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## Lack of quorum keeps planning commission mum on Boone stadium project



Because there was no quorum at a meeting of the Union Township Planning Commission Wednesday, the Daniel Boone School District failed to receive a recommendation for its \$3 million stadium project.

Only two of the commission's five members, Chairman Donald Basile and Vincent Kershner, attended. Without a quorum, the commission was unable to take any official action.

Basile and Kershner waited about 20 minutes while township Manager Carol R. Lewis tried unsuccessfully to reach the absentees by telephone.



Despite the setback, district Solicitor Brian E. Subers said school officials will seek conditional approval for the project at the Union Township supervisors meeting March 15. If they get that approval, they will come back for the planners' sign-off on the final plans.

"We really want to get a jump-start on this project as far as construction," Subers told Basile and Kershner.

Pending township approvals, the district is soliciting bids for the stadium renovation, which is expected to be completed by August.

The project includes a new synthetic-turf field, new track and new bleachers. It also will help increase the number of playing fields in the district, officials said.

The project will be funded by a \$12 million bond issued in 2008, which also provided \$9 million to refurbish the Amity Primary Center.

The district is going for approval of the stadium project at the same time that school board members are struggling to close a \$1.2 million hole in the preliminary 2010-11 budget. The preliminary budget is \$53.4 million, up from about \$49.2 million this year, officials said.

At its meeting Tuesday, the board discussed such possible cost-savings measures as program and staff cuts, delaying the opening of the Amity Primary Center, cutting clubs with paid advisors and reducing payments for classroom supplies.

Even if the district finds \$1.2 million in cuts, it would still need state exceptions for special education and retirement costs to avoid triggering a referendum requirement for the tax increase that would be needed to balance the budget.

Debt payments on the bond issue will be paid from the general fund but money allocated for the stadium can't be used to help balance the budget, Superintendent Gary L. Otto said Wednesday.

- By Greta Cuyler