



Villa Grove News



Serving Villa Grove, Camargo and the surrounding areas!

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Side Tracks

your express route to upcoming VG events

Board of Education Members Discuss Bonds, Building and Ground Improvements

By Bill Price Staff Writer

Board of Education President Clark called to order the regular session of the Board of Education meeting on January 22, 2019. He then proceeded with the roll call and all board members were present except for two.

President Clark requested that if there was anyone present that would like to address the board with an agenda or a non-agenda matter the opportunity was now available. No matters were addressed.

He then asked the board members for the approval of the of the following meetings minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Special Meeting, December 13, 2018.

Regular Meeting, December 17, 2018.

Special Meeting, December 19, 2018.

Special Meeting, January 10, 2019

Closed Session Meeting of the Regular Meeting, December 17, 2018.

The Board then authorized the payment of bills and then heard the treasurer report.

The Board moved forward with the order of business portion of the meeting.

Kevin Heid of Stifel Nicolaus Capital Markets was on hand to offer oversight and projections for the consid-



eration and approval of two bond matters.

First consider approval of resolution declaring the intention to issue \$1,400,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law. (It also would eliminate the need to take out a line of credit this spring to address the impending cash-flow issue.)

Second consider approval of resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation alternate bonds of the District in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 pursuant to the Local Government Debt

Reform Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, for the purpose of building and equipping additions to and altering, repairing, and equipping the Villa Grove Community Unit School District School Building.

President Clark asked if there would be a possible tax levy increase resulting from these bonds and Mr. Heid responded that the tax levy should remain the same.

The Board approved both resolutions unanimously.

Final reading & approval, PRESS Plus - Issue 99 was tabled.

The Board proceeded with considering approval of required public officials' bonds. These are listed below.

Barbara Alexander, Working Cash-Special Issue

Barbara Thomas, Working Cash Bond.

Barbara Thomas, QZAB Bond.

The Board approved the three bonds unanimously

The Board approved unanimously to reject all bids on the Bus Contractor and Bus Lease that were submitted.

This results from some of the language and errors in the original bids

Consider approval, 2018 - 2019 VGEA Seniority Roster.

Consider approval, 2018 - 2019 Support Staff Seniority Roster.

The Board approved the two Rosters unanimously.

Superintendent Tracy in his report updated bids for the parking lot lights. Rather than installing poles the lights will be installed on Paul's building which will reduce the cost while providing the desired lighting. Thomas Electric submitted a bid for \$2483 which was approved unanimously.

Mark Graves of CTS presented handouts of drawings and photos, relating to projects for bathrooms, gymnasiums, and doors. Some of the projects discussed were long term.

Mr. Beck in his elementary principal board report announced the teacher of the month is Hannah King.

The AIMSweb Winter benchmark testing is now in process and the student growth from the beginning of the year has been exciting.

The ROE health life safety visit resulted in a great report. The 5th through 8th graders are competing in a spelling bee. The Written spelling bee will be Thursday, January 24. The Oral spelling bee will be Thursday, January 31 at 2:30 PM. Mr. Beck expressed appreciation to Mrs. Becky Olson. Chad Reno will pronounce for the bee. The Douglas County spelling bee is February 13 in Arcola. Mr. Beck will be attending the ESSA conference in Chicago February 11 through February 13. The TCI refresher will be presented by Mr. Beck and Mrs. Schable. The yearly refresher will be done after the last day of school and new training will be done in August.

Mrs. Jones gave the high school and junior high principal report. Starting with the high school segment she announced that the boys' basketball team won their Christmas Break Tournament. Congratulations to Jared Stevens for making his 1000 point. The girls' basketball team is doing well and Aliya Holloman also accomplished the 1000 point mark. IHS passed Districts for football be-

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Harvest Ridge Wind Farm Will Pay More Than \$50 Million to the Community in the Next 30 Years

Submitted by Harvest Ridge Wind Farm

(Newman, IL) - February 1, 2019 - Today, the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm released its updated tax projections based on its proposed wind turbine layout. The wind farm will provide more than \$50 million in tax revenues to Douglas County's schools, townships, roads, and other vital public services over the first 30 years of the wind farm's operations.

The Shiloh School District stands to benefit the most, with approximately \$850,000 in tax revenue from the wind farm in the first year alone. Over the next 30 years, Shiloh is estimated to receive more than \$19 million from taxes paid by the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm.

The other big beneficiaries are Heritage High School, Newman Township and its Road District, Parkland Community College, and several other public services, including the community library and fire districts.

