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Open House Coupon for Sunday, Nov. 19

50¢ off any set of tree lights

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Door prizes

Refreshments

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

Lourdine Florek
editor

just the facts®

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1995

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Hoopeston Area tax levy, rate to decrease for 1995-96 year

Hoopeston Area residents will pay less for education next year.

At Tuesday's school board meeting, Superintendent Don Dean presented a 1995 estimated tax levy of \$1.93 million, down from approximately \$1.95 million this year.

The levy, which will be voted on at the Dec. 14 meeting, is based on a district valuation of approximately \$54 million, Dean said.

A lower tax rate is also predicted, to about \$3.58 per \$100 assessed valuation, compared with \$3.61 this year.

While district tax numbers are going down, Dean cautioned that residents might not see a decrease in their actual tax bill. Grant Township will have a multiplier of one percent, Dean said, while Butler Township residents will have a five percent multiplier boosting their tax bills.

The county rate is 2.8 percent Dean said.

In other action, the board approved hiring a district social worker for 1996-97, if one can be found. Currently, Hoopeston Area uses social work services through Vermilion Area Special Education in Danville.

Dean estimated hiring a social worker will cost the same or slightly more than the \$23,000 now paid to VASE but "having one of our own puts us in a much better position to serve our district," he said.

Last year, the board voted to hire a district psychologist instead of using VASE services. The combined services cost the district approximately \$45,000, "the brunt of our VASE bill," Dean said.

In other action, the board:

hired Elizabeth Anvick as a personal aide for 1995-96.

expelled a middle school student for disciplinary reasons.

approved a drug/alcohol testing policy for bus drivers, as part of a state-wide consortium. Drivers who violate the policy will be fired

Hoopeston Area board reorganizes

Hoopeston Area school board president Ed Layden Jr. was elected to his seventh year as board president.

Layden was unanimously named president at Tuesday's school board meeting. Gary Miller was re-elected as vice president and Jerry Bird was again named secretary. All will serve two-year terms.

The board also canvassed election results and seated new members Steve Unger and Sharon Roark.

The new members replace Robert Hatfield, who did not seek re-election and Gary Jett, who was defeated Nov. 7.

Obituaries

ILIFF - Florence L. Iliff, 97, of Hoopeston, died at 5:15 a.m. Monday, Nov. 13, 1995, at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. There will be no services. Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Police News



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 5:48 a.m. Tuesday to a grease fire at Sundae's Restaurant on West Penn.

Open House Coupon for Saturday, Nov. 18

10% off any tree top angel

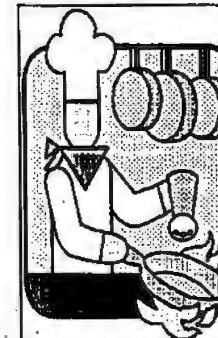
9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Door prizes

Refreshments

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Steak Fry

5:30-8 p.m.

Nov. 17

American Legion

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'Why' is the question remaining after council landfill vote

The Hoopeston city council's 7-0-1 decision to approve a compromise host agreement with Illinois Landfills raises some interesting questions.

Foremost is, why the sudden change of heart, not only by aldermen who ran on anti-expansion platforms, but also by expansion opponents' counsel, Richard Doyle?

These leaders once ballyhooed the dangers of the expansion, how it would surely taint Hoopeston's water supply.

On Nov. 7, however, Doyle said the odds of water contamination were "one in 10 million," a far cry from the gloom-and-doom predictions made earlier.

Surely we are not supposed to believe that raising the landfill floor by five feet and installing monitoring wells on neighboring property will make that much of a difference?

Another sticking point was Chicago garbage would be placed in our landfill. Although the number of counties has decreased, waste will still be coming from Chicago. The host agreement limits the number of tons that will be accepted daily, but if Chicago waste were truly the problem, wouldn't a little Chicago waste be as unacceptable as a lot?

What about trucks going past the hospital, nursing home and senior high and middle schools?

Although a new road will be built, trucks coming from Indian will still be trundling down Route 9 past those buildings. If the problem was garbage trucks going past those sites, why is it acceptable now for trucks to go past them on a different road?

Those are the main components of the amended host agreement, which CARE-endorsed candidates Cox, Dave Borders and John Haughee, did not vote against.

Aside from things directly related to the expansion, one has to wonder if recent media complaints about certain city committees violating the Open Meetings Act have less to do with actual violations and more to do with the facts that 1.) the finance committee

was discussing the landfill expansion; and 2.) alderman Bill Goodwine, a revolving loan committee-man, has consistently voted for the expansion.

This could be construed as an abuse of the power of the press as some media choose which committees are called on the carpet, since not a word was said when alderman Harold Cox requested a fire committee meeting immediately following the Oct. 17 council session.

That meeting broke the Open Meetings Act's 48-hour time requirement for media notification, but nobody's complaining about that.

The council's violations could have been pointed out quietly and privately, with a request for change.


Some media did just that, but others would seem to prefer residents think officials are desperadoes breaking the law for the sheer joy of it.

It would be nice to have answers to these questions, but my phone still appears to be broken, so answers will not be quick in coming.

And while answers would be nice, what we need now is to stop picking at each other. Barring EPA refusal, we will have an expanded landfill.


What we need now is time to heal the divisiveness caused by the expansion. We need to bridge the gaps that were formed over this issue.

We need to become a community again.



The Second Cup
By LOURDINE FLOREK


In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Nov. 13, 1995

Admitted: none.
Discharged: none.

Weather



Partly cloudy and warmer today. High in the upper 30s. Tonight, fair. Low in the low 30s. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High near 38, low near 33.



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