

Camden seeks INDOT's help in extending 75 to HHH

Comet staff report

Camden Council president Pete Wagoner announced at last Thursday's council meeting that he presented a formal request to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) that it take over responsibility for completing the SR 75 extension northward

from Camden to connect with the Hoosier Heartland Highway (HHH). The request was made at a meeting held earlier that day of the Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor committee in Peru.

Wagoner said in his letter that the Town of Camden is advocating extending SR 75 northward to connect

with the HHH at a grade-separated interchange.

SR 75 terminates at its intersection with SR 218 in downtown Camden. The letter points out that old plans exist showing INDOT once intended to build SR 75 on north to SR 24 in Burnettsville.

Extending 75 approximately three

miles as a county road to the planned interchange is currently being pursued as a Carroll County Highway Department project.

"Money allocated by the county for the engineering study is only about one-third what is required," said Wagoner Thursday night. The county does not have the funds to

see the project through.

"For meaningful economic development in the central part of the county, asking INDOT to complete the project is the only viable plan," he added.

Wagoner and other county officials believe the extension of 75 to the HHH will benefit the entire county.

Fake federal IDs seized during Easter domestic scene

Comet staff report

Easter Sunday probably turned out somewhat differently for a rural Carroll County couple than they intended. It was also a different holiday for the county sheriff's department, the Indiana State Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Secret Service.

After placing a 911 call about a domestic dispute at 9:11 a.m. Sunday, Jennifer J. Garetto, 28, 6029E. 200N., Monticello, did not terminate the telephone call. Dispatchers and police officers overheard continued conversations allegedly taking place between Garetto and David Stivers, 29, 11160 Sugar Bluff Rd. Monticello, near The Landings in northern Carroll County. The existence of a methamphetamine lab which might have been present at the Stiger residence seemed to be the topic allegedly being discussed during the conversation heard by officers.



Garetto



Stivers

lease, Sgt. Dennis Randle acted on the information and applied for a search warrant through county prosecutor Tricia Thompson. The warrant was signed by Carroll County Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith.

Carroll County deputies, with the assistance of the ISP, served the warrant at the Sugar Bluff Rd. location at approximately 12 noon. During the search, officers did not locate an active methamphetamine lab, but did find remnants and precursors for the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Investigators also found and confiscated an AK-47 assault rifle, which contained a loaded ammunition magazine. Police uncovered several false identification cards which were made to give the appearance of being actual federal law enforcement badges and/or identifications. Carroll County and ISP officers met with ATF and Secret Service agents about the identification

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Causes pending in Flora fire/death

Comet staff report

A fire last Thursday night at Flora Estates may have claimed the life of a 52-year-old resident there.

Johnnie F. Dyer was pulled from his burning mobile home by neighbors. The fire was originally spotted by neighborhood children who told their parents. The fire was reported at 8:46 p.m.

Two neighbors found Dyer in his smoke-filled living room on the sofa, but were overcome by smoke and returned outside. Two other neighbors went into the mobile home and pulled Dyer outside.

The Flora Volunteer Fire Department arrived on the scene at 602 Kenrick St. within four minutes of receiving the call and had the fire out within 15 minutes.

The cause is yet to be determined, said fire chief Scott Sisson.

"We're looking pretty hard at an electrical cause," he

said. "It's pretty obvious."

The mobile home had extensive damage to the rear of the structure. The part of the residence where Dyer was found had only smoke and water damage.

Because of the fire may have resulted in a death, the State Fire Marshal's office was called to investigate.

An autopsy was performed on Dyer Friday morning in Lafayette. "Toxicology and other test results are pending for conclusive cause of death," said county coroner Jay Dee Cree.

"We've been called to Dyer's trailer before," said Sisson, "a couple of years ago. That was a careless smoking thing on his part."

Services for Dyer were held Monday in Burlington.

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Roy Hufford of Warsaw will be the new assistant principal at Carroll Elementary next school year.

His hiring was approved at the April 7 Carroll School Board meeting.

