



DeWitt Daily News.com

FROM THE BIG RED BARN!



2980 US Highway 51, PO Box 497, Clinton, IL 61727-0497 217-935-9590

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2016  
Issues/Programs List  
for  
WHOW (AM) 1520  
and  
W222BG 92.3 FM  
Clinton, IL

## Quarterly Issues/Program List

There follows a list of significant issues responded to by WHOW, Clinton, IL, along with significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 10/1/16 to 12/31/16. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which these stories appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

<u>Descrip. Of Issue</u>	<u>Prog/Seg Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description of Program Segment</u>
Public Health	10-6-16	8:15a	4:30	Police Chief Addresses Clown Phenomenon
Public Health	10-12-16	12:15p	1:30	CFD Busy During Columbus Day Weekend
Public Health	10-28-16	7:15a	2:00	Crime Stoppers Seeking Information on Stolen Firearms, Ammunition
Public Health	11-4-16	12:15p	2:30	Clinton Fire Protection District With Referendum Item on Tuesday Ballot
Public Health	12-29-16	8:15a	2:30	Sheriff's Office Makes Promotions

## 12-29-16 Sheriff's Office Makes Promotions

12-29-16 sl 6a

>>Sheriff's Office Makes Promotions

DeWitt County Sheriff Jered Shofner's office recently promoted four individuals.

Sheriff Jered Shofner indicates deputies Tim Cohenour and Brandon Hardwick were promoted to deputy Sargeant. The Sheriff calls sargeants the 'backbone of the department'.

Cut 1: sheriffpromote1 :39 CUE: used to

Additionally, Josh McClain and Bryson Barnes were added to the force as deputies. The Sheriff says Nick Hubrick is also being promoted.

Cut 2 :sheriffpromote2 1:14 CUE: by themselves

Chief Deputy Rob Spickard swore in the new deputies at the December DeWitt County Board meeting.

10-6-16 Clinton Police Chief Addresses Clown Phenomenon

10-6-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Police Chief Addresses Clown Phenomenon

It's taken the United States by storm and Clinton Police Chief Ben Lowers calls it ridiculous.

The unsubstantiated claims of dangerous clowns in communities has taken the country by storm in recent weeks and Chief Lowers says while claims have been made in Clinton, everything is originating on social media with zero evidence of any clowns to be seen.

Cut 1: clowns1 :58 CUE: social media

Chief Lowers says the widespread reports of clown sightings is the negative result of social media on our society. He indicates his research is finding there are zero substantiated claims by law enforcement anywhere in the country.

Cut 2: clowns2 :42 CUE: this epidemic

According to the Chief, if you are making these claims and they are found to be untrue, that is a crime and people are being arrested for making those claims.

Cut 3: clowns3 :32 CUE: situation

While claims of clowns intending harm are without proof, Chief Lowers explains someone may dress up as a clown as a joke however, that person could ultimately be putting themselves in harms way, and that concerns him.

Cut 4: clowns4 :67 CUE: nationwide

Chief Lowers points out the infatuation with clowns has grown increasingly popular with youth in the community and calls it a great distraction to the education system locally. He also notes authorities have had to expend local resources over claims that have yet to be substantiated.

Chief Lowers also notes there are real problems to be dealt with locally and across the country like the drug problem that continues to claim lives or domestic violence but the focus has been shifted to phantom clown sightings.

## 10-12-16 Clinton Fire Busy During Columbus Day Weekend

10-12-16 sl 6a

### >>Clinton Fire Busy During Columbus Day Weekend

Despite scary scenes during the Columbus Day Weekend, no injuries were reported during calls responded to by the Clinton Fire Department.

Starting Saturday evening at approximately 6:30 pm, crews responded to smells of smoke at 412 South Jackson.

Upon arrival, responders found no smoke nor smells of smoke but it was discovered the home was filled with carbon monoxide at deadly levels.

Crews treated the occupants of the home with oxygen, Ameren shut off gas as the house was ventilated. It was discovered it was an appliance issue.

While it is fire safety week in Illinois, crews are taking time to remind residents carbon monoxide an odorless gas that can cause severe confusion, which is what the occupants were suffering from.

