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County has plenty of money rolling in

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Is the county running out of money?

That was the question posed by magistrate Brian Bleemel during the recent meeting of Bullitt County Fiscal Court.

With a general fund balance of \$250,000 after bills were paid, Bleemel inquired about the status of the county coffers.

Bullitt County Judge/Executive Jerry Summers said there is no concern.

In working with treasurer Kenann Choate, Summers said there is a cycle for cash flow.

By the end of the month, he said over \$2.5 million in revenue will come into the county bank account.

“We do not have a financial issue,” said Summers.

During the next few weeks, the quarterly insurance premiums will be received and Summers said property taxes paid to the sheriff’s office could mean another check for \$10 million.

In addition, he said FEMA had approved reimbursements of around

\$700,000 for county expenses during past emergencies. There is another \$1.5 million-\$2 million under review for the most recent floods.

He pointed out that the county had three emergencies in the past year and that took funds to pay for the upfront costs until reimbursements are sent.

“We do have the money to pay bills,” said Summers.

Many governmental agencies see revenues dwindle in September and October before tax revenue begins to flow in November.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

*Brent Glass was appointed as assistant road foreman to replace Carroll Samuels, who resigned from that position.

His salary will be moved to \$68,500 annually.

*Residents on Big Country East will receive a new resurfaced road thanks to construction of the Louisville Gas and Electric natural gasline being installed.

The utility will resurface 1,370 feet from East Indian Stone to Ponderosa Place to replace the road which has

been altered due to the pipeline construction.

There will be no cost to the residents or to the county.

*Appointments to the Shepherdsville-Bullitt County Tourist and Convention Commission will hold off for at least another few weeks.

Magistrate Vera Sanders asked to table the decision until the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Bullitt County Fiscal Court will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at the courthouse. The public is invited.



Those honored gathered for a photo with Bullitt Fiscal Court.

Individuals honored for saving life in detention center

BY THOMAS J. BARR
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SHEPHERDSVILLE – Training, and a bit of grace from God, may have been what an inmate at the Bullitt County Detention Center needed about 10 p.m. on Aug. 23.

The man was an inmate at the jail and was taking a shower when he fell to the floor in cardiac arrest.

In recounting the story, jailer Bryan Whittaker said that his staff was there within minutes with Bullitt County EMS en route.

Working with the inmate



Thomas J. Barr

Former jailers Billy Roy Shepherd, Danny Fackler and Martha Knox were honored and presented their retirement badges

Hunters Hollow looking for bull dog to sniff out violations

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

HUNTERS HOLLOW – It might be time for officials to let the “bull dog” search out code enforcement violations in one northern Bullitt County city.

If negotiations can be worked out, the city of Hunters Hollow is hoping that Angela Hurst will become its code enforcement officer.

After years of trying to regulate issues such as parking in the street, tall grass or junk in the yard, Hunters Hollow and Hurst discussed what the city wanted and what Hurst could do.

Hurst has been the code enforcement officer for the city of Hillview the past five years. And, in July, the city of Hebron

Estates contracted with Hillview to have Hurst enforce its ordinances.

The proposal would have Hurst working five hours a month in Hunters Hollow.

Councilman Rick Israel said that the city has ordinances but it needs someone to enforce them.

Nicknamed “Bull dog”, Hurst said she would have no problem making people do what is right.

“It will be a culture shock,” said Israel.

It is not uncommon for councilmembers to complain about vehicles who are parking in the street. There have also been complaints about tall grass, appliances sitting in the front yard and streets being blocked for emergency personnel.

Israel said that the council needs to have its new ordinance in place before the code enforcement officer is contracted. The plan is to combine all the current ordinances to have one that would address all of the city’s issues.

Mayor Shaun MacIntyre will talk with Hurst to see if a deal could be worked out on a contract.

In other business:

*Drainage issues along Cannon Court were discussed. The city had contacted the state Division of Water to get approval to work on the drainage ditch.

However, no approval has been presented.

The council instructed the mayor

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Zone would allow smaller lots in subdivisions

BY THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – If a proposed text amendment makes it through the process, there would be a way to build more new homes on a smaller tract of property.

A text amendment proposed by the Hillview City Council would make a new residential zone, R-5, that would have smaller lot lines.

During a presentation to the Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission, attorney Emily Vessels said that there is a development which also runs in Jefferson County.

In Jefferson County, residential lots can be 50-foot frontage. In Bullitt County, the R-3 Residential zone has a 60-foot minimum frontage.

Vessels presented a resolution from the Hillview City Council stating its support of the text amendment.

Under the procedures, county attorney Tammy Baker said that the text amendment must start with the planning commission and then goes to the eight municipalities and fiscal court. It would only be in effect in the areas where it was approved.

Besides wanting to have the same lot requirements as Jefferson County, Vessels said the change would allow more affordable housing, a part of the segment that is underserved throughout the country.

“This is better for first-time buyers,” said Vessels.

Part of the requirements in the proposed R-5 zone would be that it is limited to single-family dwellings and the single lot must be at least 6,000 square feet. The side setbacks would be a minimum of five feet on each side with a front setback of 25 feet. The rear setback would be 25 feet but an accessory building could be within five feet of the property line.

No home would be taller than 2.5 stories or 35 feet.

And, there must be at least 20 percent of the property devoted to green space.

Commissioner Vernie McGuffin said he wished there was more time to study such a major change to the regulations. In reality, every vacant

lot in the county could suddenly have homes built on 50-foot lots.

More importantly, on a major development, the change could result in many more lots in the subdivision. Chairman John Miller said for every 300 feet of road frontage, two more lots could be built. That produces more people and more traffic.

That was a concern voiced by commissioner Mike Rippy.

McGuffin said that while the talk is about the need for more housing, the commission has endorsed zoning changes and there are nearly 1,800 lots which have not been developed.

Planning administrator Charlie Spalding said all of the information had been sent to each of the legislative bodies and he had gotten little feedback. Like any text amendment, some may approve, others may disapprove and still others may take no action.

Of the feedback, drainage concerns seemed to be the most frequent.

For subdivisions, Spalding must approve a site plan and he consults with the engineers to make sure everything is correct. McGuffin said he would like the planning commission to have a look at the site plans.

Spalding said the commission could make that a requirement on its rezoning recommendation.

The commission voted 7-4 to send a favorable recommendation to fiscal court and the eight cities. Russell Price, Paul Kulmer, Rippy and McGuffin were in opposition.

In another text amendment, changes were made to the fee schedule. Spalding said there were no major changes with minor adjustments for several items handled by the planning office.

The favorable recommendation will also be sent to the fiscal court and the cities. There could be different fee structures for different areas depending upon the action of the legislative bodies.

The next meeting of the Bullitt County Joint Planning Commission will be on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. in the courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

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