

Fire department shows new home

By VERONICA MONIER
The Norton Rural Fire Department is well on its way to making itself at home in a new building. Phillip Loughry, chairman of Rural Fire District No. 2, said they purchased the building at 914 N. State St. in early June for \$65,000 after selling its old one to the Norton County Hospital for \$50,000.

He said the district bought the new building because it needed more space and both the hospital and Gene Carter, who sold the new building to the district, were willing to work with them.

"We had been looking for a while," he said. "We tried to buy a new building before, but it always got sold before we could close on it."

"Gene wanted the fire department to have the building and so he was willing to work with us. And the hospital wanted the old building, so they were also willing to work with us. Both are the reason we were able to get the new building."

Loughry said the new building is 6,920 square feet, a lot more space than the old buildings' 2,400 square feet.

In addition to the space, the new building has three 14-foot doors, compared to one 10-foot door, and because of its location, allowing easy access to both highways.

Before, he said, the fire department didn't have enough height to get the trucks in and out and all six trucks had to come out one door.

Also, he said, there is more space in front of the new building, so the department can hold training exercises.

"It just had absolutely everything we needed," he said.

Mr. Loughry said an open house was held Saturday morning so people could come check out the new facility. With everything else going on, including Crazy Day downtown and the county fair, he said he was happy with the turnout.

Now that it has more space, he said the department has room for new equipment. The district has applied for several grants, hoping to get a new pumper truck and grass rig.

The fire district covers eight townships, mainly in the center part of the county.

The Almena district covers eastern Norton County and the Lenora district takes care of the west, he said.

Steve Otter is the fire chief and Ed Witt is the assistant fire chief.

Other board members are Secretary Chuck Ankenman, Treasurer Chris Harting, Dwight Sprigg, Steve Persinger, Steve Washburn, Brandon Schultz, Dave Maddy and Gale Schulze.

The fire district was organized in 1969 and originally covered five townships.

Tower catches the wind

Gale Schulze of Norton says he's an old country boy, and he had always wanted a wooden windmill, even after he and his wife Sharon moved into town.

During a conversation with Jim Plotts of Norcat, the two men discovered they had a lot in common. Mr. Plotts has been collecting windmill parts for years. Mr. Schulze wanted one, so the two struck a deal.

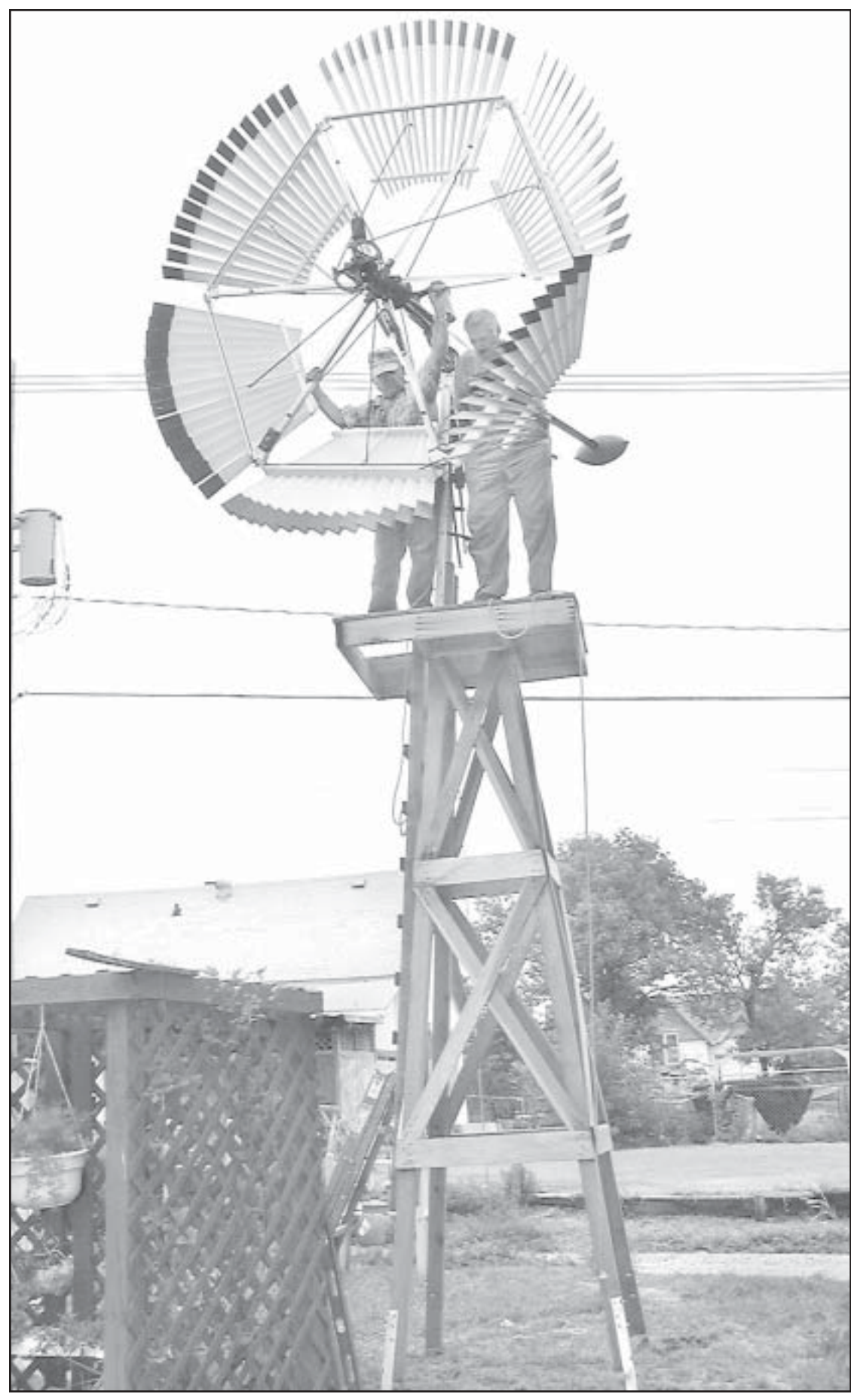
Mr. Plotts estimates it took him two weeks to completely restore the original mechanism and construct the 10-foot diameter head. He made the tower and head out of redwood. He hand cut each of the 84 blades that go into the six sections, called sails. The whole apparatus, counterbalanced by a cement "football," stands atop a 19-foot tower.

