City agrees to use current air units for another year

The Oberlin City Council decided replaced? asked Mayor Shobe. Thursday, Jan. 13 to hold off on buying two new air conditioning units Hansen. One was put in 1978, said for the library and continue using the old ones since they didn't budget for the replacement.

The council received bids for new units from Hansen's Plumbing Heating and Air Conditioning at an earlier meeting. After looking at them, they called owner Marvin Hansen in to discuss the bids.

The city hadn't budgeted for the new units, but since the roof at the library is being replaced, they decided to check into what it would

highest priced unit because it is a better price for the what the city would be getting.

The bid to move the existing equipment was \$1,979 and the bids for new units ranged from \$7,536 to \$9.898

Mayor Ken Shobe asked if the lines for the units could be capped and then the unit could be put in before it got too hot, without messing up the heating at the library. Mr. Hansen said it wouldn't hurt the heating and, yes, he could wait to put the units in.

Do the current units need to be Shobe.

They have some age, said Mr. City Administrator Gary Shike, and other one matches that, so it was probably put in at the same time.

All in a day's work

New units will probably cut the cooling bills in half, said Mr. Hansen.

How long will the new units take to install? asked Mayor Shobe. Mr. Hansen said he could probably have them in by next week. There will be a warranty on the units and on parts. He said he would also give the city a year's warranty on labor.

Would it be efficient for the city Mr. Hansen said he suggested the to use the old units until the new budget year starts, meaning 2006, since the items weren't budgeted for? asked Councilman Ray Ward. The old units are going to be taken off, since the roof is being replaced, said Mr. Hansen. The new units can then be put on at no charge. In the future, the city would have to pay around \$50 to take the old ones off and put the new ones on. The total would be around \$100.

> Mr. Hansen said he thought the old units would run for another year. The city could then budget for the new units for 2006, said Mayor

Oberlin employees will receive raises

proved a 3 percent increase for all employees and a 50-cent-an-hour increase for a handful at the first meeting in January.

Each year, the city administrator and other department heads evaluate the employees and present the evaluation to the council in open sessions. That all was done at the end of 2004.

At the meeting on Thursday, Jan. 13, the council approved the raises. The city employees 19 people who make anywhere from \$5.30 an hour to \$43,981 a year, said Administrator Gary Shike.

Those who got 50-cent-an-hour raises included David Sporn, Nan his excess vacation time for 2004 Stanley, Judy Wenger and Officers this year.

Five pass

The Oberlin City Council ap- Troy Haas and Scott Zeigler. All other city employees receive a 3

> said for the most part the 50 cent-anhour raise was more than the 3 per-

In other business, the council:

• Approved appointments of Glenva Nichols, Judy Cochran and Connie Grafel to serve for two-year terms on the Convention and Visi-

 Held two closed sessions for 15 and 20 minutes for non-elected personnel. After coming back into open session, the council decided that City Foreman Dan Castle could use

cent.

tors Bureau board.

percent raise.

City Administrator Gary Shike

AFFORDABLE!



WHILE THE SUN was out, a worker with a crew out of Beaver City, Neb., worked on a fence on Rick Chambers' property last week. - Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

County discusses group

The Decatur County commissioners discussed whether they should join the Kansas Association of Counties, which is supposed to represent the counties on legislative issues, at the meeting Tuesday, Jan.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he has been disappointed with the direction the group has been going. It used to be that the association lobbied for counties and told commissioners about what was happening at the state level. He said that isn't happening anymore.

What is the county's responsibility on joining all of these statewide organizations? asked Mr. Unger.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the elected officials have the right to join if they want to. He said the commissioners probably only have control over the non-elected offices, not the elected officials.

The county association has moved into the League of Kansas Municipalities building, said Mr. Unger, and it looks like the group is under their wing. All of the officials are involved, he said; it isn't for the commissioners anymore.

If the county decides not to join the association, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, should they send a letter? Mr. Unger said he thought so, too. If the county is thinking about not joining, he said, then they need to write to the association and let them know they feel they are representing all of the other offices and organizations, but not the counties.

Mr. Brown said he has been around long enough to see the changes in the association. If the county fights it for a change or doesn't join, the Legislature sees that, he said. If the county joins and then doesn't attend, they see that, also.

Mr. Hirsch said the Legislature has already seen that the counties can't get along. There was a comment that if the county governments can't get along, does the state just think they should take over?

The county pays \$1,096 a year to be a part of the organization and has been a member for over 30 years.

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exams

The Decatur County Ambulance Service has five first responders after they passed their practical exams this month, but they still have to take their written exams.

After the five students pass their written exams they will be emergency medical technicians. Right now, they are first responders and can work for the service.

At the county commission meeting last Tuesday, Ambulance Director Patrick Pomerov said the five are Chris Koerperich, Dave Depperschmidt, Sharon Bodfield, Becky Anderson and Sabrina Cooper. A student from Norton went with the group to take the exams.

Six people are signed up for a new advanced technician class, said Mr. Pomeroy.

Terminology for ambulance workers is changing, he said. First responders will be called emergency medical responders. None of the changes will take place until July, if they decide to do it at all.

Mr. Pomeroy said Karen Eskew is working on getting the billing ready for the 2004 audit. Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if Mr. Pomeroy was learning the computer program, and he said he was.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the new Dell computer for the service is on order.

Mr. Pomeroy said in his monthly report there have been eight runs since the beginning of the year, but they can only bill for six of them. The others were standbys.

The group talked about the service charging for having an ambulance stand by. The commissioners asked Mr. Pomeroy to work up a fee schedule, including times the ambulance stands by for school activities, races and other functions.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Held a 10-minute closed session for non-elected personnel. There was no action taken.



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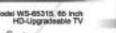


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