization
- Acceptance of the Board policy relative to conflict of interest
- Willingness to accept responsibility of governance
- Commitment to community health
- Ability to conceptualize
- Respect for confidentiality
- Experience in group decision-making

Professional Qualifications

Since the Board of Directors is a composite of persons who have various professional backgrounds, nominees should have one or more of the competencies below:

- Health care competency
- Financial competency
- Education competency
- Knowledge of the civic community
- Managerial competency
- Legal competency
- Engineering competency
- Knowledge of legislative activity

If you are interested in nominating someone or you have a personal interest in serving on the Board of Directors, please submit your nominations in writing to:

Hoopeston Regional Health Center, Attn. Board of Directors Nominating Committee
701 E. Orange St., Hoopeston, IL 60942

If you have questions regarding the nominating process, please call
David Elliott, Chief Executive Officer at (217) 283-8240.

Nominations must be received by September 4th, 2007 by 4 p.m.