

*Water system would require home access

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 what that could be spent on, including the electric system, water mains and those kind of items.
 Councilman Ray Ward said he thought the reverse osmosis units would be only a temporary fix. No one knows the cost of operating or maintaining the systems. If it doesn't work forever, said Mr. Ward, then the city would have to do the water treatment plant anyway.
 Mr. McFee, said Mr. Ward, probably won't be the only one who will not let someone in the house.
 The council decided a month ago to go

ahead with the treatment plant, said Mr. McFee, and now they're discussing this temporary fix with a lot of ifs again.
 Why would someone pay Culligan to maintain a water softener if the city is going to do the same thing? he asked.
 The taxpayers are already paying for these systems, most of them, just not to the city, said Ms. May. She said she would guess that 80 percent of the people who are using water softening and reverse osmosis units are using Culligan.
 Ms. May asked the audience how many didn't have a water softener. Two people said they didn't. Only one didn't have a

reverse osmosis system.
 Ninety percent of the room has the items, she said. How much of that equipment could be used?
 Zero percent, said Mr. Miller, because the systems the city will want need alarms on them. He said he's not sure if that part can be added on.
 The Environmental Protection Agency, said Mr. Miller, says that once there are 125 to 150 people on a water system, municipalities should do central treatment, not individual treatment.
 That doesn't take into account that most people are already paying for the equipment

in their homes, Ms. May responded.
 If someone is paying \$24 a month now and it would cost \$36 a month to do this, said Mr. McFee, why would they want to pay more?
 Mayor Joe Stanley said they are dealing with a lot of what-ifs and assumptions. The council needs to decide if they want to get more information on the idea or not.
 Mrs. Lohofener asked how much water bills will go up if the city builds a central water treatment plant? No one replied.
 Mr. Ward asked how quick the city needs to start on the project to comply with the consent order. Mr. Miller said his firm has

survey crews in town now. He said he could have numbers and comparisons of costs and maintenance in about a month.
 Mrs. Lohofener said she wants to do what's best for the people, but when the council had a public meeting on putting in a water treatment plant, no one showed up.
 Mr. Ward said he thinks people understand that the plant is something that has to be done. He added that he thinks it's a waste of time to do research on putting in individual reverse osmosis units because he doesn't think it's going to work.
 Ms. May moved to study putting the units in, but it died for lack of a second.

City will look at cost of hiring museum for job

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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 The Oberlin City Council held off on a contract between the city and the Last Indian Raid Museum to see what the hourly rate would be for filing, shredding, digitizing and working on files for the city.
 The council discussed the contract, under which the staff at the museum would get the records stored in a back room at The Gateway and at the Oberlin Police Department, and store them at the museum. The staff would then go through the boxes, shred the ones that aren't needed anymore, and file and digitize those that are needed. The agreement would also allow the museum to have copies of certain historical documents, said City Administrator Austin Gilley, which would be filed for people to use when they come in to do research.
 The museum works with this kind of stuff all the time, he said.
 Dick Carman, board member, said it would be beneficial to have the cemetery records so that people could use them for research.
 Mr. Gilley said he thinks the contract is a win/win situation. The museum, he said, can bill the city monthly for up to \$15,000 a year. Instead of paying the museum, he said, the city can provide utilities.
 This helps the city with a space issue, said Mr. Gilley, and it also helps get the records taken care of.
 It sounds good, said Mayor Joe Stanley. It's something the city has wanted to get done.
 The contract is for one year, said Mr. Gilley, but renews unless either party gives notice. Councilwoman Rhonda May asked how the museum will bill for the services?
 Mr. Carman, board member, said the museum could provide a monthly or yearly statement.
 If the city agrees to pay up to \$15,000 a year, Ms. May asked, how much work needs to be done to reach that amount?
 Councilman Ray Ward asked what the museum's hourly rate would be.
 The museum also does this for the county, said Mr. Carman, but it's a different arrangement.
 Mr. Ward said it still would be nice to know what the hourly rate