Clinton fire crews also responded to two combine fires Monday. The first was at approximately 1:15 pm at the corner of Ospur and Central Roads. Crews quickly extinguished what was a small fire.

Clinton Fire was on scene for roughly an hour and a half and no injuries were reported.

Then around 7:15 pm Monday night, another combine fire was reported Airport Road in southern DeWitt count.

Due to the uncertainty of the location of the combine, Maroa and Clinton Fire Departments were on scene for what was described as another small fire.

Crews remained on scene for about an hour scene and no injuries were reported.

10-28-16 Clinton Crime Stoppers Seeking Information on Stolen Firearms, Ammunition  
10-28-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Crime Stoppers Seeking Information on Stolen Firearms, Ammunition

The Clinton Police Department is seeking your help and information in solving a residential burglary.

On or around October 26 2016, the Clinton Police Department responded to a report of a residential burglary that occurred in the 900 block of W Clay St.

During this burglary, suspect or suspects made entry to the residence and once inside, stole two handguns. These guns are described as a blued Taurus .38 Special revolver with a wooden handle and also a pink and black, Walther P22 semi-automatic. Also stolen were four boxes of .22 caliber ammunition.

Crimestoppers will pay a cash reward of up to \$1000.00 when a felony arrest is made as a result of information that you have provided. Anyone with any information regarding this burglary or any other crimes or wanted fugitives is asked to contact the Clinton Area Crime stoppers at 217-935-3333.

Crime Stoppers phone line is not recorded and does not utilize caller identification. CrimeStoppers wants your information, not your name.

11-4-16 Clinton Fire Protection District With Referendum Item on Tuesday Ballot

11-4-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Fire Protection District With Referendum Item on Tuesday Ballot

The Clinton Fire Protection District is proposing a raise in the cap for their tax levy.

Chip Atten with the Clinton Fire Protection District Board indicates this is not a tax levy increase proposal, but rather a raise in the cap of the tax. He says the current 0.125% rate is being levied currently, which is the current cap. They are seeking to raise the ceiling to 0.4%.

Cut 1: atten1 :61 CUE: tax payers

Atten indicates the Clinton Fire Protection District covers around 70 square miles including the Exelon Power Station, Lane, DeWitt and Clinton Lake.

Cut 2: atten2 :19 CUE: clinton lake

Atten indicates the dollars levied from taxes go towards training, HazMat response equipment, fire prevention education and other first responder necessities for the service area.

Atten stresses the increase in the levy cap will not effect the current tax rate in place now.

## Quarterly Issues/Program List

There follows a list of significant issues responded to by WHOW, Clinton, IL, along with significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 10/1/16 to 12/31/16. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which these stories appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

<u>Descrip. Of Issue</u>	<u>Prog/Seg Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description of Program Segment</u>
Economic Dev.	10-7-16	7:20a	4:30	Chamber's Haunted House Opens Tonight
Economic Dev.	11-14-16	8:15a	3:00	Chamber 2016 Haunted House Season Huge Success
Economic Dev.	11-25-16	7:20a	2:30	Clinton Businesses Participating in Small Business Saturday
Economic Dev.	11-29-16	8:10a	1:30	Weldon Springs Adding Concession Area
Economic Dev.	12-26-16	12:15p	2:30	Chamber Gearing Up For Fast Start to 2017



## 10-7-16 Chamber's Haunted House Opens Tonight

10-7-16 sl 6a

>>Chamber's Haunted House Opens Tonight

It's the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce and it opens tonight in Clinton.

The Chamber's Terror on Washington Street Haunted House will open for the Halloween season and Chae Mills with the Chamber says if you've been a regular attender of their haunted house, you again will see new scares and frights starting tonight.

Cut 1: hauntedhouse1 :46 CUE: gonna like

Mills indicates planning and preparations for the Haunted House start months in advance of opening night. She explains they start with attending a conference in St. Louis for fresh ideas culminating in long nights at the house getting ready.

