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Hoopeston employees get choice of health insurance coverage

Hoopeston employees will get to choose whether they have higher deductibles or contribute part of insurance premiums to keep their deductibles the same.

In a 6-1 vote, the Hoopeston City Council on Tuesday voted to allow employees to pay eight percent of the premium - \$23 for single coverage and \$59 for the family plan - and keep a \$250 deductible or pay no premiums and have a \$500 deductible.

Alderman Kevin Davis, the only dissenting vote, said employees voted between the two plans and the majority chose to pay the premium.

That vote, taken after an insurance presentation on Dec. 4, was 17-15, said Mayor Chalmers Flint.

The council vote was the second one taken on the issue. Alderman Bill Goodwine originally made a motion that all employees pay the eight percent premium. That measure was voted down 4-3, with aldermen Carl Ankenbrand, John Haughee, Ed Lotz and Nancy Stipp voting against and Goodwine and Davis voting in favor.

Prior to the vote, Lotz said since employee wages were frozen this year, they should be given an option.

The council also heard from water collector Debbie Nosler, who asked that the council consider allowing employees to choose which plan they prefer.

The two-tiered plan is only good for the 2003 calendar year. Next year, employees will have to choose as a group which plan will be accepted.

The insurance issue was not the only one voted down by the council. Aldermen also voted not to accept a bid from Envirogen, a St. Charles-based environmental services company, to apply for an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency brownfields grant.

The grant, with a \$240,000 cap, is used to pay for environmental studies of areas that might have environmental challenges to creating business. Flint had hoped to receive a grant and use the funds for the former Carni-

val Video, Baer's Motel and Baer's Trailer Park.

Goodwine said Envirogen representatives, who spoke at the Dec. 3 council meeting, said the same things as Dailey & Associates, the city's engineering firm. "As far as I'm concerned, Dailey's done a good job for us for 20 years," he said. "I personally don't think it's fair to Dailey."

The grant calls for a one-third contribution by the municipality receiving the funds, which caused resident Leon Polson to question why the city would pay for work on Baer's Motel property, which is not in the city limits.

City attorney Bill Nelson answered that Envirogen representatives said the intent to annex the property is enough to apply for the grant and reminded the council that he represents the guardians of property owner Ora Baer and cannot advise the city in the matter as it is a conflict of interest.

Flint said grant money could be used for the video store and motel properties and commented on resident complaints. "Everybody says we should be doing something but every time we try to do something, we get complaints," he said.

Aldermen Davis, Ankenbrand, Goodwine and Stipp voted against the Envirogen contract while Lotz and Haughee voted for it.

Goodwine will contact Dailey and Associates about applying for the grant.

In unrelated action, the council:

- discussed the possibility of raising fees for cemetery plots and grave openings. The cemetery committee will look into the matter.
- heard from Flint that a Ward 4 alderman and building inspector have not been found. Flint said he spoke with a couple people who said they were too busy for the position.

Experience the Hometown Advantage!

Hoopeston's
Community Bank



Karaoke

9 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday. No cover charge.

Blues Deacon

9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday. No cover charge.

Gift certificates make great gifts!

BJ's Pump



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Thursday 3-8 p.m.

\$1 beer

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Seafood Dinner

1st & 3rd Fridays

Hoopeston VFW

Frog legs, fish, smelt

3-8 p.m.

\$5.50/dinner, combo plates \$6.50

Includes cole slaw & baked beans

Friday, Dec. 20

Pla-Mor Lanes

Karaoke Contest



starts 9 p.m.

1st place \$100 2nd place \$50

3rd place \$25

\$1.50 domestic beer \$1 bowling 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Santa
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Illiana-Farmers League

Standings 12/11/02

1. Corrflex	47	13
2. Hoopeston Awards	41.5	18.5
3. Pla-Mor Lanes	37	23
4. FHHGG	36.5	23.5
5. Ravens	24	36
6. High Five	22	38
7. Bacca	20	40
8. Bye	12	48

High Series: Eugene Warner 665, Joe Goodrum 658, Dennis Gress 605; **High Game:** Joe Goodrum 257, Chad Bruens 256, Eugene Warner 249.

Hall of Shame: Scott Crose 113.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies

Standings 12/12/02

1. Knuth's	30.5	14.5
2. Carolynn's	26	19
3. Iron House Gym	25	20

Bowling Scores



4. Gress I	19	26
5. H&R Block	17.5	27.5
6. Pla-Mor	17	28

High Team Handicap Game: Knuth's 917, Gress 1 852, Pla-Mor 822; **High Team Handicap Series:** Knuth's 2,514, Pla-Mor 2,437, Gress 1 2,357; **High Individual Scratch Game:** Ramona Birch 225, JoAnne Gress 222, Tammy Bertram 198; **High Individual Scratch Series:** Ramona Birch 603, JoAnne Gress 541, Tammy Bertram 517.

Thursday Night City Men's League

Standings 12/12/02

1. Tax Service Plus	68	30
2. Con Agra Store Brands	55	43
3. Hoopeston Express Lube	53	45
4. Pla-Mor Lanes	51	47
5. Team America	49	49
6. Tons of Fun Band	47	51
7. Read's	38	60

Coyotes in village to be target of Rossville police action

ROSSVILLE—Some residents will be rounded up to help rid the village of pesky critters.

Coyotes are becoming a problem, said Police Chief Dan Danner at Monday's village board meeting. "I've seen them on both ends of town," he told the board.

To eradicate the problem, Danner and two or three men will hunt the animals outside the village limits. Shooting animals in the village is illegal, he said.

Danner said four to five coyotes have been seen around town, especially on Park and Perry streets. He has contacted the Vermilion County Conservation office where a representative told him the coyotes may be hunted with the proper licenses and stamps.

In unrelated business, trustees:

- approved giving village employees Christmas and New Year's Day off. Many will receive half the preceding day off, as well, if necessary work is done.

New Books at the Library



Non-fiction:

Odd Girl Out by Rachel Simmons

Violence Prevention Resource Guide for Parents by

Peggy Patten

High-Wire Mom by Kendra Smiley

- reminded residents that burn barrels and trash barrels should not be placed in front of homes.

- approved new street lights in the vicinity of 205 Ann and 107 Summit.

- approved issuing refunds for residents who purchase water meters from Nov. 1-10 annually. Those meters measure water used to water lawns and fill swimming pools, said Trustee Richard Birkey. Residents are charged for sewer usage, too, but that charge is later refunded. Previously, residents had sought refunds sporadically throughout the year.

- learned the gas price will remain at 63 cents per therm.

- heard praise from Mayor Terry Prillaman on the Festival of Lights and Christmas parade. "I was so proud of the people," he said. "I saw people I never saw volunteering before. That's what it takes to get us up and going."

Weather



Showers, thunderstorms today and tonight. High 58, low 48. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 52, low 30.

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

8. Razor's Edge	31	67
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High Team Handicap Game: Pla-Mor Lanes 1,078, Read's 1,076, Con Agra Store Brands 1,054; **High Team Handicap Series:** Pla-Mor Lanes 3,095, Read's 3,043, Razor's Edge 2,992; **High Individual Scratch Game:** Kevin Davis 266, Danny Simpson 257, James Underwood 235; **High Individual Scratch Series:** Bob Bruens 634, Dennis Gress 631, Kevin Davis 629.

Hall of Shame: Don Powell 87.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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