Hufford currently teaches third grade at Milford Elementary School, Milford, Ind. He previously taught fifth grade. He also serves as on-call administrative intern at Madison Elementary in Warsaw. Hufford will become licensed as an administrator this summer.

After-prom discussion

In other business, the board

Jefferson Twp. may go its own way

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

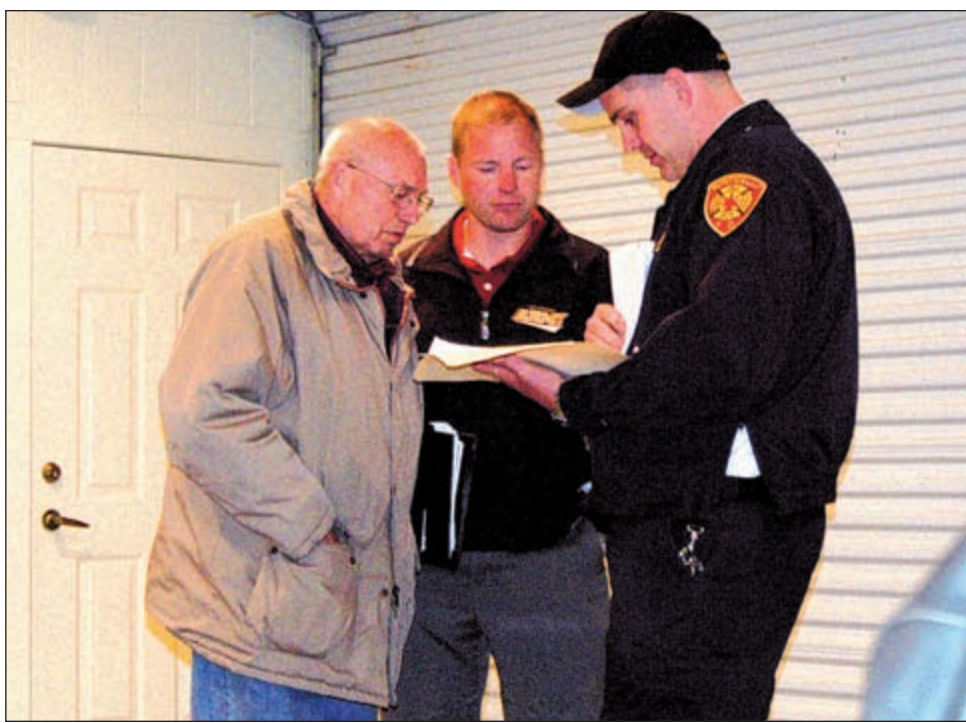
Jefferson Township leaders thought Carroll County Commissioners would allow the township to excuse the county EMS from providing service to township residents at an April 8 meeting. The Monticello Fire Department proposed a contract equal to \$11,000 for one year. The contract stipulated the township purchase a heart monitor in lieu of monetary compensation. In the exchange, Monticello would become the provider of "primary ambulance services" for the remainder of 2009.

Carroll County Commissioners, as a whole, did not support the request. At their April 6 meeting, Bill Brown made a motion to accept the proposal. Neither Loren Hylton or Pat Clawson provided a second and the motion died.

Jefferson Township leaders held the first public meeting about the issue last Wednesday night. Their contention is that Carroll County EMS has slower response times in Jefferson Township since the service was reduced to two ambulances in the fleet.

Many township residents in agreement with the Monticello proposal were present for the meeting. Monticello Mayor Jason Thompson and Monticello Fire Chief Shane Swaim spoke in support of the township striking out on its own to contract with the neighboring county's service.

Carroll County Commissioners were not aware of the meeting, but EMS director Mike Durr attended. He



Preparing the pitch

Jefferson Township Trustee Harold Erdmann compares notes with Monticello Mayor Jason Thompson and Fire Chief Shane Swaim before the April 8 advisory board meeting. The meeting was called to discuss the future of Carroll County's ambulance service in the township. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

attempted to explain that response times by Carroll County in Jefferson Township are not unreasonable.

Durr said although response times by Monticello around the lake would be shorter, those to other areas of the township, which includes areas south of Yeoman, would not. He said if the township decided to circumvent the commissioners' decision, response times for all other residents in the township would be lengthened.

