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Hoopeston Area ends fiscal year over income, under costs

Hoopeston Area's finances for 2007-09 finished in good shape, with income coming in slightly over budget and expenses slightly less.

District treasurer Don Dean reported on the budget at Thursday evening's board meeting, telling the board that income in the education fund came in at 114 percent of what was budgeted, while expenses were at 98.5 percent of the budgeted amount.

Two state aid payments considered "early" by the state, added \$455,000, while the foundation level for state aid was increased by \$400 per student for a total of \$335,00. Money for the summer migrant program for fiscal year 2009 came in during last fiscal year, adding another \$80,000 to the coffers.

Dean said the state calling state aid payments "early" is "truly an illusion. They're really 350 days late," he said, adding the funding confusion dates back to 1992 when the state failed to make the last two state aid payments to districts throughout the state.

For the education fund, 34 percent comes from local sources, 56 percent from the state and 10 percent from the federal government.

On the expense side, being under budget nets the district about \$140,000.

"We came out better, but not that much better," Dean said.

In the building fund, revenue came in at 102 percent, while expenses were 97 percent of the amount budgeted. The fund had a net deficit of \$220,000, including \$140,000 already on hand for the middle school roof project and \$80,000 spent for a lighting project that will be reimbursed in this fiscal year.

In the building fund, 100 percent of revenue is from local sources, he said.

In the final fund highlighted—transportation—Dean said revenue was at 105 percent of the amount budgeted

while expenses were at 95 percent, with a deficit of \$73,000, "which was much better than we thought when the year started. Expenses came in pretty good, even though fuel took a gyration."

For the transportation fund, 38 percent of revenue comes from local sources, while 62 percent comes from the state. Last year, Dean said, the state actually funded transportation costs at 80 percent, rather than 80 percent of 80 percent.

After Dean's presentation, Superintendent Hank Hornbeck said he learned the state did not send out the fourth transportation payment by the end of 2007-08, decreasing revenue by about \$60,000. Hornbeck added that the payment was expected Friday.

In related financial business, the board approved an estimated budget, which is "kind of like a shot in the dark," Hornbeck said.

The estimated budget must be done before officials know how much they will receive from local property taxes.

Next month, the board is expected to vote on a tentative budget, which will be followed in September by the real budget.

Hornbeck said the budget is expected to increase by about five percent.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Approved resignations from Ruth Siemers, Honeywell reading improvement aide and Jim Wisdom, bus driver.
- Approved hiring Kendra Flohr, eighth grade language arts; Earl Eells and Diane Goble, bus drivers; and Lori Montez, middle school personal aide.
- Approved a \$9,753.90 bid from Ervin Construction for gutters for the middle and high school. Bids were also received from Built 2 Last Construction and Advanced Roofing.

See HA on other side

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Police News

Saul Mendoza, 24, of Hoopeston was arrested at 9:15 a.m. Thursday in the 600 block of West Washington. He was wanted on a Ford County warrant for contempt of court.

Mendoza was released on \$175 cash bond.

A **blue and yellow** bicycle was found Thursday on East Thompson at 1700 N Rd. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

A **48-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 2:45 p.m. Thursday that someone took CDs from his vehicle while it was in the 400 block of West Maple.

A **boy's chrome** bicycle and a girl's teal 10 speed

bike were found at 8:26 a.m. Friday behind Casey's on Penn. The owners may identify and claim them at the police station.

A **16-year-old** boy was arrested at 10:30 p.m. Friday in the 800 block of East Seminary. He was charged with assault and disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 49-year-old Hoopeston man. Police said they received a complaint of fireworks being shot off in the area.

The boy was released with a date in Hoopeston City Court.

A **31-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Saturday that someone took a 47" flat screen television from the 700

block of West Main. The burglary occurred between 8 a.m. Friday and 10:55 a.m. Saturday.

Charles R. Gawthorp III, 24, of Hoopeston was arrested after an incident at 2:49 p.m. Saturday in the 600 block of South First Ave. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 40-year-old Hoopeston man who alleged Gawthorp struck him.

Gawthorp was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Linda L. Brown, 45, of Hoopeston was arrested at 9:20 p.m. Saturday in the 200 block of East Main. She was charged with battery under city ordinance on a complaint from a 49-year-old Hoopeston man. Additionally, she was charged with possession of cannabis.

Briefly

FMC reunion

The 2008 FMC-Hoopeston reunion will be held starting at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 26 at Christman Park, Rossville. Meal will be potluck. Drinks and table service will be provided.

All former FMC-Hoopeston employees, spouses, families and special friends are invited.

Band camps

Hoopeston Area High School has announced upcoming band and flag camps.

Marching band rookie camp will be held from 8 a.m.-noon July 23-25. Those same dates, flag camp will be

held from 1-5 p.m.

Marching band camp will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. July 28-Aug. 1 with an hour break for lunch.

High school show choir camp will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 4-8. An hour break for lunch will be taken each day.

Youth football signups

Youth football signups will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday and noon-2 p.m. Sunday at the youth football field. Practice will begin Aug. 4.

Meetings

- Rossville Village Board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office.
- Special Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, city hall

HA continued from other side

• Accepted bids from Illini FS for fuel, Interstate Brands (Butternut) for bread products and Prairie Farms, Watseka, for milk products.

• Approved the 2009 fall migrant program at a cost of about \$31,000 and a projected enrollment of 30 to 40 students. The program is federally-funded.

• Approved holding a "meet and greet" session for new staffers at 6:45 p.m. Aug. 21, allowing the board to meet new staff. Last year's event was attended by about 30 new employees. This year, the board will host only about nine, Hornbeck said.

• Heard from high school Principal Larry Maynard that the summer school program was successful. Of 21 students who started the online credit recovery program, 20 completed the program and did well, he said.

Obituaries

WATSON - Reba Watson, 80, of Hoopeston died at 8:25 a.m. Saturday, July 19, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Arrangements are incomplete at Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today and tonight. High 87, low 65. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 83, low 64.

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

New Books at the Library

Fiction

Ironside: a Modern Faery's Tale by Holly Black (young adult)

Away: a Novel by Amy Bloom

The Heir by Barbara Taylor Bradford

The Tell-Tale Horse: a Novel by Rita Mae Brown

My Soul to Keep by Davis Bunn (inspirational)

Pants on Fire by Meg Cabot (young adult)

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