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Just the Facts

Wednesday, Jan. 5, 1994

Lourdine Osborne, Editor

Susan Comstock, Ad Manager

Council discusses, tables ambulance bids

Hoopeston emergency medical technicians will have to settle for the same old ambulances - at least for a while.

Two bids for a new ambulance were opened at last night's city council meeting.

Foster Coach Company of Sterling, bid with two options. The first option, without a trade-in, was for \$66,528. The second option, including trade-in of a 1987 ambulance, was for \$56,528.

Braun Ambulance of Oakwood, Ohio, submitted a bid of \$73,384 without trade-in.

Mike Eckersley, chairman of the city's ambulance committee, said the Braun bid did not meet the city's specifications, which included offering

a trade-in bid and providing an ambulance for viewing.

Whether the city will trade in its 1987 ambulance is still undecided. The Foster Coach bid offered \$10,000 as the trade-in value, a figure Eckersley thinks might be low. "I think we could get \$18,000 or \$20,000 out of it ourselves," he said. "Good used ambulances are hard to come by."

The council will decide on the matter at its Jan. 18 meeting.

In other action, the council approved three new auxiliary police officers, Kent Hoskins, Kipp Kennett and Scott Reynolds. The city now has 15 auxiliary officers, said police chief Orval Kaag.

Township OKs new price for former offices

A lower price on the former Grant Township building should bring more bidders.

At least that's the hope of Grant Township trustees, who met in special session last night to discuss selling the building.

The appraised value of the structure, at 200 E. Penn, was reduced from \$25,000 to \$15,000 because the building has been "shut down," said township supervisor Carol Flint.

The lowered appraisal means potential buyers can purchase the building for 80 percent of the appraised value, or \$12,000.

Flint said three potential buyers had expressed interest in the building, but not at the \$20,000 purchase price originally required.

Since the original appraisal Dec. 20, one of those parties, a non-profit organization, has

decided not to bid on the building, Flint said.

In a letter to trustees, William R. Kizer, a state-approved appraiser who performed both appraisals, said much of the first appraisal was based on other commercial property in Hoopeston. Kizer's letter continued to state that "the current commercial market in the Hoopeston area has declined significantly in the last few years."

Flint said barring significant vandalism, the building will not be appraised again. "My understanding is, this is it," she said. "He couldn't justify another appraisal."

Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Monday to discuss the bid process to sell the building.

More *Just the Facts* on the other side

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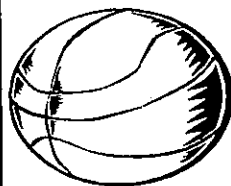
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Briefly...

Bankruptcy hearing today

Officials from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and C&S Grain will meet in bankruptcy court at 2 p.m. today.

The company filed bankruptcy after the state moved to liquidate company assets last month.

A second public information meeting will be at 1 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Rossville-Alvin High School. The purpose of the meeting is to let farmers know how the liquidation process is going.

Farmers with grain stored at the C&S Grain offices at Henning, Alvin, Prairie Green, Fountain Creek or East Lynn may file claims at either the Henning or Fountain Creek offices.

Homestead exemption sign-up

Senior citizens over 65 taking advantage of the Homestead Exemption must sign the annual form at the township assessor's office, 525 S. Market.

Township assessor Teresa Sollars said this will be the last year seniors will have to sign up. Next year, the program will be automatic.

Obituaries

BUTTERWORTH, Robert F., 76, of Hoopeston, died at 9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 3, 1994, at his winter residence in Bonita Springs, Fla. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Eastern Illinois Multi Purpose Community Center, 206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston.

CROTHERS, Hobart A., 95, of Hoopeston, died at 9:10 p.m. Monday, Jan. 3, 1994 at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Funeral services will be 2:30 p.m. at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour before services at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the First Christian Church of Hoopeston or the Hoopeston Community Nursing Home.

KING, Andrew J., 22, of Sacramento, Calif., and formerly of Rankin, died in a motorcycle accident at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, 1994. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at the Wolfe Funeral Home in Rankin. Burial will be in the Rankin Union Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. tonight at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the family.

ROTHGEB, Wilma, 77, of Milford, died at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 1, 1994 at the Mercy Center Hospital, Aurora. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. today

at the Knapp Funeral Home in Milford. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the United Methodist Church of Milford.

Police news

No tickets or injuries were reported in a two-vehicle accident at 3:39 p.m. Monday. Vehicles driven by Jane M. Rowe, 806 E. McNeil, and Nathan L. Alt, rural Rankin, collided at Sixth Street and East Elm. According to police reports, Rowe failed to yield at an unmarked intersection and was struck by the Alt vehicle.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Jan. 3, 1994

Admitted: Cyndi Houston, Hoopeston; Iona McBride, Rossville; Elizabeth Koenig, Rankin.

Discharged: Jonathan Miles, George F. Anderson, Melvin Jenkins and Judith Reynertson, all of Hoopeston..

Weather

Cloudy today, high of 25 to 30. Tonight, snow beginning. Low in the teens. Tomorrow, snow and ice with significant accumulation. High near 35. Low around 27.

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