He further explained other out-of-county departments provide service to neighboring Carroll County residents with no contract. He said they charge a user fee, as

does Monticello. Durr said it was reasonable to expect Monticello to provide mutual aid, as the other counties do, with no contract.

Swaim said since the number of ambulances in Carroll County has decreased, Monticello has provided more than mutual aid.

"Monticello cannot subsidize another department," Swaim said.

Durr explained that Monticello charges a \$100 out-of-county fee, a user fee of more than \$600, plus mileage anytime they travel south of the White County border.

"The out-of-county fee plus the user fee should do it," Durr said.

"I've learned a lot over the past three to four years," he continued. "Carroll County as a whole has to look at the money issue. When you take money, such as income from making runs, from the Carroll County EMS, even though it would only be for this township, you are hurting the rest of the county."

Durr's comments were met with resistance from audience members and the Monticello officials.

"Let's put the money aside and take care of the people first," a local resident said. "Is there anything we can do to circumvent the commissioners?"

According to Shane Swaim

Delphi accepts elementary construction bids

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

It was full steam ahead for the Delphi Community School Corporation Board of Trustees as they approved construction bids for renovations at the elementary school and the early childhood education center at a Monday night meeting. Although there will be a savings because the bids received were less than originally expected, the cost for professional services remains the same.

According to Jason Jeffries

of the construction management firm Envoy Inc., the question from the county surveyor at the April 6 drainage board meeting about the potential flow from a retention pond into a county drain was resolved and the project can safely proceed. He said it was not understood that a reducer would be installed at the end of the larger drain pipe to restrict additional flow at one time into the county-maintained drain.

Superintendent Ralph Walker reported the corporation could save between

\$200,000 and \$300,000 due to the lower bids.

"The bids were excellent," he said.

Jeffries said because the bids came in lower than expected there would be money which was approved for the project remaining from the original estimate. Additional items were added to the scope of the project as suggestions as to how to utilize the available funds. He said the board could decide to not spend the money.

Technology coordinator

Scott Gear was granted permission to purchase laptop computers for each student, including carts, in grades three and six for roughly \$157,000. Gear said the corporation is progressing to a time when every corporation student will have a laptop. Walker announced the high school social studies instructors are considering a request that laptops be purchased instead of books for the classroom next year.

Middle and high school principal Barry Stone said

Carroll hires elementary assistant principal

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

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After-prom discussion

In other business, the board

discussed the after-prom, in general. The corporation is now recognizing the after-prom as a school event, which makes it subject to all rules and policies that apply to school-sponsored events and field trips. Previously, the

after-prom was not considered a school event.

Rules that would apply to an after-prom trip, according to school attorney Miriam Robeson, are as follows:

- Adult chaperones required (one chaperone for every 10

students).

- If chaperones are not school personnel, they will have to go through a limited criminal history check (now required for all volunteers at the school).
- School buses and drivers

will be used, and participating students will be required to go on the bus.

All school discipline rules will apply.

Robeson said for an after-prom bus trip, students would be subject to a Breathalyzer test before boarding the bus. Any student who appeared impaired would be turned away.

There would be a permission slip for such a trip, and Robeson said particularly for an out-of-state trip, students and parents would have to sign a liability waiver.

All guests at the after-prom would have to abide by the same rules.

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Carroll rejects all HVAC bids

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

At a special meeting Monday afternoon, Carroll School Board rejected all bids for HVAC renovations at the junior-senior high school.

The six bids for the project, commonly referred to as the piping/air conditioning project, were first considered at the last regular board meeting on April 7. After a discussion, consideration of the bids was postponed, and a meet-

ing for that purpose was set for April 13.

Superintendent John Sayers told the Comet Tuesday morning that the bids came in over budget for the estimated \$1.97 million project, and that's why they were rejected.

He said the project is being re-advertised with one modification - removal of the room addition for the chiller.

The legal notice, advertising for bidders, is in this week's Comet.

Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. April 29 at the Administration Building.

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