

Fire prevention territory to be established

Townships and Delphi will create separate taxing unit

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

The threat that lawmakers in Indianapolis might follow one recommendation of the Kernan-Shepard Report as written into HB1406 and SB512 disturbs local township leaders. Both bills are still in committees and subject to change if they are voted into law at all. The possibility that those two bills could become law, which would move township funds into the control of the county council, continues to put a scare into several township trustees and their advisory boards. They would lose direct control of money collected from taxpayers to



Strasser

the townships. Trustees from several townships and their advisory board members, along with Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser, met Thursday night to pursue the immediate establishment of a fire prevention territory. The measure would remove firefighting funds and activities from township government control now and place the control with an advisory board. Plans were formalized Thursday night to establish the territory, to include the entities which comprise the Delphi Tri-Township Fire Department, and which would levy a separate tax rate to fund the new government entity.

Strasser said fire fighting services would continue for residents "seamlessly."

IC 36-8-19 permits two or more contiguous townships to establish the territory with a provider unit, i.e. the City of Delphi. During the presentation, audience members were advised that township advisory boards would make the decision to establish the fire prevention territory without being influenced by tax-

payer opinion.

Strasser explained the plan was to form a board of advisors to include the current township trustees and himself, as mayor of Delphi. He explained if township government was abolished in 2011, the trustees would continue to serve on the advisory board.

Trustees and advisory board members from Tippecanoe, Madison and Deer Creek townships agreed by consensus during the meeting to proceed with resolutions and public meetings designed to establish the territory by March 1. That deadline would have to be met to establish a tax

rate for the new entity and begin collections Jan. 1, 2010. Strasser presented a resolution and adoption date, legal advertisement and public meeting date – all to be completed in February. The legal notice was prepared by the law firm of Bingham and McHale of Indianapolis, who was, according to Strasser, retained by the proposed new advisory group. Strasser advised that any entity could withdraw from the territory by the end of the year.

"I don't think it is a good thing to put it back into the county (control) because they aren't used to dealing with fire departments," Strasser said.

"If we are not ahead of this, we will be scraping



Hershman

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DCSC ends '08 in the black

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Reports were the featured agenda items at the Delphi Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees Monday night meeting. School administrators provided information about a therapy dog in the elementary school, conferences, technology acquisitions/goals and corporation ISTEP-statewide rating. The financial report provided by superintendent Ralph Walker struck a welcomed positive chord with board members. Walker re-

ported that although the corporation experienced an overall shortfall of \$128,367.76 from 2008 property taxes, the corporation purchased land and paid down a debt from textbook rentals, ending 2008 with a surplus of \$2.2 million cash balance.

"It's about what I expected," Walker said.

He explained surplus appropriations in restricted funds were encumbered, but those balances were not included in the cash balance figure. He also said all bills

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Local business carves a new niche

Reconfiguring old barn timbers for new multi-million dollar homes

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Old barns from the 1800s are disappearing from the landscape. But some of those vintage timbers are reappearing in the framing and decorating of new high end homes, lodges, and commercial buildings.

D-K Construction of Camden joined that recycling effort by adding a division called D-K Vintage Timber Packages. The timber craftsmen work in a shop at 315 South Sycamore Street (State Road 75), Flora.

D-K Vintage Timber is associated with Timeless Timber Frame Company (TTFC) of Frankfort, a custom home builder, who markets the vintage timber packages.

"This is a high end, specialized market," said Dennis Kuns, owner of D-K Construction/Vintage Timber. "Ninety-five percent of our business is not local."

He said prime marketing areas are in North Carolina, Colorado, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma. The projects are usually clients' second or third homes in the mountains or on lakes.

"These are multi-million dollar homes," added Kuns's son, Darin, who does estimating and scheduling with the business.

Father and son explained that clients are people who like the vintage timber look – whether it's in the framing or in accents, such as doors, trusses, ceiling grids, mantels, woodwork, hardwood floors, lofts, etc.

"We work with designers, architects, engineers, contractors, and home owners," Dennis said.

Vintage Timber and TTFC are on the constant lookout for old barns that were built by the master builders, with hand-hewn timbers. In general, acquiring a barn is a trade-off situation where the barn owner wants it taken down and removed, and Vintage Timber puts in the man-hours for disassembly and clean-up.

"A frame barn is taken down the same way it was put together," Darin said.

"We get most of the wood around here (Indiana and into Ohio), but ship anywhere," Darin added. "We even had an inquiry from the UK."

