

Bond plans boost debt by \$12M

Courthouse, golf course, road work slated

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In the space of a week, Passaic County has added nearly \$12 million in bonded debt for a variety of projects, including road resurfacing, improvements to the county courthouse complex and the public golf course in Wayne.

The freeholders last week approved a series of bond issues to pay for the capital improvements. The new bonds will add to the

county's outstanding debt, which stood at \$56 million in April.

One bond issue appropriates \$7.4 million for improvements to the Passaic County Jail and the Superior Court complex in Paterson. The jail will get new air conditioning, a sprinkler system and an intercom; the courthouse will get ventilation work and a new roof.

"The courthouse buildings — there are three — are old and need constant maintenance," said Steve J. Edmond, the Passaic

County engineer.

The freeholders have also approved a \$2 million bond issue to buy new snowplows and street sweepers, along with trucks for the Meals on Wheels program. Another bond issue worth \$1.1 million will be used to resurface roads, which will be combined with \$12 million in federal funds for road reconstruction provided in President Obama's stimulus package.

At the same time, the freeholders have decided to sink an additional

\$680,000 into the renovation of the Passaic County Golf Course. Already, the freeholders have budgeted \$2.8 million for a new irrigation system and reconstruction of all 36 tee boxes. Renovation of the course began July 1.

Edmond said the county has decided to spend an additional \$680,000 constructing a pump house and irrigation pond that will feed the new watering system. The county is currently installing a satellite-controlled irrigation system, which will be hooked into the new pump house and irrigation pond.

Edmond said that once the sys-

tem is up and running, the county will recycle its water through the pond. It will no longer have to buy water from the township of Wayne, he said.

Edmond said the golf course currently buys about \$120,000 worth of water from Wayne each year. By recycling water, the golf course will avoid those charges.

"The system should pay for itself in five to six years and thereafter save the county from paying for water to maintain the golf course," Edmond said.

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Fast facts

Bond issues adopted recently by the Passaic County freeholders:

\$7.4 million for improvements to county buildings, including the jail, the courthouse complex and the police academy.

\$2 million for road equipment, including street sweepers and snowplows, and trucks for the Meals on Wheels program.

\$1.1 million for road resurfacing projects.

\$750,000 for recreation projects, including \$680,000 for the Passaic County Golf Course.