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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner

Thursday, March 9, 2017
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Hoopeston Community Church of the Nazarene
402 E. Honeywell
Sunday, March 12
5-7 p.m.
Soup/Chili/Potato Soup
Supper by donation



Auction will feature pies and other delicious desserts.
Proceeds benefit Work and Witness trip to Washington Park IL in June



Off duty Hoopeston Police Ofc. Ron Cade addresses the council about emergency dispatching at Tuesday's Hoopeston Council meeting.

Gone for months, council reinstates local dispatching

The audience at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting broke into applause after aldermen voted 6-2 to return local dispatching.

In September, dispatching of Hoopeston police, fire and ambulance calls was transferred to Vermilion County, a change which created furor among some residents who have since worked to get it back.

Ald. Brandon Hamilton, police committee chairman, received a smattering of applause when he made an initial motion to temporarily bring back dispatching with the proviso that the issue be placed on an upcoming ballot for voters to decide.

The motion received pushback from other aldermen, led by Chad Yaden who said nobody said anything in last April's budget meeting about problems funding

dispatching. Also, if passed, it would have been the third time citizens were asked to pass a sales tax.

Hamilton responded, "Either you have dispatch in Danville or you pay more money."

Ald. Alex Houmes said this was the first he'd heard about wanting to implement the tax and suggested aldermen might have other ideas besides the tax.

Ald. Bill Goodwine said he felt putting the issue to voters would be a "cop out" in a representative form of government. "We're elected to make decisions for the people we represent," he said.

While objecting to having a referendum, Goodwine said he favored keeping dispatching at Vermilion County because he felt county did an excellent job

See DISPATCH on other side

Tune in at 5 p.m. tonight-
Hoopeston Happenings
Pat O'Shaughnessy
on the Vermilion County Land Bank
on WHPO!

Here's what's showing at the
LITTLE LORRAINE MOANA
Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 4:30 & 7 p.m.
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Dispatch continued from other side

and the city could save \$2.5 million over five years.

He blasted incorrect information being spread about the issue that resulted in him “crying wolf for the sixth time of being wrong” when he checked with county officials over alleged errors in dispatching and other issues.

Ald. Lourdine Florek asked what guarantee there would be that sales tax dollars would fund dispatch and not go to things like more Christmas lights or tearing down dilapidated buildings. After being voted down twice, “Now all of a sudden there’s an issue that people care about and ‘woo-hoo, let’s just do the sales tax,” she said.

Hamilton responded, “We’ve had residents say they’d pay for it.”

Hamilton was the only one to vote in favor of his motion. Aldermen Carl Ankenbrand and Bill McElhaney abstained and the remainder voted no.

With the motion dead, Yaden made a motion to return dispatch without a sales tax, basing it on a January 6 intergovernmental agreement sent by Vermillion County Emergency Telephone Systems Board (ETSB).

Seconded by McElhaney, the motion to return dispatching was approved 6-2, with Hamilton and Goodwine dissenting.

After the vote, Florek said those who were willing to pay to keep dispatching in Hoopeston should purchase their groceries at Hoopeston IGA. “Every dollar of the one percent grocery tax comes right back to Hoopeston,” she said.

The intergovernmental agreement, a document at least half of aldermen said they had not seen until last week, came to light after residents in favor of bringing dispatch back to Hoopeston filed a Freedom of Information Act request with Vermillion County for all documents pertinent to the dispatch issue.

Under the agreement, calls made to 283-5196 will be answered and dispatched at Hoopeston. 911 police and fire calls will still be answered by Vermillion County but information will be put in a CAD (Computerized Assisted Dispatching) ticket and sent to Hoopeston via computer to be dispatched.

For that to happen, Hoopeston’s CAD system must be turned back on. As of Tuesday, the department had

been without its CAD system for five days and personnel had been unable to determine why it was shut down.

911 ambulance calls will be answered by Vermillion County and information will be forwarded to the proper ambulance service.

Hamilton reminded the public that emergency calls should be made to 911.

Administrative and animal controls calls may be made to 283-5196.

The agreement states that \$330,061 is owed by Hoopeston to ETSB for equipment and services previously provided and that Hoopeston will return \$62,499 of equipment. The remaining \$267,562 owed will not be pursued by ETSB “to assist Hoopeston to provide the dispatch services.”

Hoopeston dispatch will serve under Vermillion County’s and will be run under its protocols. Call handling documentation is included in the intergovernmental agreement.

The date when dispatching will be returned was not immediately known. The agreement came with a March 31 deadline, so Mayor Bill Crusinberry said he would email ETSB attorney Jerry Davis about the vote immediately after the meeting. Signed copies of the agreement and call handling documents would then be delivered to Danville, he said.

The change means Hoopeston will have to pay for a larger portion of communications than it previously has, including equipment upgrades and employee training. Also, ETSB had formerly paid a portion of the former 911 coordinator position. That part of the salary will now have to be paid by the city.

Briefly

Church presents music group

Wellington United Methodist Church will present the group “Behold” at 3 p.m. Sunday at the church, on Main St., in Wellington. The public is welcome is invited to attend.

Weather

Increasing cloudy today. High 54. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 28. Tomorrow, sunny. High 37, low 19.

Yaden said the city will have to figure out how to pay the additional costs. “We need to do just like our citizens and when we have extra expenses, we’ll have to figure out how to deal with it just like they do in their lives,” he said.

B I N G O

7 p.m. every Thursday

Hoopeston

American Legion

502 E. Penn

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Hubbard Trail Country Club: Part time, flexible hours: Waitresses, Bartenders, Dishwasher. Experience preferred, must be 21 to bartend or waitress. Call 217-748-6521 leave a message and someone will return your call.

Clubhouse Manager

Hubbard Trail Country Club is seeking full time manager March thru October. Must be mature, trustworthy, pleasant personality with a positive attitude. Business management, supervisory, and bartender/restaurant skills a definite plus. Send resume and qualifications to P.O. Box 305, Hoopeston, IL 60942 or e-mail to htccgolf@yahoo.com.

The City of Hoopeston Street and Alley Department is taking applications for a Seasonal Employee. A CDL license is a plus. Applications can be picked up at City Hall.

The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a part time Zoning/Compliance officer. Application and job description are available at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St., Hoopeston

RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: Holt’s Moving Sale, 701 E. Thompson. Fri, 8:30-2, Saturday, 8:30-noon. Lots of seasonal decorations, Christmas trees, wall pictures, kitchen items, linens, exercise equipment, small TV, fiberglass ladders, hose reels & hoses, lots of misc. tools, 2 yard swings and many more items.

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