

City holds line on property tax rate

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Property owners in Oberlin will see a small decrease in taxes this year, with a drop in the city's property tax levy, despite plans to buy vehicles and add a fourth police officer.

The City Council met Thursday night for their second budget discussion for the coming year.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council is doing what they can to keep the property tax levy below last year.

At the beginning of the meeting, the levy was figured at 63.395, but by the end it had climbed to 67.138. That is still less than this year or 2003.

This year's levy was 67.896 and in 2003 it was 69.150.

That means next year will be the second in a row that taxpayers in the city will see a decrease.

The city has received the valuation number for the year, which was \$6,946,339, an increase of \$18,623. Last year it was \$6,927,716.

Mayor Ken Shobe said each mill will raise around \$7,000 in tax revenue.

Mr. Shike said nothing is finalized yet and the levy won't be set until the budget hearing on Thursday, Aug. 19.

The council has added several items to the budget, including several small trucks for the crew to get around town in and use for work, a police car, a fourth police officer, a backhoe, money for computers, money to replace old light bars on police cars and

enough money to replace the boiler at the swimming pool.

The police officer is not expected to increase the budget, because the city is paying enough in overtime today to pay another officer.

The council will hold a third budget workshop on Tuesday night to firm up the numbers.

Pool group gets bids

Committee looks around

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
The Oberlin pool committee has received three proposals to start work on either rebuilding a pool or renovating the existing ones.

Anna Seeber Shaw, a member of the committee, met with the City Council Thursday night to present the proposals for pool evaluations and get the project started.

The first one was from Water's Edge Aquatic Design, the company that helped the city repair the pool at the beginning of the summer. The company sent two proposals, one from \$3,350 and another for \$4,900. The company sent in the first bid which included reviewing all the major pool facilities, evaluating the condition of the pool, comparing the existing facilities, identifying health and safety hazards, recommending improvements, visiting the facility while empty, preparing the letter and report and meeting with them. After sending in the bid, said Mrs. Shaw, they thought maybe it wasn't apples to apples what the other companies had bid so they sent in a second one.

The second is from Ohlson Lavoie Collaborative for \$3,400. The third one is from Paddock Enterprises for \$5,500. Mrs. Shaw said they are the company which originally put the pool in.

Mrs. Shaw said each of the companies wants to start with an evaluation to see if it would be better to build a new pool or renovate the old one. Each of the companies wants to see the pool while it is open and then when it is drained. She said they will then get an estimate on what a new one or a renovation will cost.

A lot of the kids want a new pool, said Mrs. Shaw. Swim team members want one that is regulation size so they can have league meets.

Atwood is talking with Ohlson Lavoie about building a new pool. Mrs. Shaw said they are doing the pool in Atwood in four stages, and the building can be stopped at the end of each stage. The cost of the total project will be around \$1.5 million.

She said Atwood is having a hard time raising the money and hasn't been able to get grants. She said they are working on a geriatrics part of the pool, but it is in the last phase and that is hurting the grant situation.

The state doesn't have any money for community pools, she said. There is a chance the city may be able to get some help from a federal source.

(See POOL on Page 5A)



HANDS INTERTWINED, Cheyenne Soderlund (third from left above) and friends stood on the edge of the pool waiting for the lifeguard at the Oberlin pool to blow the whistle

so they could jump in together. Kiah Blau (below) ate an ice cream cone during a safety break Monday afternoon.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Pool boiler shot, so water could get chilly by end of year

Oberlin swimmers might want to hope for more sizzling weather, since the heater at the city swimming pool has gone out and the City Council decided not to fix it until next year.

A \$15,299 repair estimate chilled council interest in fixing the boiler, though city workers said it could be replaced in a couple of weeks.

City Foreman Dan Castle said the boiler that went out was 10 years old. The gas company can have a new boiler here in four days, he said, and installed within two weeks, including delivery time.

Mayor Ken Shobe asked if repairs would affect operating hours at the pool. Mr. Castle said no.

Do other towns heat their municipal pools? asked City Attorney Steve Hirsch. No, said City Administrator Gary Shike.

Councilman Joe Stanley said he thinks they have spent the budget on the pool this year with \$3,200 in repairs to a leak this spring. If there is money left, said Mayor Shobe, it needs to be spent on an evaluation of renovating or replacing the pool.

