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Monday, June 30, 2008

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Supervisor of assessments addresses multi township assessing

A request from Butler Township officials to form a multi township assessing district gets a thumbs up from Don Crist, Vermilion County Supervisor of Assessments.

Crist attended a special meeting of the Grant Township Board Thursday evening to provide information on a multi township district.

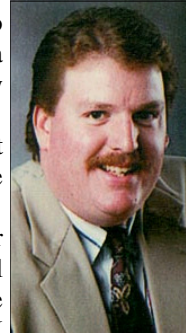
As supervisor of assessments and as a former multi-township assessor of Elwood and Carroll townships, Crist has several years' experience with the issue. "I am familiar with the issue but I am not the alpha and the omega," he told the board, saying legal information would have to come from township attorney Bill Nelson.

Regarding his tenure as a multi township assessor, Crist said "it worked out fine" because the townships were closely related and expects a union of Grant and Butler would work equally well. "I don't think it's a bad choice for Grant Township. I just don't see a down side for you guys. I wholeheartedly recommend this."

Crist showed maps from the 2000 census, showing the existing 15 townships and a map of proposed unions that would have cut the number of assessing townships to eight. Crist's proposal, which combined Grant and Butler, drew no interest at that time. However, since it was first created, one of his suggestions have come to pass, with Georgetown, McKendree and Love combining.

United townships for assessing purposes provides more efficiency, splitting the cost of assessing among more parcels, Crist said.

Also, in cases such as Grant and Butler, which are part of the Hoopeston Area school district, having one assessor provides uniformity of assessments. Two assessors with the same educational background could come up with slightly different figures. Using one assessor would eliminate that, he said.



CRIST

In his 10 years as supervisor of assessments, Crist said no multi township assessing district has reported problems or asked to dissolve a union.

Butler officials requested forming a district at the Grant board meeting on June 10. Supervisor David Anderson and Clerk Wayne King asked to join Grant for assessing purposes because Butler's current assessor, Lois Karlock, does not plan to seek reelection and qualified candidates for the job are scarce.

Also, to have its own assessor, townships must have at least 1,000 residents. In the 2000 census, Butler had 1,154 and fear the current population is too close to the 1,000 mark.

Besides joining with another township, Butler has the option to contract an assessor.

Crist said the Butler board is being proactive in trying to join with Grant. "I can see a time when (small townships) are going to be told who to get together with," he said adding that as supervisor of assessments, he would be the one to make recommendation for combining townships but admitted he did not know who the "enforcement arm" would be.

In response to that, Highway Commissioner Gary Weinard questioned whether any action would be taken, saying he could not see "Rod (Blagojevich) flying in an airplane and (saying) those townships should go together and (signing) an executive order."

Butler officials would like Grant trustees to make a decision before Oct. 1 so that a salary level can be set for a multi district assessor. However, Grant trustees would like to see more information, including Butler's finances. Trustees also want more information on when the multi township district would become effective.

See TOWNSHIP on other side

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Letters to the Editor

Remembering 'Big Yonk'

I can't remember when I first noticed him. It seems he had always been around, this "motorcycle hood" as he would have been known by, in our times. He had the traditional flat top with the "duck tail" in the back. When he talked to you, he would do his best James Dean imitation and kind of mutter and look at you through those half-closed eyes. Us girls loved to ask him if we could wear his black leather jacket all day in school. I personally did not have a problem with it being 5'9". The arms did hang down way below my fingers. My other girlfriends, who were only around 5 feet, kind of looked like they had a black leather dress on that day. We felt

really honored to wear that jacket and he never said no.

He was the kind of guy who had the jacket, boots and motorcycle and our moms would instantly say "stay away from that guy." But they did not know him like we did. Us girls saw him as a big, gently guy and the guys saw him as someone you would want to be on the good side of.

I remember well the time he got in trouble at school because he accidentally forgot to take his cigarette out from behind his ear before he came into school.

Several years later, I was watching the new shows on TV one fall evening and someone had the nerve to capture his character to a T and call him "The Fonz." I in-

stantly yelled, "that's not 'The Fonz,' that's Big Yonk. He should sue!"

Well the years went on and our paths crossed again. Big Yonk became a big ol' teddy bear of a man. His wife, Bonnie, did not seem to care if he gave all us girls a hug every Sunday in church. He had become a follower of Christ and loved the Lord. In his last days, I was told that he said he knew he was not going to get better and said he was ready to meet his Lord.

Saint Peter is at his gate saying, "Look, here comes The Fonz and he is wearing a cross. Oops, my mistake, it is Big Yonk. Two thumbs up for you, Big Yonk. Welcome home.

See you later, Alligator,
after while, Crocodile!

Joyce Allen
Wellington

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Obituaries

CARSWELL - George Ronald "Bud" Carswell, 67, of Hoopeston died at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, June 26, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Visitation was 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Provena USMC Foundation Cancer Center Fund, 801 W. Fairchild, Danville, IL 61832.

HENKE - Viola Elaine (Claypool) Henke, 73, of Rossville died at 4 p.m. Friday, June 27, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Rossville Church of Christ, 514 E. Attica St. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Monday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church. Ander-

Lunch Menus

CRIS/SAMS meals

MONDAY: Crab cake, garlic scalloped potatoes, green beans, chocolate chip cookie, peaches, white bread

TUESDAY: Chicken jambalaya, peaches, lime gelatin, wheat bread

WEDNESDAY: Meatballs/rice, green beans, carrots, diced peaches, white bread

THURSDAY: Steak fingers, loaded potato, mixed vegetables, tomato juice, wheat bread

FRIDAY: closed for Independence day
All meals include milk.

son Funeral Home, Hoopeston, was in charge of arrangements.

McFARLAND - Wilkie McFarland, 88, of Hoopeston died at 7:50 p.m. Friday, June 27, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Police News

Jesse G. Valadez, 19, of Hoopeston turned himself in to police at 3:26 p.m. Thursday. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear/failure to wear seatbelt, he was released on \$105 bond with a new court date.

***Township* continued from other side**

Butler officials did not attend Thursday's meeting, feeling Grant trustees would more freely discuss the issue without their presence.

Grant's board is expected to tackle the issue again at its July 8 meeting but some trustees speculated that a decision might not be reached on that date.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 77. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 56. Tomorrow, sunny. High 84, low 63.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

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