

By JIM LANGHAM • Progress Feature Writer

PAULDING – Paulding County commissioners have authorized installation of new fixtures and updated light bulbs in court facilities that is expected to save county taxpayers significantly in lighting expense after five years.

Commissioners have authorized installation in both the courthouse and county court building. According to Commissioner Chairman Fred Pieper, since the project has been authorized before Dec. 15 of this year, there will be an AEP rebate of \$844 for the county court and \$6,300 for the Paulding County Courthouse.

“Right now we have old style fluorescent bulbs, 4 by 8 feet, known as T-12 bulbs,” said Pieper. “They are no longer being made; the government is phasing them out.

“Our maintenance guy submitted a bulb request to a bulb supplier to purchase a bunch of those bulbs,” continued Pieper. “We told him to hold out on the order because we planned to replace the bulbs. With knowledge of the rebate, we decided that rather than stock up on bulbs that weren’t being made anymore, it would be better to replace our fixtures and upgrade.”

The process would include installation of new fixtures to house the modernization of bulbs.

Pieper said that the contractor estimated that after three years, cost of installation in the county court would pay for itself, just in the smaller amount of electricity being used. It was estimated that the same would be true for the Paulding County Courthouse 5.2 years after installation.

“After that, the savings for the tax payers will really be significant,” said Pieper.

The cost of installing the new system into the county court, minus rebate, is \$2,827. In the Paulding County Courthouse, cost, minus rebate, is \$31,798.

Pieper said that due to changed fixture sizes, there would be some touch-up painting required following installation. The commissioner noted that following installation, officials are planning on authorizing painting in the courthouse.

“It’s been 17 years since we’ve last done anything like that,” commented Pieper. “We are doing all that we can to maintain this facility and keep up with it.”