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Council approves electric aggregation deal at higher cost

Hoopeston residents taking part in the city electric aggregation program will soon pay higher rates than Ameren customers—at least temporarily.

At Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, members unanimously approved the bid price of 5.4 cents per kilowatt hour from Homefield Energy.

The price is about 25 percent higher than the 4.433 cost customers currently pay and will be higher than Ameren's current rate, said Mayor Bill Crusinberry.

However, he added, Ameren is expected to raise rates this year and has petitioned the Illinois Commerce Commission for an increase in the rate it charges to transport power.

Aggregation customers are expected to receive a letter from Good Energy, the city's aggregation broker, which

would allow customers to opt out of the program, if they choose to do so. Customers who opt out must stay out of the program for one year.

Hoopeston is one of 41 communities which purchase aggregated electricity together. Representatives of 13 towns, including Crusinberry and Alderman Bill Goodwine, met last Thursday at the Palmer Civic Center in Danville. Representatives of other communities in the pool met in Bloomington and a third location to hear presentations from Homefield and Constellation companies.

Crusinberry said representatives meeting in Danville wanted a 40-month contract but they were overruled by the Bloomington group which favored a 36-month

See **ELECTRIC** on other side

Barickman will not run for scandal-plagued Schock seat

State Sen. Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington) issued a statement Wednesday morning, putting to rest inquiries about his running for the seat of resigning U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock.

"I am grateful to hear from so many people across Central Illinois urging me to consider a candidacy in the 18th Congressional District," Barickman said in his statement. "Yesterday, I spoke with many supporters, and discussed this potential opportunity to serve with my family. However, the needs of my young family and the desperate fiscal situation in Illinois state government are paramount. These issues demand my full attention and present significant opportunities for me to serve my community and make a difference for our great state.

After careful consideration, I have decided not to run for Congress in the 18th Congressional District."

Schock, (R-IL 18) said Tuesday he will resign at the end of March. His resignation comes amid financial

scandals, including using taxpayer funds to decorate his Washington office in the theme of the PBS historical drama, "Downton Abbey," and use of a private jet to fly to a Chicago Bears game.

Schock reimbursed taxpayers for those expenses.

The newest scandal erupted Tuesday when Politico reported online that Schock received travel reimbursement for more mileage than was on his personal vehicle when he sold it. According to Politico, Schock claimed 172,520 miles on his personal vehicle. When he sold the 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe, the odometer read 81,860 miles, the story claimed.

The Office of Congressional Ethics opened an investigation into Schock on February 28.

Schock, 33, who was considered a GOP rising star and who was once featured on the cover of Men's Health magazine, represented the 92nd District in the Illinois House before being elected to the U.S. House in 2009.

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VFW Menu

Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston

Wednesday: Wings 5-8 p.m.

Thursdays: Tacos by Norma

11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.

Fridays: NFCC Fish Fry 11-7

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Electric continued from other side

agreement.

The city's current contract expires in May.

In related business, the city of Hoopeston, which has a different aggregation contract brokered by APPI, will pay 5.338 cents per kilowatt hour from Direct Energy for 48 months.

In other action, the council approved a request from Hoopeston Area School District to provide \$30,820 from Tax Increment Financing funds to pay Sentry Roofing to replace the gymnasium roof.

For several years, the city has made a one-time per year payment to the school for a major project. Officials implemented the policy after Hoopeston TIF districts were created.

At the time, officials said the schools lost the most tax money from TIF creation and the officials created the gesture to offset the loss.

In other business, engineer Mike Streff, of Farnsworth Group, said the cause of leaks in the new ground storage tank have been found and fixed. The problem, he said, is was in two pipes coming up from the floor of the tank. The pipes were in sleeves welded to the tank floor and that link seals for both were the wrong size. New seals were sent by the tank manufacturer and the leaking stopped, he said.

With that mystery solved, the process of switching from the existing ground storage tank to the new one can be completed, allowing the existing tank to be refurbished.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Alderman Brandon Hamilton that re-

From the Blotter

Luis Avelar, 34, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 9:13 p.m. Tuesday in the 300 block of West Penn. A 26-year-old Hoopeston woman alleged Avelar tried to choke her. Avelar was located and charged with domestic battery and criminal trespass.

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

Weather

Chance of rain today, tonight. High 52, low 36. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 56, low 37.

cently-appointed auxiliary officer Tyler Crawley has resigned due to time constraints.

• Heard from Crusinberry that Gov. Bruce Rauner's plan to cut Local Government Distributive Funds in half will cost Hoopeston about \$250,000, if approved by the General Assembly. Distributive funds are income taxes that are returned to communities on a per capita basis, he said.

American Legion Post 384
 502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Pancake Day

Saturday, March 21
 6 - 11:30 a.m.

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Classifieds

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HELP WANTED

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Hoopeston restaurant looking for short order cook. Must be at least 18 years old and have one year of experience in a related field. Food sanitation license is a plus, but not required. Please contact 217-495-1680 and leave a detailed message with your contact information.

Full time mechanic and tire changer. Apply in person at Smitty's Dual Wheel, 8 mi. west of Rossville.

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