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Wednesday, August 6, 1997
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Historical Society may add miles to local brick streets

Hoopeston's 60-plus-year-old brick streets may get a new lease on life, thanks to the Hoopeston Historical Society.

The society plans to join national and state Preservation Society, said historical society president Jim Miller at Tuesday's city council meeting.

Those societies may provide technical information, as well as sources of funding to preserve historic sites in Hoopeston, including the city's brick streets and former city hall, Miller said.

Brick streets "are worth saving, we feel," Miller said. "Some of those bricks were made out here at the (former) brick factory, I understand."

Reminding the council of the Fischer Theater in Danville, "a miracle happened," Miller said. "There could be miracles happen in Hoopeston and I'm just stubborn enough to try to do that."

City officials gave their blessing to any information or financial assistance the group can find. "If your

organization can put us in touch with some people, I'd be grateful," said Alderman Mark Drollinger, chairman of the city street/alley committee.

Alderman Bill Goodwine said city representatives who work with the historical society must want the project to succeed. "Our engineer doesn't want brick streets and from an engineering standpoint, that's understandable," he said.

Especially bad are Fourth St. between Elm and Chestnut, and Seminary, Drollinger said, adding little has been done to maintain brick streets.

Goodwine agreed, saying "we haven't spent a penny since they were put in during the '30s."

Drollinger said street repairs this year were done with city employees to save money to bankroll future work on brick roads.

See BRICKS on other side

Bricks continued from other side

Request for special audit raises questions at special meeting

ROSSVILLE—A decision on a request for a special audit of village books will be made later this month.

The request was made at a special village board meeting Tuesday morning through a letter from village treasurer Gene Hughes.

Hughes' request, covering May 1 through July 31, is in response to allegations raised by a group of residents.

Trustee William Galloway and approximately a dozen residents, now organized under the name Residents Organized to Reform Rossville (RORR) raised questions at the July 21 meeting regarding an alleged discrepancy between two treasurer's reports for March.

One report was that given to trustees; the other came through a Freedom of Information Act request from

attorney Calvin Hultquist, representing RORR.

Hughes' letter cited the need for an outside audit because charges of impropriety "reflects on the honesty and integrity of all village officials including myself."

Before deciding on a special audit, trustees want to know the cost and scope of the audit.

Mayor Merv Smith estimated the cost of a quarterly audit at \$800 to \$1,000. "They have to crank up everything else so it might be more than that," he said, adding he based the estimate on charges for annual audits.

Resident Abby Yoho questioned the type of audit to be approved. "Is it going to be a skim-off-the-top audit," she asked. "You need to go to a more complete audit, a

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Audit continued from other side

paper trail audit.”

Trustee Tom Mills, citing expenses of approximately \$1,000 monthly for legal representation, and “great requests for Freedom of Information Act requests” said the village may have to raise water bills to pay those bills.

Mills said the village may raise rates from \$7 monthly per household to \$11.

Hultquist dismissed the idea of a rate hike, saying few

additional Freedom of Information requests will be made, and called Mills’ stance “political posturing designed to turn residents against those who are questioning village practices.”

After the meeting, Hultquist said he and RORR members have taken portable copiers and paper to the village office to make copies for their files.

In related business, Smith read letters from two residents concerning informal petitions circulated by Galloway and William Yoho.

Gene Vandervort and Tim and Heather Cottingham said petitions they signed concerned lowering gas rates, not an investigation into village practices. Smith said

Through an ordinance passed in 1989, several streets are to remain brick covered. They include East Main from Third St. to Euclid; East Penn from Fourth St. to Euclid; East Lincoln from Market to Euclid; East Maple from Fourth St. to Euclid; South fourth from Main St. to Route 9; East Young from Market to Seventh St.; and West Washington from First Ave. to the park entrance.

For the most part, the streets have been kept brick except for a small portion of Penn which has been covered, Drollinger said.

As for the former city hall, it has been vacant since 1994 when the new municipal building was dedicated, said Mayor Bob Ault.

The building, which has no lights or heat on the second and third floors, would cost approximately \$40,000 to raze, Ault said, adding some people have looked at the building to refurbish it.

In other business, the council:

- ☐accepted a \$9,920 bid from Silver Brothers Construction to build a 10” by 16” cement addition to the chlorine treatment building.
- A second bid, of \$12,323.43, was received from Danner Construction of Rossville.
- ☐will sell, by sealed bid, the empty lot next to Global Fashions. Minimum bid is \$3,600. Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. Aug. 29.
- ☐took no action on a request from Steve Dazey to purchase former railroad land now owned by the city.
- Dazey is interested in land adjoining four lots he currently owns.
- ☐learned all city hydrants are now operational.

some residents who signed the petitions believe another document was placed on top of the petition pages.

However, Hultquist said each petition page had a synopsis of allegations at the top. The synopsis does not mention gas rates, he said.

Further, Hultquist said original petition sheets are available to be analyzed by any law enforcement agency to determine if the petitions are legitimate.

In unrelated action, the board approved a \$23,359 bid from Daniel Ribbe Trucking to tar and chip streets under the Motor Fuel Tax program.

Bid acceptance came after residents questioned the need for tar and chipping versus repairs to trenches


across streets caused by sinking sewer lines.

Motorists “either get jacked through the roof or fall in a hole” driving in the village, said resident Dale Tweedy. “It would be my wish that no tar and chip be done this year and that you repair the streets and fill in the spots that have caved in.”


However, engineer Bill Boyd said such repairs would not be covered under Motor Fuel Tax proposals approved for this year.

Resident Robert Danner said money spent on legal fees and the requested special audit would be better used fixing streets. “I hate to see all that money spent and not fix the holes,” he said.


Trustees approved this year’s tar and chip program and will make repairs as village funds allow. Trustee Richard Kiser, street committee chairman, said an extensive repair program will be considered for next year’s Motor Fuel program.



The Surgeon General has determined that everyone should get 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five days of the week...



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— **Briefly** —

Water line flushing

Rossville water lines will be flushed Thursday during daytime hours.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in Tuesday’s edition that a benefit for Naomi Freeman will be held Friday.

The spaghetti supper will be held from 4-7 p.m. Saturday at the Rossville American Legion.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Aug. 4, 1997

Admitted: Mary Davis, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Jewell Merritt and Glenn Umbanhowar, Hoopeston.

Weather

Partly sunny today with a slight chance of thunderstorms. High in the upper 70s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 50s. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High near 85, low near 56.

Classifieds

FOUND

Payroll check belonging to Michelle Grove. To redeem, call (217) 283-6025.

GARAGE SALES

Huge gigantic sale Friday and Saturday, Aug. 8,9. Corner of Route 1 and Penn St., Hoopeston. Items too numerous to mention. New & used.

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Migrant Headstart is accepting applications for teacher, bus driver and teaching assistant. Send letter of application to Hoopeston Migrant Headstart, 530 E. North First St., Wellington, IL. 60973 or call (815) 984-3706 for more information. Applications close Aug. 8 EOE. 209-219

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