

Board tables decision on air, heating until fall

Three options available to replace boilers in old part of high school

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
The Oberlin School Board tabled a decision about putting in new heating and air conditioning at the high school until the end of summer so the work won't be done while school is in session.

Greg Wolford, with W Design Associates out of Nebraska, said if the board decided on one of the options at their meeting Monday, April 11, it would mean the installation would start in August, which is when the kids are going back to class.

Mr. Wolford said if the board wants to do something, they should wait until the fall so they can get bids back and award the work to a contractor to be done the following summer.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he had called the firm when he realized that the steam boilers which heat the old part of the high school needed to be replaced. He said he looked at newer systems in two districts, Dundy County (Benkelman), Neb., and Bird City. Both had their work done by W Design.

The firm suggested four options. The first was do nothing, which would cost around \$27,700 a year for gas and electric bill and maintenance. The second was to put in a heat pump and gas furnace with an energy recovery unit for \$321,100. The next option was to put in a gas furnace and electric cooling with an energy recovery unit at a cost of \$300,000. The last option was to put in a heat pump and electric auxiliary with an energy recovery unit for \$386,200.

April Hock, who presented the report, said their recommendation was the gas furnace with electric cooling.

The district, said Mr. Glodt, barely got through the winter with the steam boilers. At the very least, those have to be replaced or the high school could end up with no heat.

Mr. Wolford said with the recommended option, the steam boilers wouldn't be used. The electrical system can carry air conditioning for the old part of the building or the new part, he said, but not both. If the board wants to put air in the whole building, he said, they would need to increase the size of the electric service.

If the board wants to do something, he said, the next step would

be construction plans and specifications, so when the contractor turns in the bids it all matches up.

It would be a public bid, said Mr. Wolford, but notices will be sent to contractors they have worked with before. Any contractor can bid on the project, however.

The high school, said Mr. Wolford, has duct work in place. The idea is to try to reuse a lot of that, which will help save money. When they get into projects, he said, and start breaking into walls, they can find a lot of problems. Buildings were built differently in the 1930s, he said.

The cost estimates are based on past projects, he said. A lot of that depends on the contractors.

Mr. Wolford said the soonest they could take bids would be June. If at the July meeting the board awarded the contract, then it takes 30 days to order the equipment. They wouldn't get into the building for 30 days, he said.

The ideal way to do this is to have the contractor moving in the day school is out.

A lot of the work, he said, is in mechanical rooms, but a lot of it is in class rooms, too. If the contractor has to do work in a classroom, said Mr. Wolford, class can't be held at the same time.

Realistically, to get this project done, he said, the boilers need to be babied through one more year.

Plant Facilities Supervisor Kenny Black said he thought they could do that, although there will have to be some parts replaced. That will cost a little bit of money.

The district spent \$7,500 on the boilers this year to get them through the year.

If the district decides to keep the boilers, said Mr. Glodt, there are other air conditioning options. It will cost about the same amount of money to just put in air conditioning.

Board President Dewayne Jackson asked if it would cost much to clean out the old ducts. Mr. Wolford said there will be some expense, but not a huge amount.

The equipment in the options, he said, are residential and small commercial imots, meaning the businesses here can maintain them.

The board agreed to table any further discussion or action on the options until August.

Luminaries on sale for annual relay

Luminaries for the annual Relay for Life on Friday, June 17, are on sale now for \$10 a piece.

The luminaries can be purchased in memory of a person who lost the battle to cancer or to honor survivors.

Each luminary is a white sack with a candle in it. On the outside of the sack the name of the person who the luminary honors is written along with the person who purchased it.

The sacks, said Dr. Gary Fredrickson, a member of the event committee, will be placed around the high school track, where the walk will take place.

Before 10 p.m. Friday, the candles will be lighted. At 10 p.m., the stadium lights will be lowered

and only the luminaries will glow. Dr. Fredrickson said the goal is to encircle the entire track with the luminaries.

He said the cost of the bags and candles are covered by sponsors so the \$10 goes entirely to cancer research.

In order to get the name of the person for whom the luminary is purchased in the program, it has to be purchased before June 10. All names on the luminaries will be read during the ceremony, however.

Everyone is welcome to the luminary celebration at 10 p.m. on Friday, June 17.

If you are interested in purchasing a luminary, call Peg Smith at 475-2296.



AT A TACO DINNER for the Sunflower Cinema last Wednesday, Duane Dorshorst, (right) a theater board mem-

ber, served Suzanne and Dick Ahlberg. The event brought in over \$900 before expenses. — Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

Theater group serves tacos to raise cash

The Sunflower Theater board raised \$928 at a taco feed last Wednesday to help purchase new speakers.

