

Low bid accepted for pipe

The Oberlin City Council accepted the lowest bid out of eight Thursday to use grant money to put a water main extension into the industrial park north of town on U.S. 83.

The city received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture for over \$90,000 for the work. The lowest bid came in around \$36,000 under the grant.

Bids ranged from \$62,132 to \$108,000. From highest to lowest the bids were from Elk Creek Backhoe and Trenching for \$62,132, Midlands Contracting for \$73,675, BSB Construction for \$77,986, Starostka Group Unlimited for \$81,400, Interstate Irrigation for \$84,066, Morris Plumbing Plus for \$84,860, Van Kirk Bros. Contracting for \$91,195 and The Diamond Engineering Company for \$108,746.

David Blaugh with Miller and Associates said two of the bids were adjusted for mathematical errors. He said the engineering firm has worked with the low bidder before and their recommendation is to accept the bid from Elk Creek Backhoe and Trenching.

Mayor Ken Shobe asked why there was such a difference in price since they were all bidding the same thing. Mr. Blaugh said he thought it was because of the price of pipe is a lot higher in the higher bids.

Did they get good results before when the firm worked with the company? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. Did they finish on time?

Yes, to both, said Mr. Blaugh.

Mr. Shike said they have been working on the estimate of \$104,000 for the project, and the grant was going to cover most of it.

Mr. Blaugh said engineer Thaniel Monaco was going to see if there is a way to use the other grant money for something else. It is a considerable amount of money. So far, said Mr. Blaugh, Mr. Monaco hadn't heard anything back.

The council awarded the job to Elk Horn Backhoe and Trenching contingent on the financing.

Theater to get allowance

The Oberlin City Council decided Thursday to continue giving the Sunflower Cinema a \$100 monthly electrical allowance.

Councilman Patrick Pomeroy commended the theater board on having the cinema open. It is an asset for a small town to have a theater, he said.

Councilman Joe Stanley said it is a lot of work to run the theater, much of which people don't see.

The council approved a two-year contract for Baker-Hughes to continue renting property next to the airport for storage at \$960 a year.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that half of this year's corn crop from the farm lease at Sappa Park has been put at Lohofener Grain and the other half at Hansen Mueller. The total is 4,627 bushels.

- Heard the city crew has been getting some help from Van's Tree Service to trim trees in the alleyways.

- Discussed keeping the old police car. The council said it was up to Police Chief Wade Lockhart and City Administrator Gary Shike if they want to buy a new cage for the new car or pull the one out of the old car.



Kids practice the show

AFTER LUNCH on Friday, students in grades four through six at Oberlin Elementary School practiced for their concert which was held Monday night. The show started out with the fifth grade band (above) and then moved into the sixth grade band, then the singers, including all three grades, took the stage. One of those students was Cassidy Shields (right).

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Library will get lights to replace skylight

A member of the library board talked with the Oberlin City Council last Thursday about a way to make it look like the skylight in the library is still there even though it will be closed off by the new roof.

Jim Wasson said the board appreciates the new roof, but are concerned about the closing of the skylight. He said he had a signed petition with 60 signatures on it to present to the council, but keeping the skylight is just not going to work.

If they keep the skylight, he said, the warranty on the skylight would be dropped to five years.

Mr. Wasson said it would be great if the city would pay for the lights, but the library board may be able to gather up enough money.

He said he would hate to have a blank hole where the skylight used to be.

City Administrator Gary Shike said there is going to be an access door into the attic so there won't be

a problem with maintaining the lights.

Was there any damage inside the library because of the leaky roof? asked Councilman Patrick Pomeroy.

There are some ceiling panels that may need to be replaced, said Mr. Wasson. The carpet is getting to the point that it needs to be replaced, but that is age and use.

Councilman Ray Ward said he didn't have any problem with the

lights. He said he didn't think the city could say that they would pay without knowing the costs. He said if they knew the cost he wouldn't mind looking at it. Mr. Wasson said he didn't know the cost yet.

Mayor Ken Shobe said it sounded like there is a consensus to go ahead with the lights. He said if Mr. Wasson got the price, the council would talk about it again.

County approves road closing

Decatur County commissioners approved a petition for a road closing in Beaver Township at the meeting last Tuesday.

The road is between sections 9 and 10. Letters will go out to landowners around the road and township officials. The hearing will be at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the commissioners room.

The resolution will be printed in *The Oberlin Herald*.

The commissioners approved transfers from the 2003 audit for

\$230,264 for the road and bridge department, \$4,645 for the special equipment fund for noxious weeds, \$40,000 for the special equipment fund for the ambulance and \$23,403 for the special equipment fund for the health department. That money was transferred out of each of the accounts into their special equipment fund.

Commissioners held two closed sessions for non-elected personnel. The first one was with Ambulance

Director Patrick Pomeroy for 20 minutes. There were no decisions made. Later in the meeting they held a 15-minute session. There was no action taken.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Presented Sheriff Ken Badsky with a certificate for 20 years of service to the county.

- Noted that a representative from Mapes and Miller hasn't been back to the county with the audit findings.

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Alliance needs new president

The Oberlin Business Alliance is looking for a new president since the year is coming to an end.

Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, has served for the past year. At a meeting last Wednesday, he asked if anyone was interested. No one volunteered. A new president will be elected at the January meeting.

Alliance members talked briefly about their giveaway on Monday, Dec. 20. The group has boxes and sign-up sheets around town. That night at 7 p.m., 10 names will be drawn. Each person will be given a box to open.

One of the boxes will have \$1,000 in it, the rest will have a secondary prize.

Mr. Stanley said he wanted to know what the group wanted to put in the other boxes.

The group decided to put \$25 in each one. That way, said Mr. Stanley, everyone wins a little something.

The drawing will take place in front of the chamber office.

The group will also be doing a second chance drawing using the tickets from the Christmas on Us promotion. There will be 10 tickets drawn each day starting at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 21. The tickets will be attached to a piece of paper and hung in one of the alliance stores. Each day there will be one winner. The contest will go on through Friday, Dec. 24.

The amount of the prize has not yet been determined.

The group will be doing its regular drawing for fifth Wednesday on December 29. People can sign up that day for a chance to win \$50.

Glenva Nichols, Chamber of Commerce manager, said very few people participate in the fifth Wednesday drawing. She said the group may want to consider doing something else.

Mr. Stanley said he thought they should do the last one and then discuss it again at the beginning of the new year.

In other business, alliance members:

- Decided to pay the Maverick 4-H club \$25 for helping decorate Main Street for the holidays. The group agreed if they hadn't paid them last year to do that too.

- Discussed the Winter Farmers Market which will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday on the first floor of the courthouse. Anyone who wants to sell wares should contact Gary Anderson at the LandMark Inn.

- Approved paying \$103 for half of the ink and paper used at the Chamber office.

- Heard that seven members have paid alliance dues so far for 2005.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**MONDAY
DECEMBER 20**

is the last day you can pay first half taxes without penalty.

NOTE: All personal property taxes come due if first half is not paid by Dec. 20.

**Jean Hale
Decatur County
Treasurer**

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