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Portrayed by Men from our Community Churches
7 p.m. Wednesday, April 12 & Thursday, Mar. 13
First Christian Church
502 E. Main St., Hoopeston
Handicapped accessible on 4th St. (north entrance)

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Alderman suggests pajamas, toothbrush for budget meeting

An somewhat unexpected shortfall in revenue and increased requests may make for a long budget meeting for Hoopeston aldermen Wednesday night.

Income from state sources, including income tax, telecommunications tax and sales tax is all down, Ald. Bill Goodwine said at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Combined, the three revenue sources are down a little more than \$100,000, he said. On top of that, budgets are up \$184,000.

Some of the decline is understandable. "We lose businesses, we lose sales tax, he said.

What baffles him is a nearly \$36,000 drop in the telecommunications tax, down "more than I would have thought."

One tax, a use tax generated by sales tax on internet purchases, is up a large percent over last year but translates to only about \$10,000, he said.

The council was scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday to go over the numbers and balance the budget. "Your might want to bring your toothbrush and pajamas," Goodwine told the council.

In other business, the council heard from Patrick O'Shaughnessy, executive director of the Vermilion

County Land Bank (VCLB).

The bank accepts blighted properties in the vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties. The bank is able to eliminate tax liens, rehabilitate some and get them back on the tax rolls.

The land bank applied for a \$75,000 Illinois Housing Development Authority grant to demolish 10 residential properties each in Hoopeston and Georgetown. Due to a lack of state funds, VCLB received \$40,000, which may do five in each community, O'Shaughnessy said. Hoopeston may get a bigger share of that pie as properties **See BUDGET on other side**

Bane named new zoning officer

A retired police officer has been named Hoopeston's new zoning and compliance officer.

Mike Bane was unanimously approved to the position at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Bane has worked for several area police departments over his career, including Hoopeston.

In his new career, Bane is responsible for enforcing the city's zoning and compliances ordinances, building code violations, vehicle licensing regulations and others.

"I'll treat people the way I want to be treated," he said after the meeting. While enforcing ordinances, he will try to help residents, when possible. "I'm hoping to clean up the town," he said but "I intend on having fun."

Bane will have office hours from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays at the police station. During other times, residents may leave messages for him by calling the station at (217) 283-5196.



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Budget continued from other side

identified in the city have all been abandoned, while most on Georgetown's list still have owners. The grant does not have to be divided equally between the towns, he said.

The grant program will open in May and last for two years. It is a reimbursement grant - meaning the money must be spent before grant money is given - but O'Shaughnessy said the land bank has enough funds to meet the costs.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said the land bank may save some costs through a city-negotiated dumping fee at the landfill. Some residents have already taken advantage of the program under which the city is notified that a property is being demolished and will notify the landfill. The landfill bills the city at its lower negotiated rate and then is reimbursed by the property owner.

And while it isn't related to the land bank, O'Shaughnessy mentioned that the USDA has low- or no-interest loans available to senior citizens for things like new roofs, windows, etc. Individuals must apply for the loans themselves, he said.

In other business, the council:

- Approved combining the zoning board and planning commission into one group. Crusinberry suggested the change at a previous meeting, saying it was difficult to find people to fill both seven-member boards.

The new group will also have seven members on staggered terms of office ranging from one to five years.

- Heard from Ald. Brandon Hamilton, police committee chairman, that Ofc. Chris Kelnhofer resigned from the police department.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 8 p.m. Tuesday to Thompson and Seventh St. for a strong smell of gas. No injuries were reported.

Weather

Sunny today. High 53. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 34. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 64, low 51. Sunday, partly sunny. High 72, low 57.

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Classifieds

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