

County Council to hire own attorney

Auditor and treasurer fix financial issue

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County Council members have, in past months, discussed a perceived need for legal counsel separate from the commissioners' attorney. Barry Emerson has served as the commissioners' attorney since 1981 and has willingly advised the council whenever asked.

However, it was always noted that it was not Emerson's contractual responsibility to perform in that capacity. The council appropriated funding in the 2010 budget for an attorney to advise them. Council members moved forward to secure a council attorney at their Tues-

day morning meeting.

Carl Abbott and Nancy Cripe were appointed as a committee to investigate how other county councils choose an attorney. They will then solicit names of interested attorneys and request applications be submitted to the council by Dec. 15 at 8:30 a.m. for review. Council president Ann Brown suggested an out-of-county attorney would be advantageous due to possible bias from someone in county.

"I don't think we should get an attorney who is involved in representing many other county entities," she said.

Other council members agreed with Brown but Scott

Ayres said that no matter who was contracted for the position there would be biased thinking. **Auditor's report**

County auditor Beth Myers provided the monthly comparison report, monthly financial report, the revenue and expense statement, the emergency medical services balance sheet for the past four years ending Oct. 30 and two treasurer's reports for the period ending Sept. 30. She stated that all funds were in balance between the auditor's and the treasurer's offices.

However, treasurer Jane Brewington said that the cash book in the treasurer's office had not balanced for several months - until Monday.

"It's fixed now," she said. Brewington explained that when a refund for \$4,505.35 was sent to the state from the property tax rebate of 2007, a "fund correction" did not happen correctly to balance the cash book. The situation was reconciled this week.

Myers said a "fund correction" form was sent to the treasurer's office in January 2008. She said she did not know there was an issue about it until October of this year after she cleared the account by direction of the Indiana State Board of Accounts in September. She said by closing out the account the issue be-

came obvious to the treasurer's office.

A duplicate form was submitted by the auditor's office to the treasurers Monday, which led to the correction of the problem in the treasurer's cash book.

a new court bailiff more than what is approved in the 2010 budget was tabled. Currie explained that current bailiff Julia Terrell is retiring at the end of the year and he wants to hire probation department secretary Diane Kelly for the position.

The probation position pays \$3,215 more per year than the bailiff position. Currie said the difference could be paid out of probation funds.

Brown said she asked the SBOA if this could be done and had yet not received a reply.

"I don't have any problem at all with you doing this," Cripe told Currie.

Abbott expressed concern **See Council page 5A**

Resignation

Barry Emerson told the *Comet* Tuesday he intends to resign as the Carroll County Board of Commissioners' attorney effective Dec. 31 in order to devote more time to his private practice.

It was decided by agreement with the treasurer that Brewington would present reports at each council meeting beginning in January.

Other business

A request by Carroll Circuit Court Judge Don Currie to pay

County EMS committee weighs options

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

When the Carroll County Council found the funding to staff a third ambulance in 2010, it was a welcome relief to emergency medical services director Mike Durr. Finding a place to house the additional ambulance was not a critical concern because there is room in the garage facility in Delphi.

However when it became public knowledge that an alternate location would be considered, the towns of Camden and Flora submitted proposals to house the third ambulance. Durr declined to make a decision about the future home of the ambulance without consulting with the EMS committee, established to address funding issues, after the county was no longer able to support four, and then three, ambulances in the past three years.

After discussing the situation Monday evening, the committee decided to leave the additional ambulance in Delphi, at least for the time being. Although a grant application for a permanent location for

the ambulance in Camden is being written by the Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission (K-IRPC), committee members decided by consensus they are not ready to commit to a grant to fund a building project. The committee will review proposals and tour potential facilities with contractors before making a decision about another location.

Committee members discussed different criteria and ways to look at the area of the county with most need. Durr reported that the Delphi area has had 899 runs this year and a total of 964 last year. Runs in the Flora area, which includes Camden, were 356 this year and 494 last year.

County council member Ron Slavens said income has to be taken into consideration. He said if an ambulance was located in the Yeoman area, revenue from Jefferson Township would return to the county. Slavens said it is wise to also consider potential growth areas for future income.

No date or time was decided for the next meeting.

Bishops to be Flora parade marshals



Dick N. and Jane Bishop are pictured in their back yard in Flora. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Dick N. and Jane Bishop have been selected as the grand marshals of Flora's Christmas parade on Saturday.

The parade will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the corner of Willow and Clark streets, proceed downtown, and end at the park.

The Bishops are long-time residents of Flora and have served the community in many ways.

They have both been members of the Flora Community Club for 52

years, and Dick was president twice.

Dick has been an attorney in Flora for 53 years. He served many years as attorney for the Town of Flora and for the Carroll School Corporation. He also has been recognized for his pro bono work for community organizations.

He has been a member of Flora Rotary Club 52 years, served as president twice, and is currently the charter representative for local Boy Scout Troop 144. He's also been a member of Three Rivers Council of Boy Scouts of

America for 20 years and received the Silver Beaver Award. Presented for service to scouting, the award is the highest given by the local council.

