

Central Local qualifies for additional OSFC funding

Local share of funds drops from 26 percent to 18 percent

By PETER GREER
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SHERWOOD — Taking the uncertainty of the economy into account, the Central Local Board of Education spent much of Tuesday's session discussing future financial issues.

Superintendent David Bagley discussed a recent meeting with the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC), which provided him with good news about state funding: Central Local Schools qualifies for more state dollars for a building program.

Bagley reported that, for an OSFC project, the local share of funds to build a new facility has dropped from 26 percent to 18 percent.

Therefore, OSFC would pay 82 percent of the project costs rather than the 74 percent allocated in previous years.

In recent years, three tax issues for the construction of a new building or the upgrading of current facilities have been turned down by voters.

Bagley added the current Fairview High School-Middle School building is continuing to deteriorate.

He mentioned that the latches on many of the lockers are beginning to break; railings on the north and south ends of the building have fallen into disrepair; and ovens, a freezer and a fryer that became too old to work properly have been replaced.

At this point, board mem-

bers have made no decisions on whether they will pursue a building project. The board is seeking public input before taking any possible action.

The board also heard from district treasurer Ted Penner regarding the district's five-year financial forecast. Penner made his report despite uncertainty of the state budget and district income tax.

He said that almost all levels of funding have decreased and that income tax revenues are expected to drop in 2010 by 10 percent, after which they would stay flat for two years and then go up again.

Penner forecast positive cash balances through fiscal year 2012, with a negative balance to follow

in 2013 and 2014.

Although the forecast was not rosy, Penner said, it could be worse. "We're going to be OK for the next three years," he said, "and that's what's important right now."

In other business, the board: — accepted the retirement resignation of educational technologist Lura Jeffery, effective Nov. 30. Jeffery has spent 30 years in education, the last 28 with Central Local.

— OK'd policy updates regarding electronic devices, electronic mail, student records and student abuse and neglect. Other policies regarding cell phone photography and wireless devices were tabled.

— approved the state model for special education. In order to receive state funding for special education, the district must

approve the state model or adopt its own, which Bagley said can lead to time-consuming red tape. Most Ohio schools, he said, were adopting the state model. He added the state's requisites for special ed programs were similar to those already done by the district.

— discussed repair of the railings on the north and south ends of the school, which would cost an estimate \$9,790 and \$8,056, respectively. The north end may be repaired during Christmas break.

— heard the Teachers Association of Central Local Schools will hold a Meet the Candidates night at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at Fairview Elementary School.

— heard from tech coordinator Adam Singer, who discussed changes and upgrades made to technological systems.

Tour of area ghost towns set

STRYKER — Local historians Kevin Maynard and Richard Cooley will present an armchair tour of local ghost towns at the Stryker Area Heritage Council's fifth annual general membership meeting on Nov. 10.

The presentation features the stories behind defunct villages including Edinburg, Clarksville, Denmark, Freedom, West Buffalo, Parkersburg, Lockport and Williamsport.

"These towns were all formally surveyed and recorded," Maynard said. "Some, such as Pleasant Hill, existed only on paper. Others flourished for a time, featuring businesses, homes, churches, post offices and schools before fading into oblivion."

"A number of ghost towns were platted in hopes of becoming the Williams County seat," added Cooley. "Others vanished due to a rival village or lack of good transportation facilities."

Copies of the ghost towns presentation will be available at the event, with proceeds benefiting SAHC's programs and operations.

The SAHC annual general membership meeting begins



Richard Cooley (left) and Kevin Maynard pose with the historic marker for Denmark, an extinct village north of Edgerton. The pair will offer an armchair tour of area ghost towns at the Stryker Area Heritage Council's fifth annual general membership meeting on Nov. 10 in Stryker.

with a banquet-style Swiss steak dinner served with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, salad and dessert. Reservations must be made until Nov. 1 by sending a check or money order for \$10 per person to the Stryker Area Heritage Council, PO Box 180, Stryker 43557, by e-mailing info@strykerahc.org, or

by calling SAHC secretary Phil Short at 419-682-6421. Payment may be made at the door, but reservations are required by Nov. 1.

