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Hoopeston gets early gift in mandated loan forgiveness

Christmas came early for Hoopeston officials this year.

Mike Streff, engineer with Foth Infrastructure and Environmental, announced at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting that \$729,197 of the city's \$2.6 million loan to refurbish water towers will be forgiven.

Chad Rice, of Illinois EPA, said in an email that the U.S. EPA mandated principal forgiveness in the drinking water and wastewater revolving loan programs. Community eligibility was based on median household income, Rice wrote.

The windfall will "come off the top" of the city's loan,

Streff said.

In other business, the council approved the 2013 tax levy ordinance, payable in 2014, up 10.25 percent over last year.

Last year's levy was \$626,273, compared with the new one of \$690,477.

Alderman Brandon Hamilton said the primary increase is for police pensions. Funds set aside for police

See HOOPESTON on other side



Thankful

Kyle and Samantha Fitzgerald, both stationed in Afghanistan, were able to spend time together for Thanksgiving. She is the daughter of Stephanie Myers of Hoopeston and he is the son of Lisa and Shawn Fitzgerald, of Wellington.

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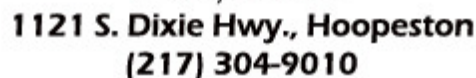
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