The boiler can be purchased either now or at the beginning of next

summer, said Mr. Castle. He said the new boiler has a five-year warranty and would be more efficient.

The pool is going to get cold, he said, especially if they keep filling the medium pool every day. The medium pool is filled from the large pool each day and then the large pool is replenished with 51-degree water. The water in the medium pool has to be replaced daily because it is not filtered.

In May, the pool was filled for the Memorial Day opening. Kids watched as the water turned a brown color from chlorine, then started to clear up. Things were ready to go when a large leak was found.

The pool was drained and a hole was dug on the east end. Blueprints for the pool, which is over 40 years old, were sent to Waters Edge Aquatics in Lenexa. The firm gave the city crew pointers on how to fix the leak.

The crew fixed pipes and drains, filled the hole and put a thin layer of cement over it. The quick fix, which kept the pool closed for part of June, cost the city \$3,200, which included labor and supplies.

District recalls teacher

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
The Oberlin School District sent out recall letters to fill a first-grade position to four teachers who were affected during the reduction in force this year.

At the board meeting last Wednesday night, two letters were received from teacher Audrey Pavlicek, one requesting early retirement and a resignation letter.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the board decided to accept the resignation, which means there is an opening at the grade school.

In the teachers' negotiated agreement, there is a recall provision which covers the situation, said Mr. Glodt.

All those affected by the layoffs who are certified to teach grade school have received letters to see if they are interested in the position, he said.

The four who have to be notified have to reply by Friday. They include special education teachers Diana Steinmetz and Mardi Lohofener, special reading, "title," teacher Kimberly Witt and librarian Ashanna Richards. Mrs. Steinmetz and Mrs. Lohofener were asked to retain their teaching positions through the Northwest Kansas Service Center and Mrs. Witt was cut to half-time.

The district doesn't have to hire one of those people to fill the position, Mr. Glodt said, but more than likely, if one of them is interested, the district will hire them before looking elsewhere.

Shooting ruled an accident

By KAREN KREIN
The fatal shooting Dec. 13, 2003, of William Joseph Schwab, 43, of Oberlin, last year was an accident, Cheyenne County authorities have ruled.

Kansas Bureau of Investigation completed an investigation, and after reviewing the report, Cheyenne County Attorney Kevin Berens determined that no criminal charges should be filed against former St. Francis Chief of Police Jason Ryan.

The shooting took place in a parking lot of the Dusty Farmer Restaurant on Dec. 13. The KBI, assisted by the St. Francis Police Department, was conducting an undercover felony investigation on Mr. Schwab for solicitation of murder.

When officers tried to arrest Mr. Schwab, he fled. Mr. Berens, in his report, said officers identified themselves as "police" and order him to stop. However, Mr. Schwab kept on running.

During a foot chase, the former police chief grabbed hold of Mr. Schwab and as both men fell to the ground, Chief Ryan's handgun discharged, wounding Mr. Schwab. He was taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital, where he died.

Mr. Berens said no other shots were fired during the incident. There are no other suspects in the investigation for the solicitation of murder.

Chief Ryan was placed on administrative leave after the shooting and later resigned, moving to Tucson, Ariz., to be near his family.

Mr. Schwab's family has been informed that the case has been completed and that it had been ruled an accidental shooting, Mr. Berens said.



The small diving board wasn't put back in and swim passes for the summer had to be prorated.

Each year, the council had discussed if the pool will hold water,

but this year it didn't. The council decided not to fix the boiler this year. No one knows what other repairs will have to be made for the opening next summer.

Water use climbs again

With the temperature climbing, and no rain since last week, water use in Oberlin is on the rise again, but still hung below the critical level.

At the end of June and beginning of July, the city was only pumping from 200,000 to 300,000 gallons a day.

With the sun out last week, that increased to a little over 700,000. At 800,000, the city considers use dangerously high.

Water restrictions are still in effect. Those with odd addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday

and Saturday and those with even addresses can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. No watering is allowed on Mondays.

- Last week, the city pumped:
- 444,000 gallons on Monday, July 12.
 - 597,000 gallons on Tuesday, July 13.
 - 555,000 gallons last Wednesday.
 - 590,000 gallons on Thursday.
 - 445,000 gallons on Friday.
 - 701,000 gallons on Saturday.
 - 525,000 gallons on Sunday.