Cut 2: hauntedhouse2 1:51 CUE: each room

The Chamber will seek out groups to come in and help each night of the Haunted House. According to Mills, they need around 15 volunteers each night, and when the groups are done, they'll receive a donation from the Chamber for their time.

Cut 3: hauntedhouse3 :47 CUE: the work

When you come to the Clinton Haunted House, you won't be waiting in line. That doesn't you wait but Mills indicates there is an open area with different entertainment opportunities and they have a food tent while attendees wait.

Cut 4: hauntedhouse4 :37 CUE: mingle

The Haunted House opens tonight in Clinton starting from 7 pm to 11 pm. The Terror on Washington Street Haunted House runs each Friday and Saturday night until the end of October and on Halloween night from 7 pm to 9 pm.

11-14-16 Clinton Chamber of Commerce 2016 Haunted House Season Huge Success  
11-14-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Chamber of Commerce 2016 Haunted House Season Huge Success

The Clinton Chamber of Commerce's annual Terror on Washington Street Haunted House was once again a huge success.

Executive Director of the Clinton Chamber, Marian Brisard indicates the October season was busy and brought in 45-hundred from all over central Illinois.

Cut 1: hhrecap1 1:10 CUE:

The Clinton Chamber will welcome groups from all over central Illinois as volunteers and Brisard explains for their efforts on a given night, they will get a portion of the proceeds.

Cut 2: hhrecap2 :55 CUE: as well

Brisard thanks the City of Clinton for allowing them to close down portions of the streets around the haunted house and also to the Clinton Police Department and DeWitt County Sheriff's department for the security they provided.

11-25-16 Clinton Businesses Participating in Small Business Saturday

11-25-16 ga 6a

>>Clinton Businesses Participating in Small Business Saturday

Small Business Saturday, the day after Black Friday, is aimed at promoting local merchants.

Marian Brisard, executive director of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, is excited for the effect that Small Business Saturday has on the local economy.

Cut: smallbiz1 :38 Cue: Christmas parade

Brisard indicates there are many local businesses that are partaking in Small Business Saturday with special events.

Cut: smallbiz2 :45 Cue: back to us

Country Junction is hosting a "Plaid Friday" event from 10am-5pm and Small Business Saturday also from 10am-5pm. The annual Christmas parade is also Saturday, November 26, at 2pm.

11-29-16 Weldon Springs Adding Concession Area

11-29-16 sl 6a

>>Weldon Springs Adding Concession Area

The concession area at Weldon Springs State Park that has been a restaurant at various times in the last several years will have a new tennant next year.

Site Superintendent Charlie Montgomery could not release specific details but does indicate next year they anticipate having the building reopened, it is the area designated for the concession just off the lake.

Cut 1: springseat1 :16 CUE: it is open

Montgomery indicates the concession is just the latest development in what is happening at the Springs.

Despite not having volunteers from the AmeriCorp organization, local volunteers have stepped up in recent months to help restore the trail around the lake. He says it's an exciting time for Weldon Springs Recreation Area.

12-26-16 Clinton Chamber Gearing Up For Fast Start to 2017

12-26-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Chamber Gearing Up For Fast Start to 2017

With 2016 in the books for the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce, the local agency is once again planning a trio of events to ring in 2017.

January, February and March open each year with an event each month that always brings out a good crowd. Executive Director Marian Brisard says January opens with their annual Chamber Dinner January 28 at the Clinton Country Club.

Cut 1: chamber20171 :43 CUE: enjoy that

February ushers in the annual Ag Banquet the Chamber of Commerce hosts and Brisard says details are still being worked out, but it always brings out a good crowd with a great presentation.

Cut 2: chamber20172 :36 CUE: interesting

Once the Ag Banquet wraps up, the Chamber will shift their attention to one of their bigger events, the annual Business Expo. Brisard says the event usually falls the Wednesday of the high school's spring break.

