

College board looks at budget for coming year

By SAM DIETER
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The Colby Community College Board of Trustees prepared to set up a budget for the coming year.

The trustees voted to have a special board meeting at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 27 and a budget hearing at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 12 after hearing a report from financial vice president Alan Waites and discussing the budget for the coming year.

Waites said that a report to the Higher Learning Commission, which had been monitoring the college's finances, was accepted. This keeps the college out of trouble with the commission, but the college is still in a critical position with its cash reserves.

"For now we're out of the deep water but we need to stay on task and do what we say we're going to do," Waites said.

He added that cash flow in the college budget will be a problem for a long time.

The college spent \$13,792,000 out of its \$13,880,000 last year, and plans to spend \$14,520,000 this year. The college had a cash balance of \$847,000 at the end of June, as opposed to \$973,000 at the same time last year, Waites reported. It owed \$127,000 in its accounts payable at the end of last month, as opposed to \$336,000 at the end of June last year.

Waites said the biggest issue was funding based on student enrollment. He was confident about the budget for coming years, he said, until last winter, when he saw an "abysmal" student retention rate between fall and spring.

For every percent the college enrollment drops, it loses \$40,000 from the budget. They might have to subtract \$320,000 from what it was expecting to earn in the coming year, he said, because of an eight percent gap in the enrollment numbers: the college at first expected a two percent spike in enrollment, but instead could see a six percent decrease.

Given what happened this spring, Waites said the trustees should not expect to get that money back next year.

"Does everyone understand the concept that if we're behind seven percent, eight percent, nine percent, holy cow, we need to find some

money right now," he asked the trustees.

College President Dr. Stephen Vacic said the college might be losing some students because it is heightening its academic standards, which might be driving some of them away.

Waites pointed out that the college is spending 55 percent of its budget on personnel costs, or 85 percent of its discretionary funding. He pointed out those costs will have to be cut into in order to cut down on spending.

In other business, the trustees:

- Approved new employee contracts for Kenneth Michael as assistant women's basketball coach, Glenda Overstreet as vice president of business affairs, Richelle Shipley as an admissions counselor, Yesenia Talavera as the student account receivable manager, Chelsea Funk as a Title III online student services developer and George McNulty as the vice president of student affairs. The board also renewed 70 contracts for existing employees.

- Approved new agreements with Rooks County Health Center of Plainville, Jetz Laundry Matters of Topeka and Kit Carson Memorial Hospital of Burlington, and renewed agreements with Graham County Hospital of Hill City, Logan County Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital of Kearney, Neb., and Gove County Medical Center.

- Approved resignation letters from financial aid Director Paul Halvorson, associate director of financial aid Jade Inlow, student accounts receivable Manager Melanie Randel, custodian Melissa Garcia and nursing instructor Shannon Plummer.

- Approved \$75,000 in insurance for the athletic department, and \$12,534 in catastrophic insurance, which covers life threatening injuries.

- Talked about a five-year contract with Ellucian, which owns a program called power campus that provides the college with information about its students. Technology Director Brooks Wederski does not have a final contract proposal, but said this contract will probably be for \$62,324 a year, a fee that will go up no more than six percent a year for the next five years.



MANY HANDS MADE LIGHT work of tasks to be completed before the Decatur County Fair. On a recent work day amusement authority members, (top) Pam VanVleet, left, and Cheryl Metcalf opened a bag of ice to test the

new sno-cone machine. Authority vice president, Brad Larson, (below) used a spade to help clean up the midway grounds. — Decatur Amusement Authority photos

Fair gets new food machines

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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With the help of donors, the Decatur County Amusement Authority has purchased three new machines to add to the food booths at the county fair in August.

President Sherri Kyte said the authority bought a new cotton candy machine, a new sno-cone machine, an ice machine and a new funnel cake machine.

Some of the money, she said, was donated by Tom and Danielle Wasson, whose family has a history of helping with the carnival.

Ms. Kyte said that it was time to upgrade some of the machines to minimize problems during the fair. One of the cotton candy machines was having problems with the drive belt and had a lot of wear and tear.

The sno-cone machine the authority has been using, Ms. Kyte said, stopped working and they had to rent a machine from Norton Ice last year.

After Kuhlman Liquor said they would no longer be providing ice for the booths, Ms. Kyte said, Raye's Grocery offered to sell them a machine.

"Along with snow cones and cotton candy," she said, "there will be hot dogs, nachos, chicken strips, mozzarella sticks, a pork burger stand, funnel cakes, popcorn, pretzels with cheese, cherry limeades and tea available at various booths."