County asks about recycling

The Decatur County commissioners talked with two representatives from the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area last Tuesday about whether people in the county would be interested in recycling.

Director Duane Cheney and Jack Benton of Oberlin, a board member of the group, came to the meeting because commissioners wanted to talk about recycling after reading about a regional program in the group's newsletter.

Mr. Cheney said a recycling hub has been set up in Thomas County and four other counties. Gove,

Rawlins, Cheyenne and Logan, are involved. Each of the counties had to pay \$1 per resident each year to run the program.

Each of the counties then has written a grant to purchase the trailer.

The center is in Colby and each county would be in charge of getting its recycling trailer there to dump it.

Some of the items taken are glass, cardboard, aluminum, newspapers and plastics.

Commissioner Ralph Unger he wanted to see if people in the county are interested in the program.

To join the program, the county would have to purchase a trailer and

then pay the fee, \$3,249.

On another subject, Commissioner Doyle Brown asked about a habitat grant since it was on the list of things the office does. Mr. Cheney said the grant is run through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in conjunction with Pheasants Forever and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

It works with both seeding in conservation reserve program grounds and for the owl program which is run for school kids. The commissioners didn't know if either had been done here.

* Pool to be fixed, maybe replaced

(Continued from Page 1A)
 eral Agency, but she said she doesn't know.
 Oberlin will need to do everything Atwood has tried, she said, and also try new ideas.
 Mrs. Shaw said the pool committee hasn't actually had a chance to see the bids. She said that their next meeting is Thursday, and they will look at the bids then. She asked if the council would like an opinion from them about the bids.
 So far, she said, the committee, which includes Gary Bartels, Abbey Hissong, Peggy Ream, Teresa Shaughnessy, Dori Pauls, Gaylord Shields, Mirla Coleman, and Sue Glodt, hasn't broken into groups, but has worked as a whole on everything. The group has printed 300 pool surveys and has 116 of them back.
 She said she doesn't think they have nearly enough of the surveys back. Mrs. Shaw said they will hand

them out at the county fair.
 The committee would really like to raise all of the money instead of borrowing money or creating a tax burden, she said.
 There has been an idea of raising the sales tax and then having it end by a certain time, but she said she doesn't want to raise the property tax.
 City Attorney Steve Hirsch said he didn't think they could impose a city sales tax because there is a county sales tax.
 Mrs. Shaw said the committee would like to raise enough money so there would be an endowment so they have some money for maintenance. So far, she said, they have raised around \$900.
 Mayor Ken Shobe said he would like a recommendation from the pool committee and Mrs. Shaw said she would like for Mr. Hirsch to look the proposals over.

Fund-raising ideas could help with pool

The Oberlin pool committee has come up with several ways to raise money for a new or renovated pool.
 The first idea is to give away an original Anna Seebur Shaw painting. The artist said there will be a limit on the size of the picture, but it could be of just about anything.
 The committee has also talked about selling personalized bricks to be put in the walks at the pool, getting tiles for people to buy, decorate and then hang in the bath house, and holding five-on-five basketball

tournaments.
 The group has already started to raise money. Mrs. Shaw said the lifeguards held a burger fry on the Fourth of July and made \$300. She said they have also received around \$120 in donations.
 Mrs. Shaw said everything is being handled through the Chamber of Commerce for tax purposes. That way, donations are tax deductible.
 Anyone who wants to make a donation can contact the chamber office at 475-3441.

Board approves organizational items

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
 The Oberlin School board met last Wednesday night to approve organizational items so that the school year can start in August.
 Most of the items were handled through the consent agenda, which just takes a single motion and a vote by the board.
 One of those was bus consent for students who live in this district but farther than 10 miles away from the school and travel out of the district. Those approved for transportation to Norton include Denise Bailey, Lori Roe, Deanna Sumner, Jamie Wentz, Rebecca Hartsough and Kenneth McVay. Transportation for Delores Juenemann, Sheila Ritter and Tammy Shaw was approved for Golden Plains.
 Superintendent Kelly Glodt said these are students who always go out of district because it is closer for their families.
 The board also approved transportation for the Lonnie and Mary McEvoy children to Jennings.
 Dewayne Jackson was elected president and Jeannie Martin as vice president of the board.
 Mr. Glodt said the board agreed to continue holding its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.
 An agreement was signed to continue participating with the Northwest Kansas Technical College.
 Mr. Glodt said he is checking with former board members to serve as a representative on the college board.
 In other business, the board:
 • Appointed board members Mrs. Martin, Barbara Olson and Monte Moore to the policy review committee.
 • Rescinded the policies for the district and then approved policies for 2004-2005 school year.
 • Named Principal Charles Haag to be in charge of the gate receipts and activity funds at the high school.
 • Decided not to have a new employees dinner since the district