Quarterly Issues/Program List

There follows a list of significant issues responded to by WHOW, Clinton, IL, along with significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 10/1/16 to 12/31/16. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which these stories appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

<u>Descrip. Of Issue</u>	<u>Prog/Seg Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description of Program Segment</u>
Education	10-19-16	7:15a	3:45	Pair of Clinton Teachers To Be Recognized At State Board Dinner
Education	11-17-16	9:31a	4:00	Clinton BOE Seeking Temporary Board Member
Education	11-21-16	12:10p	3:00	Clinton BOE Sets 2017-18 Levy
Education	12-22-16	8:10a	2:30	Clinton Schools Adjust Levy Amid Exelon News
Education	12-26-16	8:10a	2:30	Stokowski Remaining on School Board

10-19-16 Pair of Clinton Teachers To Be Recognized At State Board Dinner Saturday  
10-19-16 sl 6a

>>Pair of Clinton Teachers To Be Recognized At State Board Dinner Saturday

A Pair of Clinton teachers are going to be in attendance for special recognition by the State board of elections Saturday.

Superintendent Curt Nettles indicates Jessica Peterson and Elizabeth Cunningham will be in Bloomington Saturday night for the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel dinner.

Cut 1: teacheraward1 :34 CUE: state of illinois

Peterson was the Teacher of the Year in the district last year and Nettles says her peers, students and parents give her rave reviews.

Cut 2: teacheraward2 1:30 CUE: and it shows

Like Peterson, Cunningham is a fifth grade teacher, and was nominated by her peers at the Elementary School. Teachers say she goes above and beyond what is required and is great with the students.

Cut 3: teacheraward3 :62 CUE: her career

Nettles calls the event a big deal and educators and administrators from around the state are a part of the evening.

Nettles says its nice to see the proper people in education recognized when there continue to be many challenges for the edcuation system in the state and educators.

11-17-16 Clinton Board of Education Seeking Temporary Board Member

11-17-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Board of Education Seeking Temporary Board Member

Tuesday night at the Clinton Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the immediate resignation of Nancy Stokowski from the Board.

Superintendent Curt Nettles says the resignation comes in accordance with the upcoming election and to make the seat available for anyone that might like to run. He says it will be tough loss for the Board as Stokowski is an excellent member.

Cut 1: stowresign1 :62 CUE: that position

With the resignation of Stokowski from the Board, the seat now needs to be filled until the term of the position is filled leading up to the election. Nettles says anyone interested should contact him.

Cut 2: showresign2 1:18 CUE: county clerk

As of right now, there any person in any district can apply of the vacancy on the board and can run for the position as well. According to Nettles, up to three from a district can be on the board and right now no district has no more than two.

Cut 3: stowresign3 :37 CUE: from any 1

Nettles indicates he hopes to have an appointment made by the upcoming December board meeting.



11-21-16 Clinton Board of Education Sets 2017-18 Levy

11-21-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Board of Education Sets 2017-18 Levy

The Clinton Board of Education's levy for 2017-18 is down nearly a quarter-million dollars.

According to Superintendent Curt Nettles, the levy is down over \$200-thousand but Nettles says that isn't a large amount for a district of Clinton's size but they will have to tighten their belts a little.

Cut 1: levydown1 1:10 CUE: that balance

Nettles says finding ways to cut back \$200-thousand is not a difficult challenge as the increased technology in the district will help save on several costs. He also notes it will not effect staffing.

Cut 2: levydown2 :69 CUE: stay balanced

According to Nettles, the lower EAV doesn't necessarily mean anything about the future of the plant but the district has been looking at ways to scale back because of the uncertainty of the plant's future.

12-22-16 Clinton Schools Adjust Levy Amid Exelon News

12-22-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Schools Adjust Levy Amid Exelon News

Just a few months ago, Clinton school leaders were already preparing for the planned closure of the Exelon Nuclear Power Station in Clinton. With the recent news the plant is going to remain in Clinton for an additional ten years, school leaders are backtracking.

Superintendent Curt Nettles, who was the master of ceremony for the Governor's visit to Clinton, says it was a great day to be a part of and is very pleased things have worked out.

Cut 1: schoollevyreverse1 :57 CUE: our community

With the passage and signing of the nuclear energy legislation, the district can now plan on taking in about \$200-thousand more. Nettles says that may not seem significant in a \$21-million budget, but it is.