Members will also elect representatives to the board of trustees and hear an update on the SAHC's 2008-09 progress.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. at the Stryker United

Methodist Church, 301 Cherry St., Stryker, and is open to members and the public. Stryker Rotarians will also be in attendance that evening in honor of the Rotary club's 60th anniversary.

For additional information, check the SAHC website at www.strykerahc.org.

Sherwood

Additional costs hit pump station project

SHERWOOD — Sherwood Village Council heard about additional expenses connected to the pump station replacement during its meeting Monday.

Rick Weaver of Poggemeyer Design Group explained that there were a few additional expenses with the pump station replacement. The total of additional costs was \$6,468.09.

Dawn Buskirk, village fiscal officer, said crews were able to salvage part of the old pump station, which may recoup some of the cost.

The village is also looking into selling some of the salvaged parts to another municipality.

Council also heard that the first round of archery equipment for the ranges has been ordered. The round includes 12 bows, 10 dozen arrows, arrow curtains and targets. Adult archery classes offered soon as well.

Various volunteers are looking forward to helping with archery. Among the volunteers is Alex Renollet. He is a two-time state champion, five-time state runner-up and placed fifth in the world

3-D competition shooting with the International Bow Association, Buskirk said.

The village is also working to obtain a grant through Maumee Valley Planning Organization to heat the hall where the archery will take place.

In other business, council:

— reminded residents that trick-or-treat is Oct. 31 from 3:30-5 p.m.

— approved an ordinance to advertise for bids for five solar-powered floating machines for the lagoon.

— approved an ordinance changing the wording on a zoning amendment.

— was advised that six catch basins were repaired.

— heard that American Electric Power rates will increase.

— was told that individuals will be coming to town to see if it is possible to place windmills here.

— decided to pay for Colby Worth's fire training and let Shawn Antoine back on the fire department.

— heard hydrant flushing will be taking place this week.

Trio of medical conditions added to exposure list

Three medical conditions have been added to the Veterans Administration's list as service-connected conditions due to herbicide exposure to Agent Orange, according to the Defiance County Veterans Office.

The conditions include: B cell leukemia (hairy cell leukemia), Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease.

Veterans who have been

exposed to Agent Orange should contact their county veteran's service offices and file a claim for compensation.

Persons who have questions about these diseases should contact a family physician to confirm the diagnosis.

There are now 125 presumed illnesses recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs as Agent

Orange diseases.

The other diseases include transient peripheral neuropathy, choracne, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, porphyria cutanea tarda, prostate cancer, soft tissue sarcomas and respiratory cancers such as those of the lung, larynx, trachea and bronchus.

Agent Orange-exposed veterans include those veterans who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and veterans who served along the DMZ in Korea between April 1968 and July 1969.

Surviving spouses of veterans who died from Agent Orange diseases should contact the county veteran's office and file a claim for benefits.

✓ VOTE YES

For the continued operation of the 9-1-1 Center

✓ VOTE YES

For a **REDUCTION & RENEWAL** of an existing levy for 9-1-1

✓ A YES VOTE

Will **REDUCE** the existing millage from 1.2 mills to 1.0 mill

Defiance County needs our 9-1-1 Service!

- Over 12,000 9-1-1 calls were placed in 2008
- 58% were cell phones and new equipment allows rescue personnel to track all cell phone calls
- 9-1-1 Dispatches **ALL** Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement in Defiance County

✓ VOTE YES

For the **Continued Operation of the 9-1-1 Center on NOVEMBER 3rd**

Paid for by Citizens for E 911 Levy, Darrell Jones, Treasurer, 09814 Anderson Street, Mark Center, OH 43536

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