



Warm weather gets kids onto street

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, Jesse Isbell (left) picked up a snowball to throw at one of his siblings. The family, including Judith (above), played in the water from the melting snow flowing down Cass Avenue in their swimsuits and shorts, while throwing the occasional snowball.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Windows might be replaced

The Decatur County commissioners told the sheriff last Tuesday to get some proposals on what it would cost to replace windows on the fourth floor of the courthouse.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said he knows the project would be for next year's budget, but it would probably be a good idea to get new windows in the jail. Now, he said, they have to put styrofoam in the seven windows in the jail to keep the cold air out.

The jail windows, said Sheriff Badsky, don't need to be opened, so the thermal panes could be used.

He added that new windows would probably help the county save money on energy.

It might be a good idea to get some proposals closer to budget time, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy. That way, if the project is going to get done, that money can be put in the 2012 budget.

It might be good to do all the windows on the fourth floor at the same time, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, not just the ones in the jail.

Sheriff Badsky said he worked the numbers for what it cost for jail care last year. There were 192 days for women and 1,672 for men, meaning there was more than one man in jail any given day. The majority of the prisoners, said Sheriff Badsky, were from here. Utilities ran \$4,250.

After looking at everything, he said, it costs \$16.96 per prisoner per day. Currently, said Sheriff Badsky, the city pays \$10 a day.

Sheriff Badsky said they ordered some ammunition for the sheriff's office, which cost \$1,103. He said he thought that last year, the bill was around \$1,700.

Courthouse may get insulation to quiet third floor

The Decatur County commissioners talked with the clerk of the district court about putting more insulation between the courtroom and the judge's chambers on the third floor of the courthouse.

During the meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 1, Clerk Janet Meitl said during the recent trial, they noticed a problem with sound traveling between the courtroom and Judge John Bremer's chambers to the south.

The group talked about adding more insulation above the drop ceiling.

Mrs. Meitl said she would like to get a new locked file cabinet for

her office. The one they keep the juvenile and adoption records in is almost full, she said. A new steel one would cost around \$1,500, while a cheaper one is \$1,000.

Mrs. Meitl said she would get bids.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a resolution to set the Decatur County Hospital Board at five members with three-year terms, which isn't a change.
- Approved replacing the antenna and duplexer for the the hand-held radios for \$3,086. Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said the

crew has been having static problems with the hand-held radios.

- Heard that Mr. Stallman has re-

ceived 15 applicants for the landfill position.

- Approved reappointment of

Charles Frickey and appointed Kent Euhus to the Decatur Health Care Foundation board.

Road and bridge to buy new blades

The Decatur County commissioners told the road and bridge department to go ahead and order 300 mower knives during their meeting last Tuesday.

Supervisor Tim Stallman said he hadn't ordered any since 2007. The cost, he thought, would be around \$6,000. The commissioners approved the purchase.

The commissioners received a data-sharing agreement from City Administrator Karen Larson for the city to use 911 grants for a global positioning map of water and sewer lines. County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he would look at it. He said he wasn't sure whether, if 911 money was used for the data, it could be shared and advised the commissioners not to do it.

The commissioners briefly discussed possibilities of people who could serve on the Fair Board. Anyone who is interested should stop by the clerk's office. There are two positions open.

At the previous meeting, the commissioners looked at the ceiling between the courtroom and the judge's chambers on the third floor. They discussed adding insulation

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved the road and bridge department buying 300 mower knives. Story at left.
- Asked the sheriff to get some proposals on what it would cost to replace the windows on the fourth floor of the courthouse. Story above.

to help with the noise between the rooms.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said it might be a good idea to hold off on that project, as they aren't sure if it will really help and there would be some unplanned expense. He added that on most days, except Tuesdays, the commissioners room could probably be used for the judge's business.

Bowling alley looking for players

Anyone interested in playing on a bowling league should pick up and fill out a survey asking when the leagues should play.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., has the surveys in her office in the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center.

With construction currently going on the inside of the building, the corporation needs to know what days people might be interested in having league bowling. Those include men's, women's, mixed and youth.

On the survey, people can mark whether the leagues should be held from 6 to 9 p.m. or from 9 to 11 p.m. and any day of the week that works best for them.

Ms. Grafel said they so far have around 35 surveys filled out.

For the past three years, the corporation and volunteers have worked to raise the needed \$180,000 for the bowling alley project. As of Monday \$172,933 has been raised, said Greg Lohofener, with the corporation.

Plans are to open the alley during the first half of March, he said.

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