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Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net



Steve Tothoroh, Milford High School principal, discusses 8-man football at Thursday's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting.

Hoopeston Area board again approves asking for sales tax

For the second time in two years, Hoopeston Area School Board approved a resolution to put a one percent sales tax to voters.

At its meeting Thursday, the board voted 6-1 to approve directing the Regional Superintendent's office to put a 1 percent school facilities sales tax on the March 17, 2020 ballot.

A motion by Lawrence Jahn and seconded by Rich Eisenmann received yes votes from them, along with Dave McFadden, Craig Lee, Debbie Klaber and Lisa Leigh. Lee Cox was the sole "no" vote.

For the measure to be placed on the ballot, boards of districts representing at least half of Vermilion County students must approve resolutions requesting the issue be

put to voters.

For the sales tax to be enacted, it must pass by a simple majority of all county voters.

If the tax is approved, money raised may not be used for teacher salaries or costs associated with educating students. It may be used for capital improvements, such as building repairs, renovations and new construction.

Money may also be spent on school resource officers and mental health professionals, said Supt. Robert Richardson.

Richardson explained that the tax would not apply to all goods. Groceries and prescriptions are exempt, as are vehicle sales and farm implements. Cooked food is not

See BOARD on other side

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Board continued from other side

exempt. For example, a customer who purchases a pot pie from a store deli would have to pay “one cent for every dollar of that pot pie.”

The tax would be collected “not just from you folks, but anybody who comes through town,” as well as tourists and residents who will patronize the planned casino in Danville. Money would be collected and distributed on a per-capita basis to county schools.

It was November 2017 when the then-Hoopeston Area board also voted 6-1 to put the question to voters the first time. Former member Chris Small was the only dissenting vote. The 2018 referendum failed by 667 votes.

In other business, Steve Totheroh, Milford High School principal, talked with the board about 8-man football.

In its first season last year, the Bearcats were state champions of the Illinois 8-Man conference and with an 11-0 record this year, are state-bound again.

Totheroh said Milford “has a pretty strong tradition for football” but that the team lacked numbers, saying the team played larger teams with bigger and better players. Milford was in “survival mode: how do we get through this game to get beat up again next week.”

Officials talked about cutting the program or going to 8-man. “A JV season was never on the table,” he said. Team members opted for 8-man and Totheroh - who is not a coach - joined with other schools in the same situation to create the Illinois 8-Man Association, which had a sparse number of teams scattered around the state.

On the plus side, the school kept a football program. Students, parents and the district had to make commitments to the program to make sure student athletes attended practices and were willing to go the distance, literally, to far-flung games. The travel schedule was the top negative of the program, he said.

Totheroh fielded questions from board members and

the audience on safety, community feedback, scheduling and distances the team travels to games.

Current football players had input in the discussion, and said they had other students interested in playing next year.

Assistant coach Glenn Brewer, in favor of 11-man football, said part of the problem with Hoopeston’s program has been the revolving door of coaches. He said first year head coach Matt Leskis has worked hard and is dedicated to the program. As for himself, “I’m here until the end,” he said.

Leskis, concerned with the size difference between Cornjerkers and some of their opponents, said twice this year he made phone calls in fear of the safety of his players. “For safety and numbers, I think 8-man is the way to go,” he said.

Leigh made a motion to switch to 8-man for next year. The motion died for lack of a second.

After the meeting, Richardson said the team will compete in IHSA 11-man football next year. “We will fulfill our commitment with Armstrong to co-op,” he said.

Briefly

Meetings

- Hoopeston Historical Society, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Hoopeston Public Library basement. Thanksgiving meeting - bring a snack or finger foods to share.
- Rossville Village Board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office
- Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Hoopeston City Hall

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:
STEM Design Squad, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday. A free program sponsored by WILL Illinois Public Media where kids get involved with creative problem solving and inventing. For third grade and up.

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Obituaries

SMITH - Eugene “Smitty” Smith, 91, of Rossville, died at 11:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019 at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

STAUBUS - John R. Staubus, 93, of Columbus, OH, formerly of Cissna Park, died November 14, 2019 at The Forum in Columbus. Private graveside service was held at Cissna Park Cemetery, with graveside rites by Cissna

Lunch Menus

Hoopeston Area Grade Schools

- MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, broccoli/cheese, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk
- TUESDAY: Pepperoni pizza, baby carrots, salad, peaches, milk
- WEDNESDAY: Pork & gravy, mashed potatoes, bread & butter, celery sticks, pears, milk
- THURSDAY: Taco, chips & salsa, baby carrots, pineapple, milk
- FRIDAY: Mini corndog, baked beans, Sunset Sip juice, applesauce, milk

Hoopeston Area Middle School

- MONDAY: Salisbury steak/biscuit, mixed vegetables, salad bar, applesauce, milk
- TUESDAY: Pancake & sausage, hash brown, salad bar, mandarin orange, milk
- WEDNESDAY: Tacos, refried beans chips & salsa, salad bar, pears, milk
- THURSDAY: Fettuccine Alfredo, Max Stick, salad bar, peaches, milk
- FRIDAY: Pizza, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area High School

- MONDAY: Salisbury steak/biscuit or hot ham & cheese, mixed vegetables, salad bar, applesauce, milk, juice
- TUESDAY: Pancake & sausage or Hot Pocket, hash brown, salad bar, mandarin orange, milk, juice
- WEDNESDAY: Tacos or pork BBQ/bun, refried beans chips & salsa, salad bar, pears, milk, juice
- THURSDAY: Fettuccine Alfredo or cheeseburger, Max Stick, salad bar, peaches, milk, juice
- FRIDAY: Pizza or fish sandwich, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk, juice

Weather

Mostly cloudy today, tonight. High 40, low 30. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 45, low 31.

Classifieds

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