doesn't have any.
 • Held a 20-minute closed session for negotiations.
 • Appointed Mr. Moore to be the representative for the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center. Board member Kurt Vollertsen will be the alternate.
 • Appointed Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Martin to the bid committee.
 • Approved Vickie Lippelmann as the clerk of the board, Carla Depperschmidt as the deputy clerk, Pam Simonsson as the treasurer and will use the legal services provided by the Kansas Association School Boards instead of hiring an attorney.
 • Named the First National Bank as the district's depository, to have the district's activity accounts.
 • Authorized the superintendent and clerk to invest idle funds per policy.
 • Selected Mrs. Lippelmann to be the representative for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System.
 • Named Mr. Glodt as the representative for food services.
 • Approved participating in federal programs with Principal Duane Dorshorst being the representative.
 • Agreed that Mr. Glodt would be the freedom of information officer.
 • Selected *The Oberlin Herald* as the official newspaper.
 • Approved use of the current textbooks for the new year.
 • Approved Mr. Glodt as the hearing officer for free and reduced-price meals.
 • Appointed Mr. Glodt the coordinator for title VI and IX programs and counselors Sheila Jansonius and Nita Lavielle for Section 504.
 • Adopted a 1,116 hour school calendar.
 • Designated Mr. Haag and Mr. Dorshorst as truancy officers.
 • Established mileage reimbursement at \$.32 a mile.
 • Agreed to participate in the food service program for the new school year.

Crew blades county roads

Decatur County commissioners talked last Tuesday with the road and bridge supervisor, who said the crew is busy blading roads and will start mowing weeds on the side of the roads.
 Supervisor Tim Stallman said the crew has been blading the roads in the townships and working on the county roads as well. The rain has slowed the process, he said, but they are still working on it.
 Mr. Stallman said they have received a few phone calls about weeds in the ditches but have been working on mowing them.

The check for the old dozer the county sold has been deposited, he said, and the one they bought from out of state surplus property is doing a good job. The commissioners suggested Mr. Stallman look there for equipment since it, for the most part, has been less expensive than getting bids. He said they replaced the radiator in this one for \$1,400 and have also put on some new hoses and other small parts.
 Commissioners approved a permit to put electrical lines across a road for cattle tanks for Vernon Ketterl, who lives near Traer.



HANDSHELD TOGETHER in front of her head, a girl dove off the board at the Oberlin pool Monday afternoon.
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Service receives global tracking unit

The Decatur County ambulance service has received a handheld global positioning system unit from the new Med Star helicopter service in McCook, county commissioners learned Tuesday.
 Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy said he went to McCook on Friday to check out the new helicopter there, and they loaned the county the device.
 The equipment will give him map coordinates within four feet on each side, he said.
 That way if there is an accident in the county, he can call the helicopter and have them land on site.
 Mr. Pomeroy said he would like to go out and get the coordinates of all the landmarks so that they know where they are.
 Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if the helicopter could land at the hospital in Oberlin.
 Commissioner Ralph Unger said he thinks the helicopter from Kearney has done that before, but it stirs up a lot of dirt.
 They agreed that the gravel lot probably isn't good for the helicopter.
 Commissioner Patricia Glenn said that if Mr. Pomeroy was interested in purchasing a global positioning unit for each ambulance, she would like him to come to them first.
 The commissioners talked about a leak on the north side of the court-