Dick was a member of Flora Masonic Lodge and is now an honorary member of Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge. He is a charter board member and current secretary of Flora Apartments and serves on the Maple Lawn Cemetery board. He was a director of Bright National Bank/First Financial Bank for 32 years, formerly served as a director of the

Carroll County Community Foundation, and formerly was president of the local PTO.

The Bishops are members and elders of the Flora Presbyterian Church. Jane taught Sunday school 25 years and is active in Presbyterian Women. Dick taught Sunday school 17 years.

Jane has worked with the American Red Cross Bloodmobile for 52 years and has been bloodmobile coordinator at Flora for 30 years. She formerly served on the Flora-Monroe **See Bishops page 5A**

Carroll Jr.-Sr. H.S. on Accredited Probation

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Reports were given to the Carroll School Board Monday night, outlining steps being taken toward school improvement after Carroll Jr.-Sr. High

School was placed on Accredited Probation last summer.

National accreditation is a process conducted by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, an accreditation division of AdvancEd.

The accreditation status was determined after a quality assurance review team visited the school last February.

As part of the process, a school must meet seven accreditation standards. Carroll failed to meet five of those standards, according to an NCA report. The probation status is related to Standards 4 and 7, "Documenting and Using Results," and "Commitment to Continuous Improvement."

As a result of the report and designated status, Carroll has been implementing recommendations for improvement. Ongo-

ing teams, primarily made up of teachers, are working in the areas of data analysis, professional development, communication, goals/interventions, and assessment systems.

The school must submit an Accreditation Progress Report by May 1, 2010.

Guidance director Kristen Seward and teacher Stacey Brazel, who head two of the teams, gave reports at the meeting, along with school principal Charles Huckstep. They said great strides have been made since the NCA/AdvancEd visit. Details of their presentations will be reported in next week's *Comet*.

Other team leaders will give presentations at the next school board meeting.

In other business, the board will employ Barton-Coe-Vilamaa as architect for the high school chiller project.

"They will design, bid, and

administer the project," said superintendent John Sayers. He said expected completion will be in the summer of 2010.

The board voted to use its Rainy Day Fund to help pay expenses for Phase 2 of the HVAC piping project. An adopted resolution states that the corporation will expend up to \$350,000, the total amount in the Rainy Day Fund, because there is insufficient money in the Debt Service Fund.

The Rainy Day Fund was established in December 2007 and receives transfers of unused and unencumbered monies from other school funds, as the board chooses. The board plans to restore money to the Rainy Day Fund.

The board authorized advertising for additional appropriations for the Rainy Day Fund and for the General Fund. Sayers said the appropriation for the

General Fund is for three payrolls in December (instead of the normal two) and for federal stimulus money that the corporation is expecting. An additional appropriation is the authority to spend money that the corporation already has, or is anticipating getting, but was not included in the original budget.

A discussion was held on the funding of the elementary Honor Choir and Handbell Choir. Sayers explained that previously, funding came from a High Ability grant, but it can no longer be used for that purpose.

The board created the positions of Honor Choir sponsor and Handbell Choir sponsor for this school year, to be paid out of extracurricular funds. The board did not set the salaries, because that is part of teacher negotiations.

A 2010-2011 calendar was

adopted, and it can be viewed on the corporation website.

Sara Thompson resigned as remediation aide at CES, effective Dec. 18.

Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School assistant principal Fred Schnarr presented spring ISTEP+ results for seventh and eighth graders. He said Carroll performed at or above the state average in both math and language arts.

The board approved and signed non-certified supervisor contracts, approved facility use requests and conference and field trip requests.

The next board meeting was changed to Monday, Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Administration Building. January meetings have also been changed from the scheduled dates. They will be on Tuesday nights, Jan. 12 and Jan. 26.

Shop Flora 1st & be a Holiday Winner!

24 Flora Merchants are participating in this year's Shop Flora 1st Christmas Giveaway! Every time you shop with one of your favorite participating businesses, you will be entered into their drawing where you have a chance to be a lucky winner! Begins Nov. 12th, drawings Dec. 21st. All prizes are valued at a minimum of \$50 each. Total holiday give-away value is more than \$1250!

Allen's Auto & Truck Service • Ayres Hardware • Beck's Interiors • Bill's Clockworks • Carroll County Comet • Carroll County Tire Cellular Solutions • Eikenberry Fine Furniture • En'core Hair Design • Fisher's Restaurant • Flora Pizza King • Holly's Hair Hut Jackson Lee Pearson • Mann's Chevrolet Buick • Melissa's Cut Above • Payne's Pharmacy • Porcupine Truffle • Reborn Auto Sales Sisson & Son Fine Jewelers • Stephan's IGA Foodliner • Tan Line Balloons & Gifts • The Flower Shoppe • The Grapevine Boutique • Yoder's Stitching Line