Cut 2: schoollevyreverse2 :56 CUE: plan accordingly

After the scare of Exelon leaving the community, Nettles says that will certainly change his perspective on the future and how the district handles the money received from power plant.

Cut 3: schoollevyreverse3 :54 CUE: plan for

Clinton High School gym hosted Governor Rauner earlier this month to sign the nuclear legislation bill.

12-26-16 Nancy Stokowski Remaining of School Board; Election Next Year

12-26-16 ga 6a

>>Nancy Stokowski Remaining of School Board; Election Next Year

There will be some changes and familiar faces for the Clinton School Board next year.

Curt Nettles, Superintendent of Clinton schools, indicates that Nancy Stokowski was reappointed to the school board at the December meeting.

Cut: nancyboard1 :43 Cue: and back on

There is one contested race for the school board next year. Nettles says the petitions were due last Monday and the board has met with the candidates.

Cut: nancyboard2 :36 Cue: get one vote

Nettles indicates that both Dan Matthews and Marcia Cooper were both candidates for the board's potential appointment for Nancy Stokowski's seat.

## Quarterly Issues/Program List

There follows a list of significant issues responded to by WHOW, Clinton, IL, along with significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 10/1/16 to 12/31/16. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which these stories appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

<u>Descrip. Of Issue</u>	<u>Prog/Seg Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description of Program Segment</u>
City Government	10-19-16	8:10a	4:00	Local Leaders in Chicago For Nuclear Power Summit
City Government	10-8-16	12:15p	3:30	Clinton City Fall Clean Up Program Underway
City Government	11-8-16	7:15a	5:30	Local Leaders Ecstatic Over Legislation Signing
City Government	12-27-16	8:10a	2:45	Reviving Downtown Clinton Focus for 2017
City Government	12-28-16	12:15p	2:45	Clinton Schools Agree to Sell Property To City With Land Swap Potential

10-19-16 Local Leaders in Chicago For Nuclear Power Summit

10-19-16 sl 6a

>>Local Leaders in Chicago For Nuclear Power Summit

Local leaders are in Chicago today to discuss the economic impacts of nuclear power in Illinois.

Clinton City Administrator Tim Follow will join the likes of Cheri Bustos, Donne Trotter, and Chapin Rose in addressing a special panel about the impacts of nuclear power. Followell says his message is simple, no nuclear power in Illinois means rate increases that will be steep and implemented quickly.

Cut 1: nuclearsummit1 1:15 CUE: bigger picture

Followell indicates this is just another step in the process of getting nuclear power legislation in Illinois. Followell says nuclear power across the country is becoming a big topic.

Cut 2: nuclearsummit2 1:27 CUE: question

Followell says this is some evidence of work that is being done on the legislation. He points out all parties with an interest in this continue to meet and discuss the legislation.

We'll hear from State Senator Chapin Rose Thursday on the WHOW morning show at approximately 8:30 am on the hearing.

11-8-16 Clinton City Fall Clean Up Program Underway

11-8-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton City Fall Clean Up Program Underway

The seemingly never ending fall clean up battle is underway in central Illinois, which means Clinton City Streets Crews are out for the annual fall clean up efforts.

Crews will scour the city little by little each week until almost all areas are clear of leaves. Before the Clinton City Council Monday night, Steve Lobb, Public Works Director for the City of Clinton encourages residents to leave their leaves out at the curb and they will get to them.

Cut 1: fallclean1 :47 CUE: we're coming

Lobb indicates they break the city down into five zones and will hit each zone in a week.

Cut 2: fallclean2 :25 CUE: things up

Lobb indicates last year's clean up never took more than a week to get through the entire town.

He notes they have a couple extra staffers hired for the month as they will soon be decorating for the Christmas season.

12-8-16 Local Leaders, Lawmakers Ecstatic Over Legislation Signing Wednesday  
12-8-16 sl 6a

>>Local Leaders, Lawmakers Ecstatic Over Legislation Signing Wednesday

Local leaders and lawmakers in attendance of Wednesday ceremony for the signing of the nuclear energy legislation in Illinois were ecstatic.

