

City agrees to use current air units for another year

The Oberlin City Council decided Thursday, Jan. 13 to hold off on buying two new air conditioning units 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 cost.

Mr. Hansen said he suggested the 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

replaced? asked Mayor Shobe.

They have some age, said Mr. Hansen. One was put in 1978, said City Administrator Gary Shike, and other one matches that, so it was probably put in at the same time.

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 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 Shobe.

All in a day's work



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. 18.

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.

Oberlin employees will receive raises

The Oberlin City Council approved 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 Stanley, Judy Wenger and Officers

Troy Haas and Scott Zeigler. All other city employees receive a 3 percent raise.

City Administrator Gary Shike said for the most part the 50 cent-an-hour raise was more than the 3 percent.

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 Visitors Bureau board.

- 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 his excess vacation time for 2004 this year.

Five pass 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 Pomeroy 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.

AFFORDABLE!



Immaculate and cozy describes this 4 bedroom Bungalow with 2 additional bedrooms in lower level, central air/heat, double garage, good location.



Quaint Victorian cottage with three bedrooms, formal dining room, single car garage.



Spacious 2 bedroom Bungalow, large kitchen with newer cupboards and appliances, formal dining room, main-floor laundry, vinyl siding, single car garage.

Call us today about our newly listed homes!

Office — 785-475-2785

Lynn's Mobile — 785-475-8514 — Roberta's Mobile 785-475-7156
 Marcia Lohofener — 785-475-2521 Jerry Lohofener 785-475-2521
 Jackie Votapka — 785-475-3963 David Juenemann 785-687-4845
 Shirley Simpson — 785-475-2057

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT www.johnson-real-estate.com

Johnson Realty, Inc.

Roberta Johnson, Broker - Lynn A. Johnson, Broker/Auctioneer
122 S. Penn - Oberlin, KS 67749

Call Roberta or Lynn A Johnson for listings, or information
 785-475-2785 - Mobile 785-475-8514
www.johnson-real-estate.com

JACQUELINE VOTAPKA, SALESPERSON
 ROGER EMIGH, SALESPERSON/AUCTIONEER
 JERRY LOHOEFENER, SALESPERSON
 DAVID JUENEMANN, SALESPERSON

JOE D. GREEN, SALESPERSON/AUCTIONEER
 RANDY OSTMEYER, SALESPERSON
 MARCIA LOHOEFENER, SALESPERSON
 SHIRLEY SIMPSON, SALESPERSON

HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY IS ON THE RISE IN KANSAS. THE ELLSWORTH GOOD SAMARITAN VILLAGE IS A CAMPUS LOCATED IN ELLSWORTH, KANSAS WITH LEVELS OF CARE FOR EVERY NEED. WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE. IN ORDER TO DO THIS WE ARE INCREASING OUR NURSING STAFF. WE ARE LOOKING FOR RN'S, LPN'S, AND AN MDS COORDINATOR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT GEORGINA AT 785-472-3167.

IT'S BIG.

No Interest 'til 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008!

It's The Big Game, You Need A Big Screen, And We Have A Big Deal During The Mitsubishi Big Play Sales Event!

The New Mitsubishi Series 327, 325 and 735 High Definition DLP MicroDisplay TVs give you the perfect picture every time. Features include the Proprietary Mitsubishi DLP Light Engine, Dark Detailer, ANMP Adaptive Motion Processor and PerfectColor.



BIG PLAY SALES EVENT

Buy Any HDTV, Plasma, DLP or LCD Now During The Mitsubishi Big Play Sales Event And Have:

No Down Payment And No Interest Until 2008!

NEW LOW PRICE! Model WD-52327 52 inch HD-Upgradeable DLP MicroDisplay TV

Model LT-3050, 30 inch HD-Upgradeable LCD Flat Panel TV (Base Included)

Model WD-52725 52 inch DLP Digital Cable Ready MicroDisplay HDTV (Shown on Optional Marketing Base)

Model WD-50525 52 inch DLP Digital Cable Ready MicroDisplay HDTV (Shown on Optional Marketing Base)

Model WS-65315, 65 inch HD-Upgradeable TV

Model WS-65316 55 inch HD-Upgradeable TV

Model WS-46315, 48 inch HD-Upgradeable TV

Model PD-6050, 60 inch HD-Upgradeable Plasma Flat Panel

Model LT-2240, 22 inch HD-Upgradeable LCD Flat Panel TV (Base Included)



MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

No Interest For 3 YEARS!

Model LT-2240, 22 inch HD-Upgradeable LCD Flat Panel TV (Base Included)

MITSUBISHI THREE DIAMOND CARD
 Program Runs January 28 through February 6, 2005
 Manufacturers suggested retail pricing. Available only at participating dealers. All retail prices are established independently by dealers, and some dealers may not participate.
 The Mitsubishi Electric logo is a registered trademark of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation.
 © 2005 Mitsubishi Electric Corporation. All rights reserved.

VIDEO KINGDOM ELECTRONICS HOME • MOBILE
 1008 West B • McCook • 345-5294

Sale ends Sunday, February 6