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Thursday, July 2, 1998

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Committee, commission work out details on new officers

The first of two new police officers for Hoopeston could be hired in the near future after city official ironed out two major issues.

The city council's police committees met Tuesday with two members of the city police commission to discuss the \$150,000 federal COPS grant to fund new officers.

The police commission hires officers; the committee sets officers' salaries.

Two issues emerged Tuesday: hiring experienced versus inexperienced officers and the city's ability to meet the grant's financial requirements.

At the Feb. 3 city council meeting, police Chief Carl Valentine, said the city would repay 25 percent of the grant during each of the three years. However, at Tuesday's meeting, Valentine said the grant calls for a 25 percent city co-payment the first year, followed by 50 percent the second year and 75 percent the final year. "I think I might have misled you on the 25 percent," he said. "It goes up 25 percent each year."

The grant is not designed for the federal government to provide police protection, said Officer Chuck Moyer, who wrote the grant. "It's to bring policemen into the

community and gradually wean them off federal money," he said.

A waiver for the city's portion was rejected but another waiver will be submitted asking that the city pay only 10 percent of salaries during the grant period, Valentine said.

If that request is successful, slightly more than \$20,000, rather than \$84,000, will come from city coffers to pay the new officers' wages over three years.

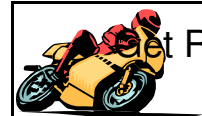
The waiver is essential to staying within the city budget which has been cut, "right down to a gnat's hair," said Mayor Bob Ault.

Ault suggested hiring one officer quickly, then waiting a short time before hiring the second and making sure both officers understand "they might not have a job in three years."

In making a pitch for two officers rather than one, Valentine said the city will save money in lower hire-back – or overtime – pay, estimated at \$10,000 yearly.

One officer has been on sick leave for two months, resulting in some overtime pay covering the shift, Valentine said. Also, current officers have almost 40 weeks'

See OFFICERS on other side



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Open 5 a.m.-12:30 a.m. daily

Officers continued from other side

vacation time annually, also resulting in higher overtime costs, he said.

Additionally, he said, several officers are nearing retirement, which could allow the city to keep new officers past the grant period.

The second issue of trained or untrained officers, is aligned with the money issue, Valentine said.

Starting salary for an untrained officer would be approximately \$18,600 annually. After completing the 12-week Police Training Institute, pay would increase to about \$19,600, Valentine said.

The \$3,000 training cost could be eliminated by hiring a trained officer, Valentine said. Starting salary for a trained officer with experience would be approximately \$21,500, he said. Salary for an officer completing a probationary period is expected to be approximately \$26,000.

Valentine has met with one candidate who has police and canine training and three years' practical experience and could start work immediately.

Police commissioner Tom Sheridan said if the city hires only one officer, he would prefer a second candidate who

has been on a waiting list and who passed written and physical agility tests.

"We're honor-bound, I think, to vote for this guy who's been waiting two years," he said. "Would that bother you," he asked Valentine.

"It would bother me," Valentine responded. "We've already waited four months and now we'd have to wait another 12 weeks," he said.

Whether trained or untrained, new officers will be paired with field training officers until they become familiar with the city and local police practices.

"I'm not going to turn anybody loose out here until I'm comfortable that they're comfortable and know what they're doing," Valentine said.

Briefly

Card shower

A card shower is being held for Fred Ward's 90th birthday on July 9. Cards may be sent to Fred Ward, 316 W. Dice, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Community Fund, healthcare foundation set swinging event

A swinging event will benefit the United Community Fund of Grant Township and the Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation.

The organizations have banded together to host a golf outing Aug. 8, said event chairman Troy Jacks at Wednesday's community fund board meeting.

Morning and afternoon shotgun starts have been set, and a dinner will follow golfing. Tickets for the outing are \$45 for golf and \$55 for golf and dinner, Jacks said.

In other business, the board accepted the resignation of member Marge Garrison who is moving from the area. The board presented Garrison with a clock/plaque for her work on the board from 1994 to the present.

Finally, Lourdine Florek was named to the allocations committee, replacing Lyle Curtis. Another member will be named later to replace Peter Krimbel.

Obituaries

BENNETT – Emmett Bennett, 80, of Rankin, died at 7:25 a.m. Tuesday, June 30, 1998, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Rankin United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin. Memorials are suggested to Carle Hospice.

HOWARD – J. David Howard, 62, of Rossville, died at 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 30, 1998, at home. Graveside

services will be at 9 a.m. Friday at Mann's Chapel Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Danville. Memorials are suggested to the Rossville Historical Society.

MURPHY – Charles G. "Jerry" Murphy, 69, of Hoopeston, died at 2:45 a.m. Wednesday, July 1, 1998 at home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial with military graveside rites will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Hope Lodge, 1795 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 85. Tonight, fair. Low 65. Tomorrow, chance of afternoon rain. High 90, low 67.

For the current weather conditions, call the Hoopeston Weather Line at (217) 283-6221.

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 5:50 p.m. Tuesday.

Police said Russell W. Reed, 220 N. Market, in a 1998 Dodge, was turning into Main Marathon at Main and South Second Ave and hit a 1987 Mercury driven by Gregg W. Gossett, 321 W. Washington.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom furnished apartment, carpeted. Water, sewer included. (217) 283-5904. 182-183

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Multi Agency has openings for part time supervisor and part time assistants working with youth, ages 10-16. Send resume and references to HMA, ATTN.: Director, 206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Hoopeston Area High School is seeking applications for a High School Computer Lab Aide. Computer skills are a must. Position will not be filled until August. Beginning date is August 17, 1998. Please send letters of application to Hoopeston Area High School, ATTN: Principal, 615 E. Orange, Hoopeston, IL 60942. 175-196

RUMMAGE SALES

Friday, July 3, 6:30 a.m.-? 802 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston. Children's clothes, toys, home interior, collectibles, books, etc. No early sales. 181-183

Gigantic 4-family sale, July 3-4, 8 a.m.-? 714 Scott Dr., Hoopeston. New & used items. Items too numerous to mention. 181-184

870 E. McCracken, Hoopeston. Friday & Saturday, July 3-4. 8 a.m.-? Men's junk and women's good stuff. 182-184

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1982 Camaro, Berlinetta body. Good shape. \$500 OBO. Call (815) 984-4054. 176-181

1988 Dodge Dynasty. \$2,000 OBO. (217) 283-5859. 181-183

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