For lawmakers, they are happy for the DeWitt County community and for local leaders, they are relieved the Exelon Nuclear Power Station will remain a part of the community for another ten years.

Communications Manager at the Clinton Power Station, Brett Nauman, calls it a great day for DeWitt County and was very pleased with the turnout of the community.

Cut 1: localreax1 :60 CUE: with you

Executive Director of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Marian Brisard calls this the best day for DeWitt County. She says this is the start of the work ahead to continue bring jobs to DeWitt County.

Cut 2: localreax2 :48 CUE: operating

DeWitt County Board Chair said the ceremony was awesome. He calls it a start of a new future.

Cut 3: localreax3 1:16 CUE: be

State Sen. Chapin Rose says the bills passage has everything to do with the local leaders and citizens spurring this on and the Governor stepping in to get it to the finish line.

Cut 4: localreax4 :44 CUE: the credit

Superintendent of Clinton Schools, Curt Nettles says the Governor stepped up and kept his word in a meeting several months ago where he told local leaders he was committed to keeping the power plant open and the jobs in the community.

Cut 5: localreax5 :31 CUE: proved that

Wednesday's ceremony marked the culmination of almost two years of work in getting the legislation passed and was attended by several hundred community members, leaders, Clinton High School students and Exelon employees.

12-27-16 Clinton Schools Agree to Sell Property To City With Land Swap Potential

12-23-16 sl 6a

>>Clinton Schools Agree to Sell Property To City With Land Swap Potential

Clinton Schools along with the City of Clinton will enter into an agreement where the City will purchase a parcel of land from the school district, and that same agreement has the potential for a land swap.

Superintendent Curt Nettles indicates the City will purchase the vacant land which housed Webster School.

Cut 1: landswap1 :47 CUE: that'll happen

Nettles explains, also in the agreement, the City and School could potentially swap ground that is now the FFA test plot. The swap would only happen though, if the city finds a serious developer for the land.

Cut 2: landswap2 :61 CUE: the way it is

Nettles feels the agreement is a win-win and points out, if the city were to ever find a developer for the plot, it would be likely the FFA chapter would in fact gain acreage with the new lot.



12-28-16 Reviving Downtown Clinton Focus for 2017

12-28-16 sl 6a

>>Reviving Downtown Clinton Focus for 2017

The rejuvenation of downtown rural America is a challenge communities of every size are trying to solve and Clinton officials believe they are on their way to perhaps resolving.

City Administrator Tim Followell indicates this past year was a great year for downtown Clinton, as they welcomed up and coming country performers Lauren Alaina and Tara Thompson, to the downtown square.

Cut 1: downtown1 :45 CUE: there too

It has been a few years, but a former TIF district in Clinton allowed several businesses to spruce up their storefronts with matching funds from the City of Clinton. Followell says that has been a huge boost to the look of the square.

Cut 2: downtown2 :61 CUE: does take time

Followell anticipates a few more development things happening in and around downtown Clinton in 2017 and says they plan to bring back the free concerts on the square as well.

## Quarterly Issues/Program List

There follows a list of significant issues responded to by WHOW, Clinton, IL, along with significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 10/1/16 to 12/31/16. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which these stories appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

<u>Descrip. Of Issue</u>	<u>Prog/Seg Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Description of Program Segment</u>
County Government	10-24-16	7:20a	4:00	Board Chair Support Sheriff's Decision on Jail Operations
County Government	11-7-16	8:15a	2:30	DeWitt County Board Puts Budget on File
County Government	11-4-16	7:20a	1:45	Board Considering Changing Start Time of Meetings
County Government	11-28-16	12:15p	4:30	County Building Getting Update
County Government	12-8-16	8:10a	2:15	Newberg Reappointed County Board Chair

10-24-16 County Board Chair Support Sheriff's Decision on Jail Operations

10-24-16 sl 6a

>>County Board Chair Support Sheriff's Decision on Jail Operations

Last week, DeWitt County Sheriff Jered Shofner announced an intergovernmental agreement with Piatt County for them to house DeWitt County inmates.

