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Ambulance service upgraded, revolving loan committee dropped

Local emergency medical technicians will be better able to help patients following action taken Tuesday by the Hoopeston city council.

The council unanimously approved upgrading the Hoopeston Ambulance Service from a basic life support to an intermediate life support level.

The change means EMTs who have been certified at the intermediate level will be able to start intravenous lines on patients, as well as administer some drugs and intubate patients, said Chris Coon, ambulance service assistant coordinator.

Five EMTs are currently licensed at the intermediate level, Coon said. Both he and Shannon Ramos are paramedic - provisional certified, a step above the intermediate level and a third EMT is now taking paramedic classes. "I feel if we don't update, our skills are going to waste," he said.

The council approved upgrading one ambulance, at a cost of \$2,084. That ambulance will be equipped with materials needed by intermediate EMTs.

In related business, Coon said a meeting last week to recruit new EMTs had "a pretty good turnout."

The Hoopeston service, through Carle's Emergency

Medical Services, will offer daytime EMT classes for interested residents, Coon said adding emergency personnel is especially needed during the day.

Alderman Bill Goodwine questioned whether ambulance personnel would get enough practice at the new level to be proficient, but alderman Mike Eckersley said EMTs receive monthly training to hone their skills.

Also, patients on many calls require advanced skills. "I think we have a pretty good ratio of (intermediate) candidates as opposed to (basic)," he said.

In unrelated action, the council disbanded the city's revolving loan fund committee, making Goodwine administrator of the fund.

The committee - comprised of Goodwine, Ault, city attorney Jim Spiros and members of Community Bank and Palmer Bank.

The committee was called on the carpet last year when the Chronicle filed suit alleging committee meetings violated the Illinois Open Meetings Act when applicants' personal financial information was discussed in closed session.

The closed meetings were ruled illegal, Goodwine said, explaining why administration of the fund was changed.

Although a ruling was issued, the matter has not been put to rest. A financial settlement between the paper and city has not been decided, Spiros said.

As administrator, Goodwine said he will bring recommended loans to the council for approval and will notify council members of loans he does not recommend. By eliminating the committee, applicants' financial information may be kept confidential, he said.

Alderman Harold Cox voted against the change, citing ongoing litigation. "I'm not for it," he said.

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Rossville trustees name auctioneer ‘Citizen of Year’

ROSSVILLE—An auctioneer has been named Rossville’s first “Good Citizen.”

Greg Feller of Cissna Park, who auctioned property for the village without charge, received the honor at Monday’s village board meeting.

The award was discussed at several meetings and Mayor Merv Smith had asked for written nominations. Feller’s was the only nomination received, Smith said.

Trustee William Galloway was the only dissenting vote on the nomination, Smith said, adding Galloway

voted no because Feller is not from Rossville.

Galloway could not be reached for comment.

In other action, trustees:

☐ approved monetary safety awards to employees, based on salary, full- or part-time status and length of service.

☐ discussed the village planning commission.

☐ discussed personnel and litigation issues in executive session. Smith said both issues will be handled by the village attorney.



Court Dispositions



Dec. 4: **Lynn Headershott**, Ashkum, speeding; \$95, 12 months court supervision.

John Hensley, Rankin, no valid driver’s license, \$50 and costs, six months court supervision; uninsured, nolle pros; no red tail light, costs only.

Charlene Hofer, Hoopeston, uninsured, nolle pros.

Hershal Hurst, Rossville, paid \$95.

Glenn Knake, Cissna Park, speeding; \$115, 12

months court supervision.

William McElhaney, Hoopeston, to pay \$209; failed to appear.

Vickie McNeely, Woodland, to pay \$235; failed to appear.

Jeffrey Maple, Hoopeston, \$95 cash bond, pleaded guilty; \$95.

Rudy Martinez Jr., Hoopeston, to pay \$95; converted to 18 hours public service work.

Samuel Montoyas, Hoopeston, improper overtaking, pleaded not guilty; \$95.

Kip Peterson, Hoopeston, disobeying traffic control device; forfeited license.

Gregory Plarta, Hickory Hills, speeding; forfeited license.

Eric Reeves, Milford, failure to yield at railroad crossing; \$500, eight months court supervision.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Dec. 15, 1997

Admitted: Karen Michael, Perryville, Ind..


Discharged: Viola Barth.

Weather



Partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow. Highs 45, lows 33.

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Half-price sale at Resale Mart, 227 E. Main, Hoopeston. All clothing, purses, shoes. Next bake sale, Dec. 20. For advance orders, call (217) 283-5258 or 283-7509 after 5 p.m. 338-364



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