

OBITUARY

Donald ‘Poots’ Burbas, 64

Donald “Poots” Burbas, 64, of Metamora, Mich., formerly of International Falls, Minn., died Sunday, June 8, 2014.

Donald was born Oct. 12, 1949, in International Falls, to parents Donald and Juel (Palmquist) Burbas.

He graduated from Falls High School, Class of 1967. Don served his country proudly in the United States Army.

He married Sandra Cantrell on July 7, 1987, in Lapeer, Mich.

Don was a senior project manager for General Motors for 29 years, working right up until his death.

Don loved work. He loved duck and goose hunting. In more recent years, he would rather spend time sitting in the woods enjoying the

camaraderie of family as much as the hunt.

Above all else, Don loved his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Burbas is survived by his wife, Sandra Burbas of Metamora, Mich.; children, Christine Lowis of Lapeer, Mich., Jacob Burbas of Orlando, Fla., Jason (Genavieve) Burbas of Metamora, Mich., and

Kali Burbas of Lake Orion, Mich.; three grandchildren, Matt Lowis, Hunter Burbas and Tyler Burbas; sister, Kris Schwartz of Minnesota; and his nephews, Dusty Schwartz and Nick Schwartz.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

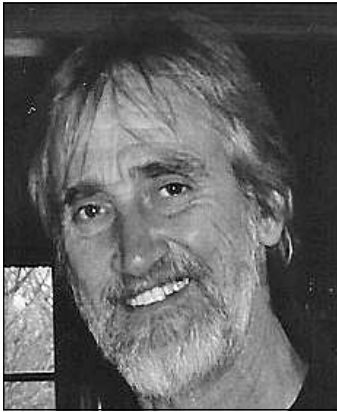
A memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, June 13, at Muir Brothers

Funeral Home, Lapeer, Mich.

Don’s family will receive friends at the funeral home from 10 to 11 the morning of the service.

Cremation has been entrusted to Muir Brothers.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network. Please visit BCAN.ORG for giving opportunities.



www.muirbrotherslapeer.com.

CITY

► continued from A1

She provided support for the upgrade from representatives of the Falls Hunger Coalition, Koochiching Community Action, Koochiching Aging Options, Friends Against Abuse and Community Education, who said they would use the chambers for public education, training and other events with the upgrade. FAA Executive Director LeeAnn Meer told the council Monday the system would have been used for many informational, educational events held by the advocacy group that fights sexual and domestic violence.

Falls Mayor Bob Anderson and Councilor Pete Kalar voted against the motion.

“I don’t see this as necessary for the community,” Anderson said, citing more pressing funding needs in the city. In addition, he said the matching funds had not been budgeted and suggested more study of the audiovisual needs of the council chambers. Anderson said city events are covered by local media and open to the public, providing transparency of government.

“I am not read to commit the money at this time,” Kalar said. “It’s a good tool, but not to spend money on at this time.”

Don Kosek, city administrative assistant, told the council it could improve the audio offerings of the meetings by speaking into the directional microphones at the council desks and by encouraging members of the public addressing the council to speak into a microphone at a table in the chambers.

Councilor Paul Eklund said city Administrator Ken Anderson suggested the grant be sought and the project placed for expenditure in the 2015 budget. Eklund said the grant should be sought if it could provide half the cost of the upgrade.

“We should take advantage of the grant,” he said. “If it’s for one year, put it in the budget and get the facts of what we need.”

Eklund agreed the upgrade

would help inform members of the public, the poorest of which don’t have access to newspapers or computers, he said. Instead, he said many area residents rely on cable television, which offers the public-access channel.

Kalar said he appreciated letters of support from agency representatives, and said as a former caregiver he understands the value of the providing education via the system to those who may not have other access.

He said the existing web and cable sources of city meetings are reaching people now with an adequate system in place. He suggested the council follow Kosek’s direction to speak into the microphones.

Councilor Gail Rognerud said live streaming meetings and other events on the city’s website is valuable to the younger generation, which relies on the Internet for information. The system could cost twice as much next year, she added.

“To have half paid by a grant and not by the taxpayer is important,” she said.

Anderson said the new system wouldn’t benefit residents who don’t have cable TV.

The meeting concluded with an exchange between Anderson and Jaksa about a grant application for the local airport.

