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City council approves system upgrade for water department

Hoopeston's water plant will get an upgrade on technology that keeps it running.

At its meeting Tuesday evening, Hoopeston City Council approved a \$76,635 proposal from Donahue & Associates for a new SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system.

The system monitors the water system and is programmed for several functions, including adding necessary chemicals and running the pumps needed to move the water. "It's the whole control system for the water plant," said Mayor Bill Crusinberry.

The city's current SCADA system is more than 25 years old and is run on a computer running Windows XP, said Lourdine Florek, water committee chairman.

The package includes a new computer, programmable logic controller, SCADA software and configuration, testing and installation.

The 6-1 vote to approve the upgrade did not come

without discussion, as Ald. Chad Yaden questioned if payment would come from funds generated by the \$10 monthly infrastructure maintenance fee. When Florek said yes, Yaden disagreed with how the money has been spent, including the purchase of the jet truck last year.

Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, explained that unlike other departments, water/sewer does not have an accrual account to save up for big-ticket items, like vehicles. Instead, all water/sewer income - which may only be used for water and sewer needs - goes into a reserve account. From that, \$25,000 monthly is placed in a depreciation account, which serves as the department's accrual fund.

Yaden said other money was going into the fund before the maintenance fee was approved, but Mayor Bill Crusinberry said that it was a process the city agreed to years ago after officials took out a bond for improve-

See **WATER** on other side

Coroner seeks help identifying remains found near Indianola

DANVILLE—Vermilion County Coroner Jane McFadden is asking for help from the public in identifying the partial remains of a white man found in rural Indianola.

In a press release issued earlier this week, McFadden said that on April 11, Vermilion County Sheriff's Department found the remains on private property and called her office.

The remains were collected and DNA recovered and checked with negative results. The case has been entered into NamUs, a national database for missing, unidentified and unclaimed remains.

The remains were found burned and buried on the property, according to information listed on the database. Much of the body was not recovered.



Remains found in rural Indianola have "19" tattooed on top of the left foot.

The top of the left foot has a tattoo by the pinky toe of "19," followed by unidentifiable characters, and a curved line underneath.

A dark colored belt with silver studs and a Batman head key chain without keys was found near the body.


Other details - some graphic - on the remains may be found at www.namus.gov/UnidentifiedPersons/Case#/68679/details?nav.

McFadden's office and sheriff's office are asking for any information on the identity of the decedent and the investigation, which is being assisted by Illinois State Police.

Anyone with information may call either office or Vermilion County Crime Stoppers at (217) 446-TIPS.

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French Toast or Pancakes w/Strawberry topping, 2 eggs (any style)
choice of Bacon or Sausage links
\$7.25 single order / \$25 family order-feeds 4

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choice of Soup or Salad
\$13.95 single order \$49.95 /Family order feeds 4
Pre-Orders welcome

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Water continued from other side

ments. The city was to keep feeding the reserve account in case the city could not make the bond payment, he said, adding, "That was before my time."

Other payments come out of the department's reserve fund, including about \$177,000 a year for water storage improvements and the sewer-lining project on the city's northeast side.

On a motion by Florek, seconded by Goodwine, the council approved the purchase, 6-1. Yaden voted no and Ald. Bill McElhaney was absent.

Last month's announcement to discontinue the garden meter program also came under question, with Ald. Carl Ankenbrand saying he heard negative comments about the decision. He said he learned that out of 2,243 water bills, 564 meters were on the program and 120 called in with use last year.

Florek reiterated what she said at the previous meeting: that the original meters used for the program, (which allowed residents to deduct water for gardening or filling swimming pools from sewer usage) are old and breaking down, with replacement parts impossible to find.

Additionally, she said, for the past several years, Hoopeston has had a five percent increase in water rates each year. There was no increase this year and she said

she hoped that could continue for at least an additional year or two. "That benefits all residents," she said.

The flip side of low rates for residents is that Hoopeston does not qualify for some grants and other programs because the rates are too low to meet specifications. Rates would have to be raised 40 to 50 percent for the city to take advantage of those opportunities, she said.

In balancing department needs with keeping rates as low as possible, tightening up finances is necessary. Eliminating the meter program will save some money, she said.

In other action, the council:

Weather

Sunny today. High 65. Tonight, showers. Low 41. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 49, low 31.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

- Unanimously approved Russell Leigh & Associates audit proposal at a cost not to exceed \$7,600. The document will be done hopefully by June but September at the latest.

- Heard from Ald. Jeff Wise that alley cleanup is underway and will last another week or two.

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Classifieds

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City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for seasonal workers. applications can be found on the City Website at www.cityofhoopeston.com Click on the City Departments tab, then Administration, and scroll to the bottom of the page.

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HAPPY Mother's Day!

to all the Moms, Grandmas and Step-Moms who help shape the children in their lives!

Just the Facts will not be printed Monday. Publication will resume Tuesday.