Jennifer Auxier, a member of the board, said the amount was before expenses. In the past, she said, the food has been donated for the dinner, but this year it wasn't.

She said the board made the same amount of food as they did for the

taco dinner last year and had some left over. Although she wasn't sure how many people came to the Golden Age Center to eat, she thought it was less than last year.

Money raised last year, said Ms. Auxier, was used to purchase a new processor amplifier system. Basically, she said, the theater has a new sound system, but still needs new speakers.

The old speakers are functioning, she said, but the quality will be much better with new ones.

Miss Auxier said the theater received money from the Seeds of Hope Telethon which will be used to replace the carpet in the lobby sometime this summer.

Sunflower Cinema will be closed the last three weeks in May for prom, graduation and Memorial

Day, she said.

On Friday, June 3, it will reopen for the summer. Ms. Auxier said showings will be 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the summer. There won't be any matinees.

The theater is doing great, she said, but the board is always looking for people who want to run the projector and organizations that want to volunteer.

Museum curator thanks county for help

The curator and a board member asked the Decatur County commissioners to continue the county's financial support of the Last Indian Raid Museum next year during a meeting last Tuesday.

The county's museum budget is \$13,000 a year from the county, which is raised by a property tax levy of .479 mills. The levy is split between museums in Oberlin and

Jennings. The county has \$4,000 budgeted for the museum in Jennings. The museums only receive the whole amount if everyone pays their taxes.

Curator Sharleen Wurm said they appreciate the money they received from the county.

The commissioners didn't make any decisions, but will keep the request until they start the budget this

summer.

Besides the money from the county the museum has fund raisers throughout the year, accepts donations and charges \$3 for each adult, \$1.50 for kids 6-years-old and over and free to kids younger than 6-years-old.

Mrs. Wurm said at the recent rummage sale, the museum raised over \$1,300.

The people in the area are generous, said Board Member Barb Dehlinger. Where the museum struggles is with the daily things. That is why they decided to cut down to one day less a week they

were open during the winter time when they are mainly doing genealogy. That saved the museum money on salaries and utilities, she said.

Mrs. Dehlinger said she appreciates what the county does for the museum.

Plans at the museum, said Mrs. Wurm, include moving the old Lutheran Church from Norcatu either at the end of April or beginning of May. She said she is indexing old county records.

The new board, said Mrs. Dehlinger, is young, a whole new generation of people, and they have a lot of ideas and energy.

Man will pay city to pave half of street

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to let an Oberlin man pave his half of the street in the 800 block of E. Jackson.

Gary Allen, who owns property in the 800 block, said his garage is off of a dirt street. When it snows or rains, he said, it's tough to get to it. Mr. Allen said he would be more than willing to pay for paving his half of the street.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he talked with Wayne Hackney of Oberlin Concrete for a rough estimate to pave the street according to city specifications, eight inches of concrete. The estimate was \$9,500 for the whole street.

Councilman Rob McFee said he didn't know why, if Mr. Allen is willing to pay for the paving, the city wouldn't do it.

Mayor Ken Shobe asked if

there would be any maintenance problems for a half-paved street. Mr. Shike said he didn't think so.

Councilman Ray Ward said he would hate to see the city pave half of the street. If the city paved the whole street, he asked, would that make the property owners' taxes go up?

If more than 50 percent to the adjoining property owners petition for the paving, then the city can have the road paved and the cost will be assessed to the property owners.

The other property owner, he said, doesn't want the road paved. The city can't just pave it and make the other person pay.

The council approved paving the south side of the 800 block of E. Jackson at the expense of Mr. Allen, however, leaving the north side unpaved.

Sampler to be in Newton

The 16th Annual Kansas Sampler Festival will be held at the Athletic Park in Newton from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 8.

A project of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, the event was created to provide the public a sample of what there is to see, do, taste, hear, buy and learn around Kansas. Towns from every part of the state and entrepreneurs, historic performers, musicians, entertainers and ethnic food vendors will take part.

"The hope is to get information in the hands of the public and make it easy for them to plan Kansas day trips," said Director Marci Penner.

"The other purpose is to just bring people together in a celebration atmosphere and create a good feeling about being Kansans."

The festival was held on the Penner Farm near Inman from 1990-1997 and then started moving around the state on a two-year rotation. Pratt, Ottawa, and Independence have sponsored the event, and Garden City will host the 2006 and 2007 festivals.

The park is at 1st and Grandview in Newton. Admission will be adults, \$5; children 7-14, \$3; and kids 6 and under free. For details, call (800) 899-0455 or go to www.kansassamplerfestival.com.

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