“This is how grant applications should be done,” Jaksa said. “So that the council is engaged in the full discussion of the vision and we’re all on the same page and we understand the match to some degree.”

She said council approval of a grant application, and its match, for the airport came to the council after the application was submitted and she’s still not sure how much the city will be required to match.

“You made the motion last year to make the application, so I guess if you want me to bring forth your motion and show you,” Anderson said.

“I want more discussion on it,” she said.

“We’re off subject,” Anderson said, adjourning the meeting.

AIRPORT

► continued from A1

The plan calls for phased construction, which would allow service to continue uninterrupted and be more convenient for passengers and the airline service, Anderson said.

“It would probably be three phases and that in itself could add some additional cost because it means a great deal of good scheduling by the contractor,” Anderson said.

Federal and state funding is key to the project, Anderson said.

From \$6.5 million to \$7 million of the total will come from the Federal Aviation Administration. That amount includes \$3.2 million accumulated by the local commission at \$1 million for each of the past three years from the gas tax and ticket tax paid by airline users, Anderson said. The money is provided to the airport because of its commercial airline service and is intended for improvements. Ten percent of that money must be matched locally, which is expected to come from a \$1 million split between Koochiching County and International Falls, the joint owners of the airport, Anderson said.

“We’ve been trying to build a nest egg a little bit here,” he said.

The remainder of the FAA money is expected to come from discretionary funds. Anderson recalled the existing terminal building constructed in 1978 was funded in part with FAA discretionary dollars.

The project will also use \$2.2 million of state bonding money, secured this session by Rep. David Dill, Sen. Tom Bakk and Gov. Mark Dayton, Anderson said. The governor and legislators provided bonding



CONTRIBUTED ILLUSTRATION

money to many places and projects in Minnesota to encourage job growth, and in Borderland, every job counts, he said.

The Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division has pledged up to \$1.5 million toward the project, he said.

“Of course, you never know how much things are going to cost until you have the bids in hand, which we’re hoping to open July 9,” he said. “We’re hoping the stars stay lined up and we’re able to make this thing happen.”

The renovation and expansion is needed to continue to meet the local, regional and national flying needs into the future.

“It’s certainly one of the key economic development tools we have as a county and city,” he said. “It’s one of the things that cities that have air service have a leg up on the others. We heard that from (Mark Kowlzan) the CEO of Packaging Corporation of America — ‘you’ve got a great airport with great service.’ It is a key to them being here, as it is with other business in the area, tourism and forest products. We’ve got to work hard to maintain

that.”

A part of the reason for the project is to provide additional and adequate space for staff of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to meet the new standards and qualifications of entry, which allows the airport to continue to secure international flights.

“We are one of the four airports in the state of Minnesota with that international designation,” Anderson said.

The changes, Anderson said, will hopefully allow for more international and charter flights into the airport. Those flights receive the ultimate treatment, he said, thanks to the hospitality of the airport manager Thor Einarson and Einarson Flying Service Inc., who with his family has served as the fixed base operator of the airport for years.

“The key to the success here has been the Einarson ambassadors,” Anderson said. “They are able to turn these flights around in a short time — both between Border Patrol and Customs great service, and Einarson’s making sure they’re ready to fuel, have

the food that they might want on board, — and that makes it all possible. They have built a reputation throughout the air transport industry as being the place to stop and get great service.”

The project architects and engineers have designed into the project B3 guidelines, which Anderson said help new buildings and renovations meet sustainability goals for site, water, energy, indoor environment materials and waste. Projects that receive bonding money must meet the B3 guidelines, which he said could add a little to the cost.

“In the long run, what they are designed to do is to lower your costs because you will have a more energy-efficient facility,” he said.

Hibbing and Falls International Airport now are doing terminal construction and both received bonding money from the state, Anderson said.

“We’ve seen airport terminals at Bemidji, Brainerd and St. Cloud upgraded in the last few years,” he said. “Those are the hub of commercial airline service in the state.”

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION INC.

P.O. BOX 218
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA 56649

JUNE 11, 2014
TIME-6:00 p.m.
BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the February 13, 2013 meeting

2. Financial Statement for 2013

3. Election of three (3) Directors

4. Any business concerning the R.F.P.A. Inc.

JUNE'S REGULAR MEETING TO FOLLOW

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