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Just the Facts

Friday, Jan. 14, 1994

Lourdine Osborne, Editor Susan Cornstock, Ad Manager

Landfill issue heads to appellate court

Whether Hoopeston's landfill will be allowed to expand will be decided by the Fourth Appellate Court in Springfield.

Illinois Landfills, Inc., owners of the landfill, filed an appeal with the court Tuesday, said Jim Van Weelden, ILI general manager.

The appeal was filed following two rulings by the Illinois Pollution Control Board overturning a decision by the Hoopeston city council approving a 120-acre expansion to the existing 35-acre site on Hoopeston's southeast side.

The Pollution Control Board ruled that the council, in its written decision, did not show a need for the expansion in the planned 31-county service area.

That decision left Illinois Landfills, Inc., with two options: reapply to the city or appeal to the appellate court.

Van Weelden said the decision to go to court was made for two reasons. "It may have ended up in the appellate court," he said. "If it's going to go to the appellate court on this anyway, we might as well take it to the appellate court now."

Second, he said, the odds of winning the case

are good. "We feel we have a good chance of winning at the appellate court," he said. "The appellate court has overturned the Pollution Control Board before. We feel that the original siting was correct and the Pollution Control Board made a mistake interpreting what the city was trying to say."

Danville attorney Steve Helm will lead the landfill team, Van Weelden said. Helm could not be reached for comment.

As Illinois Landfills, Inc., gears up for their day in court, opposing attorneys Richard Doyle and Joe Moore are doing the same.

Doyle's assistant, Debbie Butler, expects the process to take some time. "It's not going to be anything quick," she said.

The appeal will not involve witnesses, she said. "It'll be strictly done with briefs," she said. "There could be some argument (between attorneys) but I believe it'll be mostly done on paper."

The appeal will be the last step for the landfill company, Butler said. "They'll be done for at least two years unless they file a significantly different

See "LANDFILL" on other side

Catron to be tried in absentia next week

Testimony in the case against Dennis Catron, former Ludlow superintendent, is expected to begin next Wednesday.

Catron is charged with sexually abusing a then-13-year-old Ludlow boy in 1991. The boy, now 16, testified at a motion to suppress evidence hearing last Wednesday in Danville circuit court.

Catron was not present at Wednesday's hearing. He has not been in contact with authorities since August 1992 and has been officially missing since Sept. 7, 1992.

Catron was arrested in June 1991 in Hoopeston.

More Just the Facts on the other side

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Landfill continued from other side application."

The action comes as no surprise to members of Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (CARE). "I really expected to do something," said group president James Klaber. "We'll just have to get our courses together and see what's going off."

Klaber believes the appeal will be difficult. "It's very tough to override the government and that's what they're trying to do," he said.

Klaber expressed surprise that the company did not reapply to the city. "I thought they'd start

from day one," he said.

Mayor Bob Ault was also not surprised by the appeal. "It doesn't come as any real shock to me," he said, adding the issue is "strictly an expansion. The landfill was already here."

Ault also defended the council's actions. "They did what they were supposed to do - make sure the nine criteria were met. Everyone was treated very fairly. The whole town could participate."

The appeal means the end of the city's involvement, Ault said. "The decision that is handed down, we'll live with."

Court dispositions

The following defendants had charges nolle prossed: Terry Clayburn, Hoopeston, criminal damage, battery; William Schloot, Hoopeston, breach of peace; Jeffrey Strawser, Hoopeston,

criminal damage; Jason Petty, Hoopeston, disobeying traffic control device; Jason Longfellow, Hoopeston, excessive noise; Angela Rhodes, Hoopeston, unattended vehicle.

Police news

A Hoopeston woman was injured in a two-vehicle accident at 12:30 p.m. yesterday.

Vickie J. Longfellow, 418 W. Chestnut, was treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital after her car was struck by one driven by Darrell J. Miller, 530 W. Orange.

According to police reports, Miller was northbound on south Fifth Ave., and Longfellow was westbound on West Chestnut when each tried to stop but slid through the intersection.

Miller was at fault for failure to yield the right

of way.

Hoopeston police are investigating damage reported at the sewer plant. Jerry Watson reported that someone broke the front window from the sewer plant door on south Sixth Avenue between 10 and 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Gertrude Coppola, 48, of 318 W. Penn, was arrested at 8:41 p.m. Wednesday. She was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving on a suspended license and violation of a restricted permit. Coppola was released after posting \$300 cash bond.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Jan. 12, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Emma Silver and Wade Swartz, both of Hoopeston; Marie Eighner, Rankin.

Weather

Partly sunny with a chance of flurries today. High 10. Tonight, clearing. Low 3. Tomorrow, partly sunny, high near 13, low near -5. Sunday, chance of flurries. High 28, low 7.

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Jennifer Boyden

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D.C.

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Just the Facts

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