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Deficit predicted for Hoopeston budget based on less income

Hoopeston's budget, which was \$376 in the black when passed, may end up \$138,000 in the red. The projected shortfall is due to less income than anticipated, said Alderman Bill Goodwine at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting. Goodwine is chairman of the city finance committee. On the plus side, property tax revenues are up by about \$33,000 because \$500,000 of tax increment financing (TIF) funds went to the general fund, Goodwine said. The cable franchise fee, recently raised from three to five percent, means the city will get \$41,000 rather than the budgeted \$28,000. On the down side, sales tax for the first three months of the fiscal year totaled \$114,000 which will net \$42,000 less than anticipated. The six percent telecommunications tax will generate money but since it has not been added to bills, the amount will be less than anticipated. The city budgeted for \$60,000 "but I'm guessing we'll get \$40,000, Goodwine said. The amount of trash going to the Vermilion Waste landfill is down which will cost the city about \$30,000 and the utility tax is projected to be down \$32,000, he said. The cost side is doing as predicted. "There don't seem to be too many problems on the expense side," Goodwine said. In unrelated action, in a 4-2 vote, the council approved a contract with Robert Davis of Economic Development Services to create a Web page to market empty commercial buildings in the city. Under the contract, Davis will be paid \$14,500 and will maintain the site for three years. Goodwine, chairman of a committee designed to consider Davis' proposal, admitted he was skeptical at first but received glowing reports from Davis' references. "The one thing that really impressed me was the enthusiasm with which these people talked," he said. The project, he added, is not a web page but a program "very specifically aimed at marketing empty industrial

Rossville trustees approve purchasing new CAT backhoe

ROSSVILLE—Village employees have a new piece of equipment to make repairs easier. The Rossville Village Board on Monday approved purchasing a Caterpillar backhoe for \$66,600 from Altorfer Equipment in Springfield. Altorfer's bid was one of three received, said street/alley committee chairman Mark Catron. The committee recommended the Caterpillar brand over similar Case and John Deere models. "There's a lot more on the CAT," Catron said. The village got a good price on the backhoe, retailed at more than \$100,000, he added. Trustee Richard Birkey abstained on the vote. See **HOPESTON** on other side



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Weekend Resident Assistant
 The Human Resources Department of Hoopeston Regional Health Center is currently recruiting for a weekend resident assistant for our Country Terrace apartments. This resident assistant works every Saturday and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. This position assists other Country Terrace employee(s) in providing activities, assisting residents at meal times, housekeeping or providing other needed assistance. The position also assists in showing apartments and completed any necessary paperwork for the residents or interested parties. This position requires someone with excellent customer service skills to relate with the residents and other potential customers. If you are interested in applying or have questions, please contact Betsy Morgenroth in the Human Resources Department at (217) 283-5531 or stop by 701 E. Orange St., Hoopeston, to fill out an application.

Hoopeston continued from other side

buildings. Davis’ fee is “the seen money to develop the program” to take it to corporations such as Chiquita, which owns the former Stokely plant. “(Davis’) big return is if he gets a finder’s fee form someone if he finds a buyer,” he said.

Roughly six buildings have been identified as meeting the criteria for the web page, said Mayor Chalmers Flint.

Briefly

Community Awards Banquet

Vicki Stewart, CEO of Vermilion Advantage, will be the featured speaker at Hoopeston’s annual Community Awards Banquet Oct. 7.

This year’s dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Hoopes-ton American Legion, 502 E. Penn. It will be catered by Hoopeston Healthcare Catering. Dinner is \$10 per person.

The event is sponsored by the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, Chronicle, Hoopeston Education Association, and United Community Fund of Grant Township who present awards to individuals and businesses for their contributions to the community.

Ham & Bean Supper
Friday, Sept. 20
3-8 p.m.
Serving ham & beans, cornbread & fried potatoes for just **\$3/plate**
V.F.W.
Corner of Fourth Ave. & Orange, Hoopeston





Karaoke
Friday - 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
No cover
BJ's Pump
1023 W. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5700



The city would benefit if a building sold because it would receive tax money and residents would be employed, he added.