would be. It would be nice to know how much work the city will get for \$15,000, he said.
 Museum Director Sharleen Wurm said she's seen the stacks of documents but doesn't have any idea how long it will take to go through a box or get the job done.
 The museum has an incentive to work on the project, said Mr. Gilley, because they will get utilities for it.
 The agreement is worth the storage space alone, said Mr. Gilley. The space in The Gateway is needed for a new office space. More records are stored at the police station.
 It seems like a one-sided agreement, said Ms. May. She added that she could store the documents for the city and charge \$1,000 a month. There's lots of people with empty buildings who could store the documents, she said.
 Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener said she thought the city used to provide electricity for the museum. The city still does, said Mayor Stanley.
 Ms. May said she's not against the contract, but it seems one sided. Mr. Ward said he would like to know the hourly rate.
 The museum would like to continue having the utilities covered, said Mr. Carman. They have been for a long time, he said, but this way the museum can do something to earn those utilities.
 It would also be nice to have access to the city records for genealogy purposes, he said.
 It sounds like the council is in favor of it, said Mayor Stanley, but they want to know an hourly or monthly rate.
 Again Ms. May said she thought the contract is one sided and there is no guarantee of how many of the records will get done each year.
 Mr. Gilley asked, obviously upset, if she was suggesting that the museum would take advantage of the city or he would allow that.
 Ms. May said she wasn't suggesting that, but thinks it's a one-sided contract and she couldn't believe he wrote a contract like that.
 After voting on another item and a 10-minute break Mr. Gilley apologized to the mayor, Ms. May and the council for his response.

Making a clean sweep



CLEANING THE WALKS and parking area out in front of the courthouse on Sunday, custodian Bob Berls manned the shovel while Glen Strong took a loader up and down the street to clear the parking areas. — Photo by Cynthia Haynes

School board OKs 2010-11 calendar

The Oberlin School Board approved the calendar for the 2010-2011 school year after looking at two options which differed only on the days for parent-teacher conferences.
 In one, the conferences would be held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, while in the second, they would be Wednesday evening and Friday morning of the same week as they have been in recent years.
 The board, at its meeting Monday, Feb. 8, approved the second option, keeping the conference schedule

the same. This puts the first day of school on Tuesday, Aug. 17. Holidays and vacations would be:
 • Monday, Sept. 6, for Labor Day.
 • Friday, Oct. 29.
 • Wednesday through Friday, Nov. 24 to 26, for Thanksgiving.
 • Thursday, Dec. 23, through Tuesday, Jan. 4, for Christmas and New Year's.
 • Friday, Feb. 11.
 • Monday, March 14, through Friday, March 18, for spring break.
 • Friday, April 22, and Monday

April 25 for Easter.
 • Thursday and Friday Oct. 27-28 and Thursday and Friday, Feb. 9-10 for parent-teacher conferences.
 • Wednesday, May 25, as the last day of school.
 Terry Ream, outdoor maintenance supervisor, told the board both the 72- and 60- inch mowers had double the normal amount of use on them.
 The larger of the two mowers, said Mr. Dorshorst, gets used not only for mowing but the district has a blade to put on it for snow

removal; it's used to haul things to the football field and has a brush attachment, too. The board asked Mr. Ream to get some prices to replace the larger mower.
 The board approved a two-phase proposal from B&H Paving Inc. to seal cracks in the parking lot behind the high school. These would be blown out and patched for \$16,400 and the enter lot chip sealed for \$17,911.
 The chip seal, said Mr. Dorshorst, probably won't happen until summer.

*City OKs breakers for electrical system

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 The two circuit breakers he is asking to replace are 40 years old, said Mr. Gilley, adding that they are looking at operating without one of the breakers. Mr. Castle said he looked at that a couple weeks ago with representatives from Mid-States, but hasn't yet made a decision.
 On a side note, said Mr. Gilley, the fraying material people see on some lines is just old insulation. It doesn't mean there are electrical problems, but results from the way the wire was made back then.
 The council budgeted \$30,000 in the electric reserve fund for this project, the administrator said.
 The group briefly discussed the

fact that the city's contract with Sunflower Electric Power Corp., one of its main suppliers, will expire next year. Mr. Castle said he's heard from surrounding towns where the contracts are expiring that the rates are going up and that the city's power plant might have to run more.
 Councilman Ray Ward asked if the city would then need another radiator for the power plant in that case. It might, said Mr. Castle, if the plant is run more.
 Although the city received a bid from Mid-States for a third recloser/breaker for an additional \$21,850, the council decided not to do it.
 The city should at least get two circuit breakers, said Mr. Ward. The council approved the expense.

*Baseball players needed

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 Anderson is looking for music from 100 years ago to play.
 Mr. Anderson said they are also looking for groups that want to have food booths for the event. He said the committee has talked about having Cracker Jacks and popcorn.
 He said someone already plans to sell hot dogs.
 Next year is the 150th anniversary of Kansas statehood, said Mr.

Anderson, and the old-time baseball group wants to have a sanctioned tournament in Jetmore, so the Oberlin team could play in it too.
 Before the game here, someone from Hodgeman County will come out and go over the rules with the team.
 Anyone interested in playing should call Mr. Anderson at 475-2340 or Sharleen Wurm at the Last Indian Raid Museum at 475-2712.

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