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Grant-Butler Multi Township Assessment District functioning

The foundation for a new multi-township assessing district was laid Friday at the district's first board meeting.

Grant and Butler townships recently formed a multi-township assessing district at the request of Butler officials, who said their current assessor will not seek re-election and that the township population likely has dropped below 1,000 residents needed for a township to have an assessor.

Butler Superintendent Dave Anderson was named chairman of the new board. Wayne King, who serves as Butler clerk, was named treasurer and Grant clerk Sharon Johnson was named clerk for the new board.

The board, which also includes Grant Supervisor Bill Boose, chose Grant-Butler Multi Township Assessment District as the legal name for the entity.

After selecting officers and a name, the board wrangled with a salary for the new district's assessor. That person will be elected in April 2009 and take office in January 2010.

Under a four-year salary schedule approved earlier this month, Grant's assessor, Susie Sheppard, will start at \$32,350 and end the four-year term at \$34,000.

Butler Township currently pays \$4,850 for each of the four years but King said Butler officials expected to have to pay more to have get and keep a competent person. "We need to try to make the job as attractive as we can afford," he said.

Sheppard, who is expected to be the multi-township assessor because she is the only one who currently meets the qualifications for the job, suggested that since Butler has about one-third the parcels of Grant, her salary go up by a like amount - \$10,000. Sheppard said she discussed the matter with Don Crist, Vermillion County Supervisor of Assessments. "He said he wouldn't do it for less than \$10,000," she said.

In a 3-1 vote, the board approved a starting salary of \$40,000 per year with \$1,000 raises for years two through four.

Boose was the sole no vote, saying before the vote that the assessor would not necessarily be doing one-third more work. "I'm not opposed to the increase but I have a little bit of trouble with that much," he said.

Sheppard pointed out that the assessor is the only township official who must take and pass classes to qualify to be elected. She said her duties include more than assessing property, including dealing with freezes, exemptions and dealing with property owner complaints about their assessments and resulting taxes.

King agreed that dealing with complaints can be difficult. "Frankly, I wouldn't sit and listen to some of the guff she takes," he said. "It's excessive."

Still to be decided is how often the board will meet and board members' compensation. Also, a budget for the new district must be created.

The board will reconvene at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7 at the Grant Township office, 525 S. Market, to address some of those issues.

Police News 

Bryan L. Johnson, 24, of Hoopeston was arrested after an incident at 10:04 a.m. Thursday in the 800 block of East McNeil. He was charged with criminal trespass to residence on a complaint from a 33 year-old Hoopeston woman.

Johnson was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

A **27-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 1:15 p.m. Thursday that someone took two bicycles from his garage Wednesday night. The burglary occurred in the 400

See POLICE on other side

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Police continued from other side

block of South Second Ave.

Edward Cordova, 23, of Hoopeston, turned himself in to police at 5:58 p.m. Thursday. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear, he was released on \$500 cash bond with a new court date.

An employee of Hoopeston Convenient Food Store, 714 W. Orange, reported at 8:19 p.m. Thursday that someone left the business without paying for gas. The theft is under investigation while police review a video tape.

Adam B. Hardwick, 37, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 10:09 p.m. Thursday in the 100 block of East Lincoln. Wanted on an Iroquois County warrant for failure to appear for status check/aggravated battery, he was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, in lieu of \$300 cash bond.

An unidentified 12-year-old boy was airlifted to Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana after a car/bicycle accident at 3:41 p.m. Friday.

Police said the boy pulled in front of, then made a U-turn in front of a 2004 Buick Century driven by Audrey Mushrush of Hoopeston. She was unable to stop and

struck the bicycle.

Louis A. Cipra, 34, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 8:28 p.m. Friday at Thompson and Front. He was charged with registration suspended for non-insurance and was released on \$100 bond.

A 12-year-old Hoopeston boy was arrested on a juvenile petition at 11:11 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of West Main. The boy was taken to the Vermilion County Juvenile Detention Center to await a hearing.

Megan L. Lane, 21, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 12:39 a.m. Saturday at Deano's on Main, 306 E. Main. She was charged with criminal damage to property on a complaint from the business' owner, who alleged Lane broke a fence outside the back door of the business when she was ordered to leave.

Lane was released on a notice to appear.

A 39-year-old woman reported Saturday that someone broke into her home and took money. The burglary occurred in the early morning hours Saturday in the 300 block of North Third Ave.

Jodi L. Tyszko, 37, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 10:33 a.m. Saturday in the 300 block of South Market. She was charged with battery on a complaint from a 44-year-old woman who alleged Tyszko struck her in the face and neck.

Tyszko was released on a notice to appear.

Tyszko was arrested again at 11:53 a.m., also in the 300 block of South Market. She was charged with aggravated battery on a complaint from a 60-year-old woman who alleged Tyszko pushed her to the ground

and hit her.

Tyszko was then taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

John P. Smith, 43, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 11:53 a.m. Saturday in the 300 block of South Market. He was charged with disobeying a police officer and was released on a notice to appear.

Eric P. Goodrum, 41, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident in the 400 block of West Penn. A 51-year-old Hoopeston man reported someone took items from his vehicle. An investigation led to Goodrum's arrest.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, to await arraignment.

Three boys were arrested after at 2:42 a.m. Sunday in in the IGA parking lot, 1030 W. Chestnut.

A 14-year-old boy was charged with two counts of criminal damage to property after he allegedly entered a yard and broke a pumpkin and tried to take a Chicago Cubs flag from the area.

The boy, along with a 12-year-old boy and a 15-year-old boy, were also charged with curfew violation.

All were released on notices to appear.



Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, green beans, applesauce, cookie

TUESDAY: Pepperoni pizza, salad, pears, pudding

WEDNESDAY: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, peaches, bread, butter

THURSDAY: Ravioli, max stick, pineapple, grape juice

FRIDAY: Mini corndogs, baked beans, mixed fruit

Hoopeston Area Middle/High School

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets or ham & cheese, green beans, applesauce, cookie

TUESDAY: Sausage pizza or chili cheese wrap, salad, pears, pudding

WEDNESDAY: Spaghetti or ravioli, salad, peaches, max stick

THURSDAY: Beef & noodles or hot pocket, mashed potatoes, corn, pineapple, hot roll

FRIDAY: Grilled cheese or fish, chili, fruit pop, mixed fruit

CRIS/SAMS meals

MONDAY: Crab cake, garlic scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, apple juice, orange gelatin, wheat bread

TUESDAY: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, orange juice, lemon pudding, white bread

WEDNESDAY: Charsteak, whipped potatoes, Italian mixed vegetables, applesauce, white bread

THURSDAY: Chicken patty/cheese, baked beans, mixed vegetables, orange juice, wheat bread

FRIDAY: Chicken jambalaya, orange juice, lime gelatin, wheat bread

All meals include milk.



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Briefly

Calendar winner

The \$100 winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing for September 26 were Katie and Will Tselepis of New Providence, NJ.

Energy assistance

Energy assistance for low-income senior citizens and the disabled will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. October 1 at the Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave.

Energy assistance for low-income families will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. November 20.

Appointments are not needed. Applicants must bring proof of income for last 30 days; social security cards for all household members; current power bill; and, if applicable, medical card and proof of monthly rent amount.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 75. Tonight, chance of showers. Low 50. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 63, low 44.

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