house. With the recent rain, water was almost running down the stairs from the fourth floor, said Commissioner Glenn.
 Custodian Bob Berls said he talked with Larry Van Otterloo, who said it would cost \$65 an hour for him to fix the leak.
 Mr. Berls already has the caulking supplies, and he said they plan to take care of the problem some evening.
 In other business, the commissioners:
 • Heard that Commissioner Brown had talked with Neoma Tacha, who was on the history book committee.
 • She couldn't remember any gift certificates given for extra books, but they wondered if someone may have purchased a certificate as a gift.
 • This was in reference to the certificate Roxie Pomeroy presented to the commissioners.
 • No other certificates have surfaced. The commissioners agreed to give Ms. Pomeroy a book for the certificate.
 • Held a hearing on closing the road between sections 8 and 17 in Roosevelt Township.
 • No one appeared for the hearing and the commissioners approved the closing.
 • Presented Appraiser Alan Hale with a five-year certificate for service to the county.

31st Anniversary of the Carnival!

PRE-FAIR ACTIVITIES	
July 27	Clothing Construction, Buymanship, & Fashion Revue Judging
July 31	4-H and Open Horse Show
August 2	All decorated bales must be in place by 8:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, August 3	
9:00-Noon	Enter all 4-H and Open Class Exhibits (except Floriculture)
Noon	All Booths to be in place
6:00-10:00 p.m.	Exhibit open hours
6:30 p.m.	4-H Food Auction
7:00 p.m.	Carnival open to the public
7:30 p.m.	Mutton Busters, participants check in at 6:30 p.m., grandstand
WEDNESDAY, August 4	
8:00 a.m.	Bucket Calf Show
8:00-10:00 a.m.	Open Class and 4-H Floriculture entered, judging to follow
9:00 a.m.	Dairy/Beef Show
5:00 p.m.	Sheep Show
5:30 p.m.	Kids Peddle Pull, Sponsored by Farm Bureau, register at 5 p.m. by barns
6:00-10:00 p.m.	Exhibit open hours
7:00 p.m.	Carnival open to the public
7:30 p.m.	Bridges Band Concert
THURSDAY, August 5	
9:00 a.m.	Swine Show
11:00 a.m.	Media Interviews with owners of Grand and Reserve Champion Livestock Senior & Intermediate Round Robin Showmanship Contest
6:00-10:00 p.m.	Exhibit open hours
6:30 p.m.	Live Broadcast of Livestock Auction from Oberlin Livestock, KFNF
7:00 p.m.	Carnival open to the public
7:30 p.m.	Local talent show

Decatur County Fair Days

August 3 - 7

FRIDAY, August 6	
8:00 a.m.	Clean up livestock exhibits.
1:30 p.m.	Pet Parade at Good Samaritan Center
5:30 p.m.	Public Fashion Revue at the Gateway
6:00-10:00 p.m.	Exhibit open hours
7:00 p.m.	Carnival open to the public
7:00 p.m.	Colgate Country Showdown
9:00-10:00 p.m.	Release of all exhibits
10:00 p.m.	Bale decorating contest winner announced on the midway
SATURDAY, August 7	
7:00 p.m.	Carnival open to the public
7:00 p.m.	Demolition Derby sponsored by the Oberlin Lions Club

Carnival Rides Start at 7 p.m. each evening!

Tickets

Only 25¢

50¢ Sinko ALL WEEK

<i>Twist-Over Train, Ferris Wheel, Swinger, Octopus, Tilt-A-Whirl and Moon Walk</i>	(3 tickets)
<i>Merry-Go-Round & Small Children Rides</i>	(1 ticket)

See Exhibits throughout the Fair 6-10 p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday

Hay Bale Decorating Contest

(Company / Club / Family / Group / Individual)

- \$50 cash prize to winner**
- \$15 entry fee (1 entry per family or club)**
- Bale must be in place by 8 p.m. Mon. of Fair Week**
- Enter at Extension Office Monday of Fair Week from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**
- Bales released on Saturday 8 a.m.**
- Winner will be announced on Friday at 10 p.m. at the Midway**
- Maximum 3 bales as exhibit**
- Must supply own decorating supplies (Please do not use lead-based paint.)**

Decatur County Fair Board 785-475-8121

Come One, Come All, to the Grandstand to see:

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Mutton Busters
 Participant check in 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 6, 7:00 p.m.
Colgate Country Showdown
 Grandstand

Saturday, Aug. 7, 7:00 p.m.
Demolition Derby
 Oberlin Lions Club

This Carnival was developed by and is operated by residents of Decatur County!