

School board wants to cut cost for substitutes

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
The Oberlin School board talked with the superintendent last Monday about cutting back on substitute teachers for the new school year, hoping to save some money.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said substitute teachers cost about \$100,000 a year. He said there are times when there isn't any other option, but said maybe some things that could be done differently. As an example, he said, maybe every single track coach doesn't have to go to every meet.

For the upcoming year, staff assignments and realignments have been done on the most part, but he said he and the principals will be looking at it again.

For this year, he said, things will need to be done a little differently on bills so that month to month the board knows exactly what is left in each account and what is needed so that they will know where they will need to make cuts.

Mr. Glodt said the state Department of Education will be putting out information on the tax accelerator which the Legislature used to balance the state budget. He said although the local option budget increased 5 percentage points, the district's tax rate actually will drop by 2 mills next year. It all has to do with the accelerated property tax collection and the three payments the district will be getting.

With the help of the state, said Mr. Glodt, he and Board Clerk Vickie Lippelmann worked things out on the budget so that the tax rate will be only about one tenth of a mill higher than last year.

He noted that with the local option budget increase, the state aid will drop about \$40,000 because the state figures the taxpayers are paying more of the bills. There is nothing the board can do about it, he said.

The summer is almost over and the district's crew has been busy doing projects. Mr. Glodt said the crew realized about halfway through the summer that there were too many big projects to get done.

One of the most exciting things, he said, is how much money Nathan Copeland, the agriculture teacher, has saved the district by making things and doing work himself.

In other business, the board:
• Heard that there are 236 students at the high school and 221 at the grade school, for a total of 457. Mr. Glodt didn't say how that compared

School Roundup

At its meeting last Monday night, the Oberlin School Board:

- Talked about trying to cut back on substitute teachers for the new school year to try to help save money. Story at left.
- Made a change to the proposed home school policy and set it for approval after a third reading at the next meeting. Story to come.
- Decided to wait on a survey and put plans for a bond issue to fix up the buildings on hold. Story on Page 1A.

to last year and was out of the office Monday. The numbers may go up or down in the next week or so.

• Gave the administration permission to keep buses on paved roads in bad weather.

• Received milk quotes for half pint cartons from Raye's Grocery of Oberlin for \$.18 for 2 percent white, \$.17 for 1 percent white and .18 for 1 percent chocolate; from F&A Food Sales of Concordia for \$.149 for 2 percent white, \$.143 for 1 percent white, \$.148 for 1 percent chocolate and \$.141 for skim white and from Hipp Wholesale Foods of Gothenburg, Neb., for \$.1396 for 2 percent white, \$.1316 for 1 percent white, \$.1412 for 1 percent chocolate and \$.13 for skim white.

The board approved the low bid from Hipp.

• Approved transportation requests from Rawlins County to pick up from the junction of U.S. 36 and the Traer Road for Cody Chambers, Jessica and Nicole Bovee, Fallon Dyer, Sean Jordan, and Hannah Madden, and to pick up Kel Grafel from his home.

• Established a special meeting for a budget hearing at 7:30 a.m. Friday.

• Accepted a merry-go-round as a gift for Oberlin Elementary School from the Parent-Teacher Organization and Boy Scouts.

• Received copies of the board goals for this past year and decided to go over them and set goals for this year at the September meeting.



Hey mom! Watch this

HEAD OVER HEELS, Sydney Grafel (above) flew through the air into a full on flip after jumping off the low board at the Oberlin pool on Monday. Miss Grafel and friends played on the boards, doing different tricks for some time, as the temperature rose. Nicholas McDonald, 3, (right) waited for his mom, Alissa McDonald, before jumping off the board. The pool is supposed to be open after school until Labor Day, but lifeguards are in short supply.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt



Council cuts tax in budget

City rate will go down by 1.43 mills

The Oberlin City Council passed a budget which lowers city property taxes an estimated 1.43 mills at a hearing Thursday night, with no objections or comments from the public.

With no one in the audience to talk about the budget, the council was able to move right along through the hearing.

Mayor Ken Shobe said he thought the council worked hard and diligently to keep spending below last year's property tax levy.

Although the council talked about hiring a fourth police officer, the money wasn't there. City Administrator Gary Shike never said the city had to cut anything in order to lower the taxes.

One of the projects the council has undertaken is to try to raise money for an electronic sign for outside The Gateway.

The council has budgeted \$10,000 for the sign and a committee has received about \$5,000 in pledges to help pay for it.

They plan to get a sign which will make people aware of what events are taking place at the civic center.

Another change the council decided is to start putting away money for the improvements to the utility system, said Mayor Shobe. The city is trying to set aside money in the electric and water funds to pay for repairs and upgrades.

During the budget process, the council decided to promote economic development and pledged \$50,000 to a community growth fund.

Mr. Shike said he thought the council did a good job of holding down the budget. He said this will be a lean year for the city, with no bells and whistles for anyone. With the loss of \$18,000 in "demand transfer" revenue from the state, said Mr. Shike, the council had a tough job.

Councilman Patrick Pomeroy said it seems like the council is saddled with a lot of burdens with the need to replace the sewer plant and other things. He said he is excited that the council could put money away for economic development.

The council budgeted another \$30,000, said Mayor Shobe, in capital outlay for the cemetery, so hopefully next year a fence will be built around the new section with that money and whatever is leftover in that fund from this year.

The budget was approved unanimously.

Commissioners hear ambulance billing woes

The Decatur County commissioners talked with the ambulance director about the new ambulance at their meeting last Tuesday morning.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy said it is in service. He said he took it to the fair each night and got some good comments on it.

He said he plans to take the new truck to Jennings for Firemen's Fun Day on Saturday.

In the last week, he said, the service received no money, but the

good news is that the service hasn't been turned down for any payments. Mr. Pomeroy said the service received the new software for electronic billing.

The service also received the new Quick Books accounting program. The program is complicated, he said, so auditor Steve Zdrov said he would come out and set up a system. Mr. Pomeroy said they have gotten all of the new cabinets up in the ambulance barn.

The HUSKERS are back on Local Radio

DATE	OPPONENT	KICK-OFF	HUSKER GAME DAY
August 30	Oklahoma State	2:30 PM	9:30 AM
September 6	Utah State	11:30 AM	6:30 AM
September 13	Penn State	7:00 PM	2:00 PM

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