



Council to pursue property tax increase...for now

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

There were enough residents who signed petitions opposing an increase in property taxes initiated by Carroll County Council to initiate a hearing with the Indiana State Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF).

Although it seemed to be the will of the council at the August meeting to back out of the increase if there was sufficient opposition to it, a different collective opinion prevailed at the Friday morning meeting.

County auditor Beth Myers reported nine petitions were received opposing the tax increase. She said 207 names were submitted and 19 were denied. Myers said 188 names on the petitions were verified by her office.

Myers stated she was submitting the results to the DLGF on Friday.

The condition of the county jail and what to do about it was the impetus for the tax increase. The accumulated funds would be held in a cumulative capital improvement fund, but not be strictly designated for jail improvements and/or replacement.

"There will be a pay day," council member Carl Abbott said about not having a nest egg. "If we don't do something, we will be forced to pay by the state and federal."

Calling the situation a "case of misinformation," Abbott was vocal about the lack of attendance by the petitioners at the meetings when the tax increase was being discussed. He asked Marlene Joseph, one petitioner in the audience, why the other 187 people who signed the petitions were not present at the council meeting.

Joseph said at the meeting that one

concern of those opposed to the increase in property tax for jail improvements was that no one seemed to have control over the jail for maintenance issues.

"That there hasn't been adequate maintenance at the jail over the years isn't the issue," said council president Rob Baker. "Doing nothing about the jail is not an option," council member Ann Brown added.

"I don't like it either that for 25 years, for whatever reason, maintenance hasn't been done," Abbott said.

Council member Jerry Hendress suggested to Joseph that those unhappy with an increase in property tax for jail improvements attend the commissioners' meeting to register their complaint about the lack of upkeep at the facility.

Delphi resident Joanne Germond, also opposed to the tax increase, suggested council members hold a public meeting at the high school to

help residents understand the need for the increase.

Myers said an article appeared in the *Comet* about the increase, which created confusion in the community. She said she received calls and "had to clarify."

When discussion turned to whether to proceed with the increase and attend a hearing, or to rescind the proposed ordinance, Abbott recommended not backing down.

"I say we go the next step," he declared.

The consensus of council members was to follow that recommendation with the understanding that obtaining outside legal counsel could be needed to represent the county in the matter.

The DLGF will set a hearing date after receiving the verified results of the petitions.

In a *Comet* interview later Friday, Baker stated, "I am not in favor of spend-

ing (taxpayer) money to save (taxpayer) money. The feeling of the council is if we find out the expenditure is too great to proceed, we will no doubt vote to stop the process. The cost for this will be legal cost," he added.

Sheriff's department

Sheriff Dennis Randle was granted \$15,000 in additional appropriations for medical expenses and \$20,000 for jail meals.

He explained another request for \$20,000 for automotive supplies was needed for fuel. That request was reduced to \$12,000.

When questioned by Baker, Randle said he had not asked deputies to cut back on off-duty personal use of county vehicles. He said it was because they are on call every day, all day, "and it's part of their benefit package."

"We're talking recreational use of the

Continued page 5A



Flora VFD limits damage

Senior Citizens will be displaced temporarily while repairs are made to the Flora Community Center following a fire Monday evening. The fire, reported by a passerby, was contained within ten minutes after the arrival of the Flora Volunteer Fire Department. *Comet photo*

Fire damages Flora Community Center

Comet staff report

The Flora Community Center on North Division Street will be out of commission for a few weeks after a fire Monday evening left the building with smoke and water damage.

Flora Volunteer Fire Department Chief Scott Sisson said that the department's investigator, Mike Titus, and a representative from the State Fire Marshal's office determined that the fire started in a corner of the furnace/storage room, but they are not 100 percent sure of the cause. According to Sisson, they do not consider the

cause to be suspicious.

The call came in shortly after 6:30 p.m. Sisson said that people were in the building as late as 4:15 p.m., but they reportedly saw no problem at that time.

After making forcible entry, it took the VFD less than ten minutes to knock the main body of the fire out, said Sisson.

"We are concerned though, that the automatic alarm did not work," said Sisson. "We are trying to do some troubleshooting. We could have been way ahead of this had the alarm worked."

Senior services are provided from the Community Building. While repairs are being made,

seniors will meet in the board room in the Flora Fireside Building, starting today, Wednesday. The entrance at 27 W. Main St. is handicapped accessible.

The local phone number for Carroll County Senior & Family Services will remain the same at 967-3400.

Flora Apartments Manager Jerry Reinke, who also has an office in the Center, can be reached at 967-3033.

The Flora Community Center is owned by the Town of Flora. Clerk-treasurer Joretta Tinsman said the building is insured.

Absentee voting deadlines announced

Comet staff report

The Carroll County Clerk's Office announces the following deadlines for voter registration and absentee voting:

The deadline to register to vote or to transfer voter registration is Oct. 10. If the registration is mailed, it must be postmarked no later than Oct. 10.

Voters can vote an absentee

Mailing label goes here

ballot in the Clerk's Office from Oct. 10 until Nov. 6 at noon. A valid ID must be shown. The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon. The office will be closed Oct. 9 for Columbus Day, but will be open for absentee voting on Saturdays Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Those wishing to vote an absentee ballot through the mail

should request an application by calling the Clerk's Office at (765) 564-4485 or (765) 564-6795. Applications must be received in the office by mail or fax no later than Oct. 30 at midnight.

Those planning to vote an absentee ballot by traveling board should request an application by calling the Clerk's Office.