The windmill, a Monitor model L, was made by Baker Manufacturing.

Tuesday morning, Mark Bailey and his father Gail Bailey of Bailey Electric, Norcat, drilled the holes for the legs. They used their utility truck to set the tower and the head.

Mr. Plotts, with the help of Mr. Schulze, assembled the sections of the head while standing on the four-foot-by-four-foot platform on top of the tower. Mr. Schulze tied each section to a rope, which Mr. Plotts then pulled to the top and attached to the head.

The windmill works, but at the Schulze home it is strictly decorative. There's no well to hook it to.



Gale Schulze (left) and Jim Plotts assembled a windmill in Mr. Schulze's back yard Tuesday morning. Mr. Plotts built the tower and restored the entire head of the old Monitor windmill. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Big load to travel on county's roads

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

While the county doesn't know when or what will be moving, Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan said some time this month something big is heading from Nebraska through Norton County and into Decatur County on its way to Colorado.

Mr. Brannan told the county commissioners on Monday that he has been notified by a company out of Alberta, Canada, that it will be moving a "superload" over the county's roads sometime this month.

Mr. Brannan said the load will be over 216 feet long and 20 feet wide and weigh about 246 tons.

The load will be balanced between trailers in such a way that one will be pulling and one pushing, he said.

Mr. Brannan said he has figured out a route over the roads that will not require the load to go over any county bridges although it will require a lot of turns.

"It's impressive to see something like this coming through," he said. "They go around corners like a snake."

The load will need a county permit, which County Clerk Robert Wyatt said has not been requested yet.

"When we have a date we'll announce it because it will be interesting to see it coming through," Mr. Brannan said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked to Pat Cox of the county's engineering firm, BG Consultants, about a test the state is requiring on the bottom of the new landfill pit. Mr. Cox said that BG will be doing the test within the next couple of days. After that the state should give the authorization for the county to open the new landfill.

- Discussed the county's expense in unattended deaths, such as suicides, which include both the coroner and autopsies in many cases.

- Held a 15-minute closed session with Mr. Brannan, a 20-minute closed session with Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald and 10 minutes with Mr. Wyatt on non-elected personnel.

- Heard from Assistant Ambulance Director Ruth Schillig that the service received about 200 more surveys during the fair and emergency personnel will now be going door-to-door to pick up the rest of the needed information — about 400 more surveys.

Larned man dies in wreck near Logan

A 22-year-old Larned man was killed in a car accident Saturday near Logan.

At about 7:34 p.m., Nicholas Paul Niemeyer was driving his 2003 Ford Mustang Mach 1 east on K-9, when he lost control and flipped the vehicle, said a report from the Phillips County Sheriff's Office.

Phillips County emergency personnel responded to the accident.

Mr. Niemeyer was taken to the Phillips County Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Norton County Notice of Budget Hearing

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 (1T)
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
The governing body of Norton County will meet on the 15th day of August, 2005 at 11:30 A.M. at the Norton County Courthouse Commissioner's Room for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at the County Clerk's office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2006 Expenditures and the Amount of 2005 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2006 budget. Estimated Tax Rate* is subject to change depending on final assessed valuation.