After reviewing what he had learned, Goodwine suggested the public be allowed to comment. Residents questioned how the city can spend money when Goodwine reported on a deficit budget. “I’m thinking the report you gave is very dismal and then we’re going to go further in the hole,” said resident Max Page.

Flint said Davis’ fee will come from the city TIF fund which now has approximately \$150,000.

Charlene Drawdy, marketing director for Hoopeston Regional Healthcare Center, said that while it may be called a marketing program, “a website is a website” and that the cost is high. Drawdy said she was “disappointed” that the city did not consider other options or seek bids on the project.

Citizen Tim Lane suggested the city use the money to help existing industries find new outlets for their products.

Flint said the city must do its own legwork. Talking about Vermilion Advantage, the newly-formed combination of the Danville Chamber of Commerce and the county Economic Development Corporation, Flint said companies interested in Hoopeston “either end up in Danville or not here and not in Danville. We need to try to do something to help ourselves,” he said.

Council members Rod Kaag and Nancy Stipp voted

Rossville continued from other side

will oversee the project. Lusk, who began his duties Sept. 1, replaces Lance Deck who will stay on with the village and have different duties, Prillaman said.

In other action, trustees:

- approved spending \$3,875 on an in-board camera for the police car.
- approved a zoning board recommendation not to allow a special use permit for an auto repair shop at 206 Benton.
- kept trustee pay at \$50 per month.
- approved sending trustees Catron and Kay Ritter and Prillaman to the Farm Progress Show in Iowa Sept. 24-25.
- discussed an all-town meeting for residents and business people at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 30 in the Rossville-Alvin

against the contact with Davis. Kaag called the program “a gamble” and said Davis “guaranteed things he can’t deliver.”

Stipp said she received telephone calls urging her to vote against the proposal. “It’s a lot of money,” she added.

Goodwine said he voted for the plan despite negative public comments because “you do what’s right, for one thing” and because votes should not be made by popularity polls. “I think the great majority are for it,” he added.


In other business, members of the Hoopeston Fire Department questioned the drug testing policy approved Sept. 3. Firemen are included in the policy with employees even though they do not receive employment benefits, said Alderman Don York, fire committee chairman.

Fire chief Jim Pajor said the problem is not about testing “not one man on the department has a problem with testing,” he said. “We have nothing to hide.”

Also, he said, the council should “lead by example” and agree to be tested as well.

Flint said that elected officials cannot be included but

Police News



A **51-year-old** resident reported Tuesday that someone took a charcoal grill from Tee It Up Miniature Golf Course at McFerren Park.

Grade School gym.

The meeting, sponsored by a group tentatively called the Rossville Community Organization, is being held to work towards bettering the village. “I think the whole community needs to get behind this,” Prillaman said.

- approved the Homecoming parade at 1 p.m. Sept. 27. The route will be Rt. 1 from Maple to Green.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 85, low 65. Tomorrow’s high 80, low 55.

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

that “they’re welcome to test me anytime.”

Pajor said he understood that elected officials have no recourse but asked about volunteers. Flint responded that they are the same as employees and would be fired if they test positive.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Having out of town visitors? We have two brand new 1 bedroom furnished apartments available by the night or by the week. TV, phone, utilities included. (217) 283-7996.

AUCTIONS

Thinking of having an auction?
Go to www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com or call (217) 748-6289!

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start is seeking applicants for bilingual teachers and teacher aides, and bus aides positions. Applications are available at 520 E. First North St., Wellington, IL. EOE.
255-260

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom house for rent. \$375/mo. References and deposit required. No pets. Available Oct. 1. (217) 283-6025 or 283-5350 (evenings).
254-267

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Talladega tickets for sale. (217) 283-5195, ask for Dennis.
259-263

RUMMAGE SALES

Huge sale. Corner of Summit & Green, Rossville. Sept. 19-20-21, 8-4. Something for everyone. Bargains on Saturday.

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259-273

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