

THE PIONEER NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

WWW.PIONEERNEWS.NET

VOL. 143, No. 92 \$2

CON battle reaches Franklin Circuit Court

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

FRANKFORT – The parties assembled in Franklin County Circuit Court to discuss whether the dismissal of the certificate of need request by Zoneton Fire Protection District by a hearing officer of the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services was

proper.

What the parties heard, after making their legal arguments, was a strong suggestion by the presiding judge for those agencies in conflict try to sit down and discuss some type of agreement.

On a rainy morning in Frankfort, Mark Leach, attorney for the fire protection district and

its holding company, and Connor Sturgill, attorney for Bullitt County and the cities of Hillview, Hunters Hollow, Fox Chase, Pioneer Village and Hebron Estates, both argued why the hearing officer's granting of summary judgment was either correct or incorrect.

Last fall, Zoneton announced its plans to seek to establish an

ambulance service. Bullitt County and the five cities contested the application for a certificate of need.

In its application, the fire department cited that residents in its territory were not being served properly by Bullitt County EMS. It cited that response time was in excess of the eight-minute standard set by

the National Fire Protection Association.

Leach said that the district would propose to have an ambulance at both of its fire stations. He added that Bullitt County EMS had an ambulance stationed at Zoneton's Brooks firehouse until the agency

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Thomas J. Barr

Karen Hibbard and her family accepted flowers and praise from Shepherdsville Councilmember Bonnie Enlow.

Hibbard honored; spouse denied spot on council

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SHEPHERDSVILLE – In a night where a spouse of a fallen councilmember would be honored, the evening took an unexpected turn.

Shepherdsville City Council members honored Karen Hibbard with words of praise and gifts after the recent passing of her husband, Mike.

But they failed to entertain a vote to have her fill out the remaining five months of her husband's term.

With a large number of supporters and family members present, councilmember Bonnie Enlow praised Hibbard at the opening of Monday's meeting.

The council and city staff had a number of gifts, including an American flag, to present to Hibbard.

Enlow praised the fallen councilmember and made a motion to appoint Karen Hibbard to fill out the term.

"She is the right fit," said Enlow.

However, her motion, which came a little earlier than expected on the agenda, failed without a second. Councilman Rob Adams uttered the only comment, stating that the talk was about going a different route.

"He loved Shepherdsville," Hibbard said of her husband. "And he loved serving on the city council."

Jeremy Kubac, the city's planning commission representative, added that he had very good discussions

with Mike Hibbard.

He said that Hibbard "interviewed" him prior to his appointment to the commission. Throughout his tenure, he said they talked often but Hibbard never told him how he should vote.

Kubac said the Hibbard always had a lot of questions and the conversations were very productive.

The meeting progressed onto other topics, which at some times grew contentious, until it was time for the vacancy to be addressed on the agenda.

Adams said that there were a lot of people considered. He made a motion to select Kenny Newton to fill

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Board says BOOOO to Halloween event permit

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ZONETON – From one side of the room you might have heard a BOO!!!

From the other, it might have been a BOOOOOOOOO!!!

But no matter the sound uttered, the only one that counted was the voice of denial from the Bullitt County Board of Adjustments.

The board voted unanimously to deny a conditional-use permit that would have allowed the very popular Halloween attraction, Scareview Manor, to find a new home this fall.

With the need to find new quarters as the Hillview facility was no longer available, Sherry Shaft and Camron Bullock found a location off Zoneton Road for the six-week attraction.

But the board didn't favor the proposal in a residential area.

Bullock said the first annual event did very well at the Jim Eadens Resource Center. It was success that the organization was able to donate over \$12,000 to the Operation Santa program in Hillview.

After talking with officials in Mount Washington, the group found a location in Zoneton.

Bullock said a lot of time had already been done by volunteers to clear the property.

In anticipation of concerns from nearby residents, Bullock said a ticketing system would only allow 40 vehicles to part in front of the existing barn and 20 would be sold every 30 minutes. Visitors would have to arrive at a scheduled time to tour the attraction.

Rachel Elam said she understood the concerns. But the Halloween attraction had no problems in Hillview.

She said that ropes and markers would designate the parking area. Security cameras would be on the property and

any guests would always be in view of staff members.

The event would run on Friday and Saturday nights from Sept. 25-Oct. 31. From 6-7 p.m. there would be a non-scary hour. The haunted house would be open to adults from 8 p.m. until midnight.

While they opposed the location, many in the audience were not against the idea.

Meghan Mangell said that her home is the closest to the proposed site. With four children, she said they would be terrorized by the noise and scary sights.

Thixton Lane and Zoneton Road are both very curvy and narrow roads and she feared accidents would occur.

She was also worried about wildlife in the community that could be disturbed by the haunted house.

Jason Shipman adjoins the north and west sides of the Shaft property. Trespassing on his 30 acres was one concern.

Another was the threat of a fire, which could destroy his cattle and the hay they feed upon.

Jim Parrish said there are major issues with the traffic and the noise. She said it is a quiet, residential area and this would fit the community.

He wondered if a fire truck could get through the congested area.

Alexa Satterly suffers from autism and her home is her safe place. The noise and lights could add to her social anxiety if the permit was granted.

Shawn Satterly said that living next to it, the noise would impact his family. Just the process of cleaning up the property has brought noise from the volunteers.

He said the six weeks of the attraction would upset the community.

Already, he has had to call the sheriff's office on someone who was

SEE BOARD/PAGE A9

Superintendent again gets exemplary grades

THOMAS J. BARR
THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Taking home a good report card never gets old. No matter your age or profession.

Once again this year, the Bullitt County School Board presented superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon with exemplary marks.

Literally. During its June meeting, the school board completed its annual evaluation on Bacon's performance.

Opting to only evaluate Bacon on two of the standards available, Bacon received the highest marks possible – exemplary, which means that he exceeded both of the categories graded.

"It is incredibly humbling to receive such positive feedback," said Bacon. "However, these marks are truly a reflection of the hard work put in by our entire district team.

Their dedication is what allows us to succeed and I am grateful for the Board's continued partnership and support."

The first standard evaluated was Strategic Leadership.

In this area, board members were looking for whether the superintendent can lead the district's goal of making sure every student can meet the challenges of life after high school, whether it might be in post-secondary education or in the workforce.

Bacon presented board members a long list of projects that he has been involved with to help create this vision.

The next standard he was evaluated on was Influential Leadership.

The criteria of this standard dealt with the superintendent promoting success of teaching and learning by understanding the whole picture of education. This includes working with the school board to define

mutual expectations, policies and goals to ensure academic success of all students.

Bacon also has a list of local, state and national efforts to make sure the district strives for excellence.

Looking at the overall evaluation of the two graded standards, the board unanimously gave Bacon an exemplary score.

As the evaluation time approached, Bacon said that there really wasn't anxiety. It was more of anticipation.

"I view the evaluation process as a valuable opportunity for reflection," said Bacon, finishing his seventh year as Bullitt County leader. "It is less about anxiety and more about ensuring that my leadership remains aligned with the needs of our students and staff."

While there are seven standards which could be evaluated, Bacon felt

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