FUND	2004		2005		Proposed Budget 2006		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2005 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	1,046,852	18.649	1,336,423	14.393	1,410,367	212,009	5.329
Road & Bridge	1,193,070	10.074	1,001,100	8.341	1,058,193	458,861	11.534
Special Bridge	137,000	2.984	131,000	2.964	167,000	146,447	3.681
Solid Waste	337,562	2.882	238,050	1.000	228,335	31,689	0.797
EMS-Ambulance	201,071	1.423	225,400	2.128	236,582	91,018	2.288
County Health	355,738	0.917	313,295	0.895	318,584	35,286	0.887
Noxious Weed	40,630	1.511	73,510	1.062	104,905	59,676	1.500
Election	50,379	1.179	50,150	1.127	87,550	82,066	2.063
Economic Development	36,771	0.919	90,000	0.898	94,057	19,784	1.000
Appraiser's Cost	86,832	1.914	85,860	1.659	100,000	93,428	2.348
4-H Maintenance	12,000	0.271	12,000	0.110	12,000	9,531	0.240
Fair	11,000	0.252	11,000	0.209	11,000	10,019	0.252
Soil Conservation	9,000	0.204	9,000	0.169	10,000	9,215	0.232
Airport	27,250	0.624	32,000	0.686	33,000	29,745	0.748
Mental Retardation	54,000	1.220	54,000	1.010	54,000	48,887	1.229
Mental Health	29,000	0.655	29,000	0.543	29,000	26,248	0.660
Community College	28,068	0.721	31,500	0.474	15,750	11,730	0.295
Andoe Home Maintenance	18,675	0.403	19,638	0.400	19,638	15,914	0.400
Extension Council	66,000	1.483	68,000	1.515	71,500	63,888	1.606
Historical Society	4,983	0.101	8,985	0.100	4,550	3,978	0.100
Sr. Citizens Service	49,682	1.000	46,865	1.000	45,406	39,784	1.000
Hospital	98,691	2.195	89,945	2.000	90,064	79,568	2.000
Employee Benefits	833,127	17.115	1,049,500	20.552	1,084,000	890,424	22.381
Bridge Bond	268,788	7.025	285,165	5.465	320,062	255,816	6.430
Noxious Weed Deficiency	70		70		70		
911 Emergency	48,228		44,620		30,000		
Wireless E-911			11,179		11,179		
Special Alcohol Programs	7,200		16,205		16,205		
Special Parks & Recreation	8,224		5,568		5,572		
Noxious Weed Cap Outlay			34,277		20,000		
Reg. of Deeds Technology	7,204						
Co. Health Cap Outlay	1,795						
Ambulance Equipment	25,084						
Equipment Reserve	0						
Sp Machinery & Equip.	199,573						
Solid Waste Equipment	107,192						
Bridge Construction	44,200						
Bridge Construction 2004	342,501						
Totals	5,877,370	75.526	5,403,305	68.700	5,688,569	2,745,011	69.000
Less: Transfers	405,461				89,000		
Net Expenditure	5,471,909		5,114,305		5,599,569		
Total Tax Levied	2,879,707		2,682,607		2,745,011		
Assessed Valuation	38,117,451		39,063,146		39,783,981		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,							
G.O. Bonds	915,000		775,000		1,550,000		
Lease Pur Princ	445,322		435,834		249,677		
Total	1,360,322		1,210,834		1,799,677		
	2004		2005		Proposed Budget 2006		
Other District Funds	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2005 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
Gettis Cemetery	1,532	1.746	1,557	1.695	1,564	1,500	1.726
Lenora Cemetery	6,395	1.465	702	0.800	136	0	0.000
Clayton Cemetery	1,658	2.195	1,639	2.172	1,632	1,500	2.181
Oronoque Cemetery	1,178	1.227	1,195	1.174	1,196	1,112	1.098
Edmond Cemetery	1,960	1.049	1,994	1.049	1,947	1,846	0.903
Almema Cemetery	14,469	2.338	14,647	2.281	14,419	13,041	2.273
Almema Fire Dist. No. 1	14,278	2.164	14,162	2.111	14,051	12,767	2.103
Norton Fire Dist. No. 2	28,897	2.489	41,967	3.489	42,867	38,789	3.353
Solomon Fire Dist. No. 3	11,261	3.234	11,497	2.773	11,358	10,437	2.794
Almema Township	436	0.189	13,353	0.189	12,952	402	0.094
Harrison Township	443	0.997	3,260	0.966	3,261	786	0.970
Assessed Valuations							
Gettis Cemetery	858,907		884,820		869,099		
Lenora Cemetery	4,006,521		4,131,409		4,032,684		
Clayton Cemetery	683,440		690,496		687,740		
Oronoque Cemetery	906,392		946,862		1,012,374		
Edmond Cemetery	1,760,026		1,911,737		2,044,520		
Almema Cemetery	5,776,858		5,717,708		5,737,173		
Almema Fire Dist. No. 1	5,900,892		6,048,195		6,069,505		
Norton Fire Dist. No. 2	10,814,392		11,117,393		11,568,275		
Solomon Fire Dist. No. 3	3,226,998		3,764,434		3,735,035		
Almema Township	4,237,307		4,263,654		4,254,528		
Harrison Township	786,496		813,272		810,686		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Robert Wyatt
County Clerk

Bulletin Board

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