"These new tax dollars will make a meaningful, long-term impact to the fire department" said Rick Hedrick, Broadlands

| Taxing District | Year 1 Estimated Tax Revenue | Estimated Total Tax Revenue by 2050 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Shiloh Unit 1 | \$ 850,000 | \$ 19,000,000 |
| Heritage High School | \$ 370,000 | \$ 8,000,000 |
| Douglas County | \$ 320,000 | \$ 7,000,000 |
| Newman Township Road District | \$ 230,000 | \$ 5,300,000 |
| Newman Township | \$ 220,000 | \$ 5,000,000 |
| Parkland Community College | \$ 150,000 | \$ 3,500,000 |
| Newman Fire District | \$ 65,000 | \$ 1,500,000 |
| Newman Regional Library | \$ 60,000 | \$ 1,400,000 |
| Broadlands-Longview Fire District | \$ 40,000 | \$ 900,000 |
| Murdock Township | \$ 35,000 | \$ 800,000 |
| Murdock Township Road District | \$ 25,000 | \$ 600,000 |
| Villa Grove Unit 302 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 600,000 |
| Multi-Township Assessor | \$ 11,000 | \$ 260,000 |
| Allerton Fire District | \$ 11,000 | \$ 260,000 |
| Douglas County Museum | \$ 5,500 | \$ 130,000 |
| Camargo Villa Grove Library District | \$ 1,500 | \$ 36,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 2,400,000 | \$ 54,000,000 |

Fire Chief. "It will go towards self-contained breathing apparatuses and other important turnout gear that needs replacing every five years, such as helmets, gloves, and coats. The payments from the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm will enable us to upgrade

the equipment that allows us to provide this vital public service."

EDP Renewables (EDPR) is one of the largest owners and operators of wind farms in Illinois. To date, EDPR has paid more than \$54 million in taxes to the communities in

which its five operational Illinois wind farms are located.

"I have personally seen how our wind farms have transformed communities around the state," stated Aaron Weippert, Operations Manager over EDP Renewables' five operational Illinois wind

farms. "I've seen schools be completely rebuilt and township roads go from gravel to black top because of the taxes paid by a wind farm. I hope we can bring these benefits to Douglas County, as well."

Wind farms in Illinois are taxed in the same manner across the state. The location of each individual wind turbine dictates which public services will receive the tax revenue. The assessed value of the equipment will depreciate by only 2 percent each year, but by law the value can never go below 30% of its original value. This ensures that Harvest Ridge will provide a stable, long-term source of revenue for schools and other public services.

The Harvest Ridge Wind Farm tax projections are based on the current levy rates of each of the taxing districts. More information on how wind energy is taxed is available at the Illinois Department of Revenue: <http://www.revenue.state.il.us/LocalGovernment/PropertyTax/WindEnergyDeviceValuation.pdf>

Peering Into The Past



Photo on Left: Villa Grove Highschool 1953. Photo on Right: Villa Grove Grade School 1930. Photos courtesy of Villa Grove State Bank, Celebrating 100 Years.

- VGH GBB @ IHSA regional Tourney at Warrensburg vs Maroa-Forsyth 2/6 at 7:30 pm
- VGH Frosh BBB @ Uni High 2/7 at 6:00 pm
- VGH BBB vs Pal-Hut 2/8 @ 6:00 pm
- VGJH VB @ Heritage 2/8 at 6:00 pm
- IDTA Solo Competition 2/8 times TBA
- VGJH VB @ LOVC tourney at Tuscola 2/9 times TBA
- VGH BBB vs Arcola 2/9 @ 12:00 pm
- VG Devilettes and Jr. Devilettes @ IDTA State Finals at Springfield 2/9 times TBA
- VGJH VB @ JHOC conference tourney in Tuscola 2/9-2/13 times TBA
- VG FCC Family Fun Fest 2/10 @ 12:00 pm
- Camargo Champs Tuscola IGA Round-Up Days 2/10-2/16
- VG City Council Mtg 2/11 @ 6:00 pm
- Sacred Heart Pastoral Council Mtg 2/12 @ 6:30 pm
- VGH BBB @ Cumberland 2/12 at 6:00 pm
- VG Schools Data Day 1:30 pm dismissal 2/13
- VG Booster Club Mtg 2/13 @ 6:00 pm
- VGH Frosh BBB vs Sullivan 2/14 @ 6:00 pm
- VGH BBB vs Martinsville 2/15 @ 6:00 pm
- VG Schools Improvement Day-11:30 am dismissal 2/15
- NO SCHOOL
- VG schools-President's Day 2/18
- VG school Board Mtg 2/19 @ 6:00 pm

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to see featured in Sidetracks, email us at vgnews@mchsi.com or call us at 832-4201