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Hoopeston officials face projected budget income shortfall

Hoopeston's budget, which city officials trimmed to balance in April, is tilting due to a loss of income.

The budget will see an approximate \$66,000 shortfall in income, said finance committee chairman Alderman Bill Goodwine at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Funds with major decreases include the property tax replacement fund, which was abolished, causing a loss of \$7,000; sales tax, down \$14,533; state use and photo taxes, which were cut, costing the city more than \$11,000; the telecommunications tax, budgeted at \$60,000 but which will generate about \$29,000 less; and interest income, estimated at \$8,000 less than budgeted.

On the plus side, some expense side items are running under budget. "They do add up," Goodwine said. "If we're careful, I do think we could make up that \$66,000 on the expense side," he added.

Mayor Chalmers Flint said with cuts from the state to

balance a \$5 billion deficit, balancing next year's budget is "a major challenge."

In unrelated action, the council:

- approved a \$14,000 bid from ERH Enterprises to install old aerators in the No. 6 lagoon. The aerators will run in slow times which will save electrical costs, said Alderman Kevin Davis. The money will come from a state grant for the lagoon aeration project.
- approved hiring Envirogen, a St. Charles environmental company, to apply for an EPA brownfields grant.
- is expected to name Brandon Hamilton as Ward 4 alderman next month. Hamilton filed to be a candidate in the April 1 election.

Other candidates are Ed Lotz in Ward 1, John Haughee in Ward 2 and Nancy Stipp and Tom Garrison in Ward 3, all for four-year terms; and Carl Ankenbrand and Jean Minick in Ward 2 for a two-year term, Flint said after the meeting.

Rossville officials to consider new burn barrel ordinance

ROSSVILLE—Officials may enact an ordinance banning residents from keeping burn barrels in their front yards.

At Monday's village board meeting, Mayor Terry Prillaman talked about residents leaving burn barrels on village property in front of their homes, sometimes using them to store garbage. "It looks awful," he said. "We as a village are trying to maintain an image, trying to get people to come here. I think it's disgraceful."

Police Chief Dan Danner spoke with some residents about their barrels and some moved them but only temporarily.

Prillaman favors an ordinance that would make it illegal to leave the barrels in front yards but Danner suggested an ordinance banning burning entirely. "It's go-

ing to come to that and the sooner the better," he said.

Prillaman said he will bring an ordinance to the Feb. 17 meeting.

In unrelated action, the board:

- set January's gas billing price at 63 cents per therm, up three cents from what it has been for the past several months.
- approved resignations from Jennifer Todd on the zoning board and dog catcher Mike Kinnett. Both are moving from the village.
- learned Danner will apply for a grant to purchase a new squad car and one for a portable defibrillator for the car.
- accepted a bid of \$201.51 from Jim Lancaster of Lancaster Construction for a 1979 Chevrolet van.

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 **Hoopeston Lions Club**
**Pancake &
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Sat., Jan. 25 Hoopeston American Legion
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Whole hog sausage available \$2/lb, bulk or patties

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Thursday 3-8 p.m.
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Briefly

Coach named

Rich Stipp has been named Hoopeston Area Middle School track coach. His appointment was approved by the school board Thursday. He replaces Ryan Goodner who resigned as coach.

The board also named Linda Lugo as Honeywell aide.

Mobile Office hours

A representative of U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson will hold Mobile Office hours in northern Vermilion County on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

Caseworker John Morris will be at the Rankin Village Hall, 10-11 a.m.; Hoopeston City Hall, 11:10 a.m.-12:10 p.m.; Rossville Village Office, 12:20-1:20 p.m.; and Alvin Fire Station, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

GED review

GED review classes will begin Feb. 10 at the Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. Classes will meet from 4-6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays for 12 weeks.

Hoopeston Jaycees to host annual DSA Banquet Friday

The Hoopeston Jaycees will honor some of the community's outstanding residents at the annual Distinguished Service Award banquet Friday.

The banquet will begin with hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 and the presentation at 6:30, all at Tater's Bar & Grill.

Frank Caruso will be the evening's guest speaker.

The top award of the evening will be the Distinguished Service Award, given to a resident who exemplifies activity in all walks of life, including career, church, family and community. The award will

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Classes are also offered at Hoopeston Area High School from 6:30-9 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

For more information, call Gene Hanson at (217) 283-5544 or 283-5785.

Tiny Tots

"Stars and Moon" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room.

Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Hunter Safety Course

The Vermilion County Sheriff's Department will sponsor a hunter safety course from 6-9 p.m. Jan. 31 and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 1. The course will be held in the White Oak Nature Center at Kennekuk Cove County Park.

Attendance is required on both days. Students should bring a sack lunch Saturday.

Student capacity is limited. To register or for more

be presented by last year's recipient, Hank Hornbeck.

A new award will be presented this year. Chris Coon of the Hoopeston Ambulance Service will present the first EMT of the Year Award.

Other awards include Policeman of the Year, Fireman of the Year, Jaycee Rookie of the Year, Odell Crabtree Memorial Award/Associate of the Year, Jaycee of the Year, introduction of Karen Porth, 60th National Sweetcorn Festival chairman and crowning of the 2003 Miss Hoopeston, Elizabeth Newman.

Police News

An employee at the Clark gas station reported Monday that someone did not pay for \$6.03 of gas.

Weather

Chance of snow today. High 18. Tonight, cold. Low 4 with wind chill of -13. Tomorrow, cold. High 8, low -3.

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

information, call the sheriff's department at (217) 442-4080.

Deputies Erick Deck and Jeremiah Christian are course instructors.

Classifieds

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AUCTIONS

Thinking of having an auction?

Go to www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com or call (217) 748-6289!

Large Auction Sat., Jan 25 at NOON. 208 N. Market, Hoopeston (all inside). Lots of shop equipment and hand tools, riding mowers, snow blowers, tiller, lawn & garden equipment, misc. household items, antiques & collectibles. Far too much to list. Call if you want list. **Dewitt Auction Co. (217) 283-7161.** #040000372

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