

Airport numbers really do add up

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While the numbers presented at an informational meeting about the airport Thursday didn't seem to add up, a few questions to the officials involved produced a better picture of the project's costs.

Numbers for local support and money from the Federal Aviation Administration presented in City Council meetings and by City Administrator Austin Gilley at the meeting Thursday are for a 7,000-foot runway, the project the city started with. Those from the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. and the airport advisory committee are for a 5,500-foot runway.

Mr. Lohofener, who got up at the end of the meeting, after Mr. Gilley was done, said only 2 1/2 percent of

the \$12.5 million project will come out of city coffers for a 5,500 foot runway.

Mr. Lohofener showed a \$745,000 local share broken down into \$45,000 from the city, \$400,000 in revenue bonds, \$100,000 in stimulus money for an automated fueling station, \$150,000 from a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan and \$50,000 from Decatur County. That totals \$195,000 to be paid by the city, including the loan, and \$50,000 from the county.

The revenue bonds would be paid back first with profits from fuel sales, said Mr. Lohofener, while the loan would be paid back by the city.

For a 7,000-foot runway, said Mr. Gilley, the information from the engineer shows local support

Petition would stop spending

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A petition to prohibit spending any federal, state, city or private money for a new runway at the Oberlin airport was certified by the Decatur County clerk on Friday, meaning that the council will either have to accept the dictate or put the issue up for a vote.

With the confirmed signatures of 189 registered city voters, the next step is for the petition is to be presented to the City Council. That should happen when the council meets at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said she received the

petition Friday morning. Steve and Marilyn Horn and Joanne Lahman carried the petition, asking for signatures from those who don't want to see further work done to build a new runway. The project would cost an estimated \$10,915,680 from the Federal Aviation Administration, with local sources paying up to \$545,784 for the 5,500 foot runway. For a proposed 7,000-foot runway, it would cost the government \$11,381,930 and local sources \$831,530, according to numbers from the engineers.

The petition says, "The City of Oberlin is hereby prohibited from spending any federal, state, city

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at \$831,530 with federal money at \$11,381,930.

The city could sell revenue bonds,

said Mr. Gilley, to pay for the project.

The current airport, he said, costs

around \$10,000 to run for a year, adding that he isn't sure how accurate that number is.

The future operation is projected at \$31,500 a year, said Mr. Gilley, although the engineers have estimated it at \$50,000. An unknown number in that is the cost for administration and marketing, because the city doesn't have anyone working fulltime at the airport.

Mr. Lohofener said he also had an estimated budget for the airport at \$50,000 a year, with \$10,000 for repairs and maintenance, \$25,000 for a manager and office supplies, \$6,000 for utilities and \$9,000 for marketing.

There's one rented city hangar, said Mr. Gilley, but no one knows what that number will be in the future. Five planes are based here, with the potential of nine total.

People pay the city to lease ground for nine private hangars at (See NUMBERS on Page 12A)



Students learn to play

IN BAND CLASS at the grade school on Monday, Andrew Wade (above) worked on a piece on his trumpet. After the students tried the piece once, Teacher Sarah Bricker worked with them to clap out the beat, which Keagen Blau (left) did. After the students clapped a beat a few times, they tried it again on their instruments.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Thresher show this weekend at fairground

The Decatur County Fairground will open up Saturday and Sunday for the 29th annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show.

Traditionally, the show has been held the first weekend in October, but so many people are involved in corn harvest, said Reva Marshall, one of the organizers, that the club decided to move the show up.

The group started the show 29 years ago, she said, because they wanted to teach the younger generations — their grandkids and great-grandkids — about how their ancestors used to thresh wheat and shuck corn and how farm machinery used to work.

The group is a nonprofit organization, trying to keep history alive, she said. There's no charge to get into the show.

The show kicks off each day with a 7 a.m. breakfast cooked and served out of the 4-H Building at the fairground. After that, free registration starts at 7:30 a.m., with events starting up at 9 a.m.

Throughout the day, a craft market, demonstrations of antique farm

machinery, kids games and food will be available. There will also be a quilt show both days in the Open Class building.

Other activities will include:

- A kids' pedal tractor pull at 11 a.m. Saturday.

- Free train rides from 1 to 3 p.m. both days.

- A "stock" garden-tractor pull at 1 p.m. Saturday.

- A parade at 4 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

- A nondenominational church service at 8 a.m. Sunday led by Jim Plotts Jr. from Norcatour.

Starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, the group will serve a barbecue supper at the fairgrounds for \$6 a person. The meal is free to exhibitors and vendors. The menu includes a barbecue pork sandwich, baked potato and green beans.

The group is raffling off a Case-International pedal tractor with trailer and a Traeger Junior Grill. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six.

The items will be given away after the parade on Sunday. Ticket holders don't have to be present to win.

Homecoming game set for Friday night

Decatur Community High School graduates will return home Friday for the first home Red Devils football game, which also happens to be the school's Homecoming.

Students started working on their window decorating competition and floats earlier in the week, although the bonfire and pep rally, parade, assembly, game and dance aren't until the end of the week.

Counselor Brenda Breth said the theme for the window decorating competition is commercials, but no theme has been selected yet for the floats.

The pep rally and bonfire will start at 8 p.m. Thursday starting at the high school. At 1:15 p.m. Friday in the auditorium will be the assembly, followed by the Homecoming parade on Main Street.

This year, said Mrs. Breth, the

10-year queen is Erica Martin, who is out of the country and cannot attend. Danielle Bailey, a candidate for queen that year, will fill in for Ms. Martin. C.J. Peters will be the athlete from the past.

Candidates for this year's queen include Brandi Diederich, Jessica Fredrickson, Kira Meitl, Adrienne Pauls and Ashley Samson. King candidates are Wiley Farr, Cody Kane, Kaden Macfee, Toby Peters and Justin Williams.

The flower girl will be Skylar Brown, daughter of Doug and Pat Brown, and the crown bearer is Landon Macfee, son of Dennis and Shelly Macfee.

The Red Devils football game with Plainville will start at 7 p.m. Friday at Smick Field, with the Homecoming dance scheduled for 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday at the school.

School section inside

Inside this week's edition of *The Oberlin Herald*, readers will find a special section on the state of schools in northwest Kansas.

The edition, produced by all the papers in the Northwest Newspaper group, covers the history of the districts, current enrollment in this part of the state, consolidation, cooperative agreements and what's happening at the state level.

Schools and former districts included in the issue include Brewster, Cheylin, Colby, Edmond, Densmore, Gem, Golden Plains, Goodland, Atwood and Herndon, Jennings, Lenora, Logan, Norcatour, Northern Valley, Norton, Menlo, Oberlin and St. Francis.