Ms. Kyte said other improvements the group has made to the carnival include recovering the seats on some of the rides.

"Some of the rides that will be at the carnival this year," she said, "are the bumper cars, the children's turtle ride, the mechanical bull, the slide, the swings, the octopus, the carousel, the twist over and the Ferris wheel."

Volunteer Carrie Morford said the board will be having a work day at 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

"We will putting the rides back together," she said. "We need to



change light bulbs, clean up some of the buildings and haul games to their positions. The more people we have, the merrier."

Ms. Kyte said the amusement board is comprised of 16 volunteers, including herself, Vice President Brad Larson, Treasurer Charissa

Huff, Secretary Holly Soderlund, Shannon Addleman, Valerie Faris, Elden Huff, Rollie Avery, Robert Rouse, Jessie Allen, John Mosier, Lacey Smith, Pam VanVleet, Cheryl Metcalf, Shelby Hackney and Mrs. Morford. They are always looking for new members, she added.

County workers to get raise

The Decatur County commissioners agreed last Tuesday to give a 3 percent pay raise to county employees starting in July.

The commissioners said the raise will be for all full-time and part-time employees, excluding the commissioners and seasonal workers.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said the last time the commissioners gave county employees a pay raise was October, when they got a 4 percent increase.

The commissions said the raise is intended to help employees with the cost of living increase.

Chairman Stan McEvoy said he was hesitant to agree to the raise because of the harsh editorials the commissioners received from owner of *The Oberlin Herald*, Steve Haynes about them giving raises to

county employees.

Mr. McEvoy said, "I expect every time (the commissioners) give the county employees some kind of raise, Steve is going to write an editorial about it."

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a highway permit for the City of Oberlin to bury water mains along county roads for the city's water project.

- Approved the purchase of \$5,541 in equipment and materials for the city fire department. The purchase includes helmets, gloves, fire suits, restocking a gallon of class A foam and a rack to hold the fire fighters' gear.

- Agreed to allow Register of Deeds Kari Ketterl to use \$6,300 from her tech fund to convert the images on record books to micro-

film.

- Approved \$2,299 to buy an air conditioner for the weed-control department.

- Heard an update from weed department director Gaylen Huntley on bindweed spraying. He said the department is behind schedule, but they should be finished with spraying in about two weeks.

- Agreed to postpone the July 30 meeting for the proposed Neighborhood Revitalization Program, which would offer tax rebates on new or remodeled buildings, until Aug. 6, so they can talk the plan over with County Appraiser Alan Hale.

- Agreed not to meet next week so they can attend a seminar in Colby on open meetings and open records. The session is sponsored by the state attorney general's office and the Kansas Press Association.

Decatur County under burn ban

With the weather dry and expected to get drier, Decatur County commissioners put the county under a burn ban, in effect immediately, after meeting with the fire chief last Tuesday.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said since the county had made it past the Fourth of July with no major fires, this would be a good time to take precautions.

"Everything is really dry," he said. "The stubble last year was about three feet tall, and it's not even a foot tall this year."

The resolution states that the ban prohibits open flames and campfires

except in stoves, fireplaces and barbecue grills.

Smoking materials such as cigarettes and matches must be discarded in a manner that will not create a fire hazard.

The order also bans burning fence rows, fields, wild lands, ravines, trash and debris.

The county will be under the ban until the drought is no longer an issue, commissioners said. Penalties for violations range from ticket citations to a possible misdemeanor charge for knowing and willful violations.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of City of Jennings will meet on August 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at City Office, Jennings, Kansas for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Jennings City Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2014 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2013 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2014 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual for 2012		Current Year Estimate for 2013		Proposed Budget for 2014		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2013 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate*
General	36,098	37.911	75,000	36.617	78,400	15,231	38.555
Debt Service					5,573		
Library	3,751	7.571	3,819	7.525	4,090	2,976	7.533
Employee Benefits	3,152	1.091	4,500	5.528	5,500	2,235	5.657
Special Highway			12,000		16,170		
Water	25,394		30,000		48,259		
Sewer	1,848		8,000		48,667		
Com. Bldg. Renovation	537				161		
Municipal Equip Reserve					780		
Capital Improvements					2,031		
Special Projects	5,022		6,000		107,328		
Totals	75,802	46.573	139,319	51.670	316,959	20,442	51.745
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	75,802		139,319		316,959		
Total Tax Levied	18,460		20,284		xxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	401,284		397,573		395,051		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,		2011		2012		2013	
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
Paula Krizek, City Official Title: City Clerk