Local leaders are applauding the decision and DeWitt County Board Chair David Newberg says it is that type of outside the box thinking that will help DeWitt County through a financial struggle that could be ahead.

Cut 1: jailpraise1 :38 CUE: thank you very much

Sheriff Shofner say right now, the agreement is short term and his office plans to evaluate how things are going in six months.

Cut 2: jailpraise2 :56 CUE: zero

According to the Sheriff, there have been a lot changes in jail operations across the country that are forcing many communities like DeWitt County to re-evaluate. One of those was an agreement with Cook County to house their inmates.

Cut 3: jailpraise3 :51 CUE: withdrew from that

State's Attorney Dan Markwell indicates Cook County inmates were also filing frivolous lawsuits and it was costing tax payers.

Cut 4: jailpraise4 :56 CUE: of dollars

Sheriff Shofner emphasizes the jail is not closing nor is anyone getting laid off.

The uncertainty of the future of the power plant and the amount of turnover in their corrections staff continues to be challenges that they face at the same time.

11-7-16 DeWitt County Board Puts Budget on File

11-7-16 sl 6a

>>DeWitt County Board Puts Budget on File

The DeWitt County Board at their October board meeting put on file the 2017 fiscal year budget.

Board Chair David Newberg says this year's budget has a slight tax increase but it is still lower than what it was two years ago. He notes the budget will be balanced.

Cut 1: countybudg1 :33 CUE: two years ago

Newberg says reserves for the County are in a tough and they will work to restore those. He indicates going to the taxpayers and asking for a tax increase is not an option.

Cut 2: countybudg2 :33 CUE: not an option

Newberg credits the many department leaders in the County for their dilligence in getting a good budget passed for each department and finding ways to save the taxpayers money.

Cut 3: countybudg3 :41 CUE: enough

The Board is expected to approve the budget at their monthly meeting in a few weeks.

11-19-16 DeWitt County Board Considering Changing Start Time of Meetings  
11-19-16 sl 6a.

POSTED 11/18

>>DeWitt County Board Considering Changing Start Time of Meetings

The DeWitt County Board is considering a measure that would allow them to start their meetings earlier.

Board Chair David Newberg indicates the meetings are still planned to be scheduled for the third Thursday after the first Tuesday, but the start time could be changed.

Cut 1: timechange :39 CUE: works better

The County Board will consider the change at their re-organization meeting, to be held December 5.

At that time, the Board will also organize and choose County Board Chair, Vice Chair and committee selections.

11-28-16 DeWitt County Building Getting Update

11-28-16 sl 6a

>>DeWitt County Building Getting Update

Updates is the name of the game for the DeWitt County Building in the coming weeks and months.

Starting with the County Building itself, administrators within the County plan add wireless internet access for their visitors. DeWitt County Board Chair David Newberg says the only Wi-Fi available is a closed network for the EMA office.

Cut 1: countywifi1 :38 CUE: good deal

In line with technology in the County Building, the DeWitt County Sheriff's Department is planning a digitization of their records. According to Newberg, there are piles and piles of documents that have to be kept and this will help keep things organized.

Cut 2: countywifi2 :37 CUE: be done

The cost for wireless throughout the County Building is just under \$5-thousand.

For the digitization of the records for the Sheriff's office is \$6-thousand.

12-8-16 Newberg Reappointed County Board Chair, New Members Sworn In  
12-8-16 sl 6a

>>Newberg Reappointed County Board Chair, New Members Sworn In

The DeWitt County Board re-organized earlier this week following the November election.

DeWitt County Board Chair David Newberg was re-appointed the Board's leader and Vice-Chair Camille Redman keeps her post as well. Newberg says they also swore in three new members.

Cut 1: boardorganize1 :36 CUE: very good

Newberg indicates at the reorganization meeting, they made committee assignments. He calls this a very experienced board.

Cut 2: boardorganize2 :50 CUE: group of people

Newberg notes the Board also approved a resolution to begin County Board meetings at 6 pm rather than 7 pm. He indicates this will allow County employees already in the building a little more flexibility with their meeting nights.