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Rossville-Alvin board approves bus contract, seeks sports co-op

ROSSVILLE—The Rossville-Alvin school board on Monday approved a one-year lease/purchase agreement for six buses at a cost of \$75,000.

Buses will be delivered in June, said Superintendent Phil Smith. Six buses currently used by the district will be traded in on the new ones.

At the end of the one-year period, the board will decide whether to purchase the buses outright or continue leasing the vehicles.

The bus program is one the district has used for the last four years, Smith said.

In other action, the board approved contacting the Armstrong-Potomac district about cooperative sports

programs, including softball, baseball, cross country and golf, Smith said.

Currently, Rossville-Alvin and Armstrong-Potomac each have softball and baseball. Armstrong-Potomac also has a cross country team, but neither school has golf, Smith said.

Whether the cooperative effort will go through will be decided by the Armstrong-Potomac board at its next meeting, he said.

In unrelated action, the board hired Samantha Furry as a speech/language pathologist and Eva Neeland as temporary bookkeeper. Neeland had been the bookkeeper until her retirement.

Revolving loan committee to meet, first time since lawsuit filed

Applicant requests financial info be kept confidential, chairman says

Hoopeston's revolving loan committee is expected to meet Wednesday morning, the first time since a civil suit was filed against the committee.

The meeting will be held in closed session at the request of the applicant, said committee chairman Bill Goodwine. "(The applicant) wanted to make sure we could keep his application private," he said. "I told him until a judge tells us we can't we have every right and responsibility to do so."

The application is the first one filed since the Chronicle filed a suit against the committee on June 21.

The suit charges the committee with violating the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the law governing when meetings may be closed to the public.

The suit charges the committee violated the act on June 3 when it closed a meeting without citing an exception for closure.

Vermilion County Circuit Judge John P. O'Rourke, hearing the case, last month struck down three arguments put forth by the city for closing the meeting.

The city had argues that the freedom of Information Act exempts the city from disclosure of loan documents, that the Illinois Small Business Development Act requires loan documents be kept confidential, and that the loan applicant requested confidentiality.

Although he struck down those arguments, O'Rourke gave city attorneys 28 days to file an amended plea.

The new plea, filed approximately a week ago, argues that the closed meeting should be allowed because the revolving loan committee is an advisory committee not subject to the Open Meetings Act's requirements.

O'Rourke has not yet ruled on that argument.

The new response also asks that the city's costs

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Wellington



Police News



Randall A. Stephen, 51, Wellington, was arrested at 3:59 p.m. Monday, charged with retail theft. Police said Stephen took three packages of ammunition from Pamida.

He was released on a notice to appear. Deanna Smith, 25, of 701 S. Market, was arrested Tuesday morning on outstanding warrants. She was released on \$75 cash bond.

Briefly

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in the Tuesday edition that the Hoopeston Area school board will hold a special meeting Friday. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Just the Facts regrets the error.

Weather freezes attendance

Cold weather and icy conditions had a drastic affect on Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting. The meeting was attended only by featured speaker Judge Joe Moore and Mayor Bob Ault. Moore agreed to speak at the Feb. 24 meeting. His topic will be the juvenile justice system. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Hoopeston municipal building.

Military memories night set

The Hoopeston Public Library will host Military Memories Night from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4. Nick Sloan will show slides and there will be a panel discussion from veterans of WWII. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the program. For more information, call the library at (217) 283-6711.



Court dispositions



Jan. 2: Kelly Howell, Hoopeston, paid \$95 in full. Christine Holland, Paxton, speeding, nolle pros. Phillip Issacs, St. Anne, speeding, pleaded by mail. Diane Johnson, Hoopeston, speeding, ex parte. Debra Lindsey, Hoopeston, speeding, pleaded by mail.

Darnell Lewis, Evanston, no valid driver's license, failure to appear, speeding; nolle pros. Debbie Maggio, Danville, speeding, ex parte. Jesus Montez, Hoopeston, uninsured, registration suspended, no insurance; pleaded by mail. Elvia Ortega, Hoopeston, uninsured, pleaded by mail. Ronald Poke, Hoopeston, uninsured, failure to wear seat belt; nolle pros. Michelle Strawser, Hoopeston, status check on payments, rule to show cause Feb. 6. Brandon Shipman, Hoopeston, speeding, failed to appear; ex parte. Jamey Strawser, Hoopeston, uninsured, pleaded by mail. Zamira Shain, Danville, uninsured, pleaded by mail. James Shoufler, Hoopeston, rule to show cause hearing, found in contempt of court; paid \$95. Floyd Vanvickle, Hoopeston, status check, rule to show cause. Lisa Watson, Danville, uninsured, speeding, pleaded by mail.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Jan. 27, 1997

Admitted: Ruby Owen, Rossville; Evelyn Beckman, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Warmer with increasing cloudiness today. High in the low 30s. Tonight, cloudy, cold. Low in the single digits. Tomorrow, colder, snow showers likely. High near 15, low near 9.



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