Native Indiana hardwood includes oak, ash, walnut, hickory, poplar, and elm.

"If someone wants something special, like chestnut floors, we have to get the wood elsewhere," Darin said.

They don't tear down a barn until they have a call for that kind of wood or design.

When they bring the timbers into the shop, Dennis said they power wash, power



Timber handicraft

Mark Kilmer and Gordon Gascho are preparing the timber before cutting mortises. Because of the weight of the timber, the shop uses steel sawhorses rather than wooden ones. Most of the timber comes from old barns, but it has also been retrieved from old warehouses and one pickle factory. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald



On-site work

This \$3.4 million home features a custom-built log cabin on one end. The cabin was crafted by D-K Vintage Timber Packages, according to the architect's design. It has dovetail (interlocking) joinery. The components were built in Flora and assembled on-site in North Carolina. Photo provided

brush, and put a finish on them.

The workers start with an architectural drawing of their client's whole structure, with the vintage timber areas highlighted.

Since these are custom-built homes or buildings, they have to adjust the timbers to the designs, which may include re-cutting and additional joinery work. That's where the craftsmanship comes in.

The craftsmen use a combination of power tools and old-fashioned hand tools, such as wooden mallets, slicks, chisels, cross cut saws and buck saws. The joinery (mortise and tenon) is done with both power and hand tools.

"Our goal is for two pieces of timber to fit together with no more than a 1/16" crack between them," said Levi Kinzie, shop manager.

Darin pointed out that big trusses or other joined timbers will not fit into a semi-truck as connected pieces, so they have to be shipped as single timbers, and then assembled on site. That means there has to be careful coding of the pieces so they will all come together in the right way and for the right location in the house. Darin said they use color, number, and symbol coding. TTFC takes care of the on-site assembly.

To give an idea of the size of some of these timbers, Darin said one of the projects they are working on now

calls for a bridge between two upper story sections of a home. The bridge truss timbers are 12 inches wide and 12 inches thick, and each bridge truss weighs 8,000 pounds. The package is being shipped to North Carolina in three loads. The timbers are being incorporated into an 11,000 sq. ft. home.

Another timber frame house project in North Carolina was built by a developer. It's a \$3.4 million home with 5,200 sq. ft. One person who has looked at it is a former U.S. Secretary of State.

At one end of this house is a custom-built log cabin with dovetail (interlocking) joinery, crafted in Flora.

Vintage Timber has worked

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CES assistant principal resigns

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Natalie McQuade has resigned as assistant principal at Carroll Elementary School, effective July 1.

Her resignation was accepted at the Carroll School Board meeting Feb. 4.

Superintendent John Sayers said McQuade has accepted a position as assistant principal at Pendleton Elementary School in South Madison Community School Corporation. He said the school is just 15 minutes from her home.

This is McQuade's fourth year at CES. Principal Carolyn O'Connell said McQuade has worked very hard at the school and brought expertise and leadership to her position.

Another resignation accepted was from Louis Pinkard Jr., custodian at Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School. It was effective Feb. 2.

Stephanie Pencek was approved as assistant Junior Class sponsor.

O'Connell announced that

help with homework is available to fourth, fifth, and sixth graders after school on Wednesdays. Students must have a signed note from home to participate. Teacher Cathy Ayres is leading the sessions, with assistance from Key Club and National Honor Society members.

At the January board meeting, approval was given to the superintendent to advertise an additional appropriation. At this meeting, the resolution for the \$1,040,000 additional appropriation was adopted. Sayers said this is for paying off the 2009 bond issue out of the Debt Service Fund.

The board approved adding an addendum to each of the six administrators' contracts. The addendum covers fringe benefits, and is different for each administrator. Sayers said that the contents of the addenda are not new or additional, but for the first time, are now part of administrators' contracts. The term of the contract for McQuade will change since she has resigned.

Cardinal Bus Sales & Service was the lowest and accepted bidder for two new school buses. Unit price will be \$62,300, which includes a trade-in value of \$6,000. Board member Dave Lambert moved to add a second stop arm at a cost of \$32 each. Other board members agreed.

A facility request was approved for Flora Little League to use the auxiliary gym for tryouts on Feb. 17 and Feb. 19 from 5:30-8 p.m.

Maintenance supervisor Tom Allbaugh reported on the installation of athletic cages for the storage of equipment and uniforms. They are locked, keep the belongings of various sports or sports groups separated, and

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