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# THE OBERLIN HERALD

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## Airport numbers really do add up

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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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

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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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 (See AIRPORT on Page 12A)

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 has 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 (See NUMBERS on Page 12A)



## 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

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 1 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.

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