The applications must be faxed or hand-delivered to the office no

later than Nov. 6 at noon. The traveling board will vote confined voters or those caring for a confined person on Friday, Nov. 3, and Monday, Nov. 6.

Request forms can be picked up at the Clerk's Office or visit www.in.gov/sos/elections.

Carroll Schools recognized for counseling program

Comet staff report

Carroll Elementary and Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School are two of 20 Indiana schools to receive the 2006 Indiana Gold Star School Counseling Award.

The announcement of the award came from the Indiana Department of Education and the American Student Achievement Institute.

The award will be presented to representatives of the schools at the Indiana School Counselor Association State Conference on Nov. 3 in Indianapolis.

The Carroll Consolidated School Corporation Guidance Departments meet all of the requirements for the nation's highest recognition of school counseling programs - the American School Counselor Association's RAMP program.

RAMP is the Recognized ASCA Model Program and demonstrates that a school is "committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program."

Only 18 other school counseling programs around the country have received the distinctive RAMP recognition. A national recognition program honoring RAMP schools will be held this

spring in Washington, D.C.

To qualify for both awards, the school submitted a portfolio with documentation that the school meets the nine program standards found in Indiana's Program Standards for School Counseling: 1) foundations, 2) data-based accountability, 3) student guidance, 4) student counseling, 5) student advocacy, 6) program management, 7) professionalism, 8) resources, and 9) continuous improvement.

The Indiana Gold Star School Counseling program was recognized by the national Pathways to College Network as one of approximately 100 programs across the country that "reflect research-based principles and actions to improve college access and success."

Kristen Seward, Scot Collins, Cindy Reinke, Tamie Arnett, Jeff Pomasl, Dennis Sipe, Cathy Ayres, and Michelle Strawcutter attended four training sessions in Indianapolis during the 2005-06 school year where they learned how to implement the Gold Star School Counseling model.

Also involved in the local initiative were students, teachers, parents, and community members who serve on the local School Counseling Advisory Council. This group provided

valuable input and feedback as the Gold Star School Counseling initiative was being developed. Members of the Advisory Council include Louanna Hufford, Matthew Hufford, Paul Redmon, Jerry Reinke, Susie Budreau, Barb Payne, Nancy Carter, Rev. Charles Compton, Chris Pippenger, Van and Becky Taylor, Dr. Janet Ayres, Ellen Sigler, Richard Richardson, Erika Maddox, and John Franklin.

Sue Reynolds, executive director of the American Student Achievement Institute, had high praise for the local school counseling program.

"The school counselors and others at the Carroll Consolidated School Corporation have worked hard to ensure that students have an accountable school counseling program that meets their academic, career, and citizenship development needs," she said. "These educators and community members are truly dedicated to the community's young people and are going the 'extra mile' to help students succeed."

Indiana Department of Education School Counselor Consultant Gina Woodward said, "Indiana's Gold Star Schools

Continued page 5A

Moonlight Madness promises fun in Flora

Comet staff report

Flora will be abuzz with activities Saturday night when Moonlight Madness is held in the streets of downtown Flora.

The Kiwanis Club fundraiser will be held from 4 to 10 p.m.

Children's games and activities will include: moon walk, pick up pumpkins, ball pitch, hole-in-one and the ever-popular hay dig. The hay dig is free and children will be divided into four ages groups to compete. Starting with the three years old and under group, the dig will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the 4 and 5 year olds at 6:15; the 6 and 7 year olds at 6:30; and the 8 and 9 year olds at 6:45. Prizes are candy and coins.

A chili cook-off, sponsored by Flora Community Club, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the old Dime Store building. Cash prizes will be awarded in two categories - mild and hot. Only non-professionals may compete. Registration forms are available at Stephan's IGA.

Also in the Dime Store building will be an art show featuring works by local artists.

In celebration of being on the air for 25 years, the Channel 2 studio will host an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. This will be an opportunity for area residents to tour the station. Refreshments

will be served.

Winner of the "create your own" scarecrow contest will be announced. All entries will be displayed downtown. Entries should be taken to The Flower Shoppe by 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Lee Hoard's Justin Tyne band will perform from 5 to 9 p.m.

The Idlers car club will have a cruise-in on Main Street from 4 to 9 p.m.

There will be a food and craft court. Many area merchants will be open extended hours, offering special sales and door prizes.

Log Cabin Rendezvous

In conjunction with Moonlight Madness, the first annual Log Cabin Rendezvous will be held Oct. 6, 7, and 8 at Flora Community Park. Camp sites portraying fur traders and Native Americans will be set up in the area around the restored log cabin.

Also participating will be Flora Boy Scout Troop 144, and spinners and weavers. The Scouts will have three tents set up on Saturday and Sunday, with displays and demonstrations.

The public may tour the furnished log cabin. A windmill recently was added to the cabin grounds.

For more information about the Rendezvous, call Stephen Siwinski, 574-967-3211.



Flora greeter

Scarecrows line downtown Flora as fall decorations and just in time for Moonlight Madness on Saturday. They were provided by the Flora Community Club. *Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald*

Visit us on the web at carrollcountycomet.com

— now averaging over 7,295 page views per day —

Cruise-In and Parking Lot Cookout

Sat. Oct. 7th 11 - 5

NOW AVAILABLE

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF ORGANIC ITEMS

Brosman's IGA

1576 W. US HWY 421 Delphi, IN 46923
765-564-4082 Open 6 am til 10 pm
7 Days A Week!

