

County Commissioners discuss delinquent taxes

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Commission is studying what can be done about making sure a delinquent tax is paid on a property before it is sold.

At its Feb. 21 meeting, the commission spoke with Jolene Weiser and Kay Risewick of Security Abstract and County Treasurer Cindy Linner about a delinquent tax on a property that was recently sold.

Security Abstract completed the title policy on the tract and collected the tax information from the treasurer's office.

The transaction was completed; however, there was a delinquent tax on the property which was not identified during the sale transaction, said Ms. Weiser.

County Counselor Doug Sebelius said the law is simple: the taxes are still owed and will carry a tax lien on the property. He said that if the action was to go any further, a formal claim would need to be filed with the proper authority.

The commission talked about what could be done in the future to prevent such problems, such as including paper transactions with the signatures of both parties and a terminal in which the abstractor could look up their own data.

In other business, the commission:

- Talked about Road W-3 with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan. The county received a letter from a rural resident about the road, asking if the county would do some road maintenance to remove the ripples. Mr. Brannan and Commissioner Leroy Lang looked at the site and reported that the county has taken corrective action.

- Received a map from Mr. Brannan for the areas needing chemical spraying this year. The map outlined the roads and bridges that he would like to have the noxious weed department spray for weed control during summer months. The commission said they would talk to Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman about the proposal.

- Heard from Mr. Brannan that a county vehicle was involved in a traffic accident. The vehicle is considered totaled, according to the repair estimates. Mr. Brannan

told the commission that he has purchased a couple of new pickups from the government website and they will be picked up soon. The vehicle loss was filed with the county's insurance.

- Learned from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald that BG Consultants, the county's engineering firm, has completed the request to open the second cell at the landfill and is ready to submit it to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

- Heard from Mr. Archibald that the City of Norton is in the process of hauling a couple of condemned properties to the landfill construction and demolition pit. He said the city has sorted the property demolition before hauling it to the landfill and has communicated well with the county for disposal.

- Talked to Mr. Beckman about cost sharing programs for the spring and summer spraying. Mr. Beckman said last year, approximately \$20,000 was cost shared to property owners. An estimate for this year's cost sharing is around 4,000 acres, which is estimated to cost the county \$10,000. Mr. Beckman asked the county to go with that figure for this year's cost sharing programs.

- They also talked about prairie dog poison, the purchase of chemicals for the cost sharing programs, and setting cost share limits. The commission asked Mr. Beckman to review the estimated cost to do private spraying. Mr. Beckman said he hasn't increased the department cost since he has been the supervisor. The commission asked him to figure his cost and then report back with the recommended hourly rate.

- Spoke with Mr. Beckman about the limits for private spraying of noxious weeds. The commission has reviewed the department's reports and told Mr. Beckman that the larger jobs are going to have to be applied commercially. Other discussion was held on asking the landowner to flag the area being sprayed before the county arrived at the site. If the landowner will flag the property, it will save the county staff time and will save the landowner money.

- Talked to Lewis Schuck, a rural

resident, about a road project in the southern part of the county. Mr. Schuck said he felt the county surveyor points are not accurate and wanted the county to review the site. The commission said they will review the report and then contact him.

- Heard a report from Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen about department operations. Discussion was held on call time and employees working at the ambulance building during the weekend hours. Mr. Nielsen told the commission about the current policy of call time and how payment is made to the employee or volunteer.

- Mr. Nielsen said this policy has been in effect for several years and is reviewed from time to time by the commission. He said when the ambulance service was needing volunteers to cover call time on weekends, a pay plan was implemented. To collect on the call time, however, the volunteer must be working at the ambulance building and be on the schedule.

- Appointed Economic Development Director Marlene Henderson to be the county's representative to the Solomon Valley Rural Community and Development Board, commonly referred to as RC&D.

- Reviewed an application for a loan from the Norton County Rural Business Enterprise Fund. The application included the business proposal for a local business, along with a net cash estimate on a monthly basis. The commission will take the application into consideration.

- Approved a "Satisfaction of Mortgage," which is a release to remove the first mortgage held by Norton County on property that was secured with a Rural Business Enterprise loan.

- Signed an application submitted by BG Consultants for federal assistance. The application is to rehabilitate the existing taxi way to hangars, extend the taxi way to the new hangar and to surface parking and entrance roads to the airport. The total estimate for the project completion is \$195,240. The application also outlined a five year plan with projects to include apron rehabilitation and installation of perimeter fencing.

Longtime Prairie View resident has been writing since 1940s

By KIRBY ROSS
Phillips County Review

Pick up an issue of area newspapers going back into the 1940s, turn to the Prairie View page, and Vivian Jansonius' name can be seen on the Prairie View News byline.

Born northwest of the Prairie View Reformed Church, Vivian was the second child of George and Mabel Van Der Wege. While she was growing up, her parents moved west of town, where she attended a country school before graduating from Prairie View High School with the Class of '35.

"After I graduated, I milked cows and delivered the milk into town," she remembers. "My older sister wouldn't do it because she said it would ruin her hands. Dad taught me how to drive so I could deliver it."

"Later on my folks moved to Denver," she continues. "I was dating Bill Jansonius at the time, and he came along with us. Finally, Bill's dad said he needed him back on the farm. He decided to move back so we were married on Christmas Eve in 1936, in Denver. We were married in the minister's house, and when we walked outside afterward there was a big plane writing Merry X-mas in the sky, and the minister said 'Look, they are writing that just for you.'"

"When we moved back, we lived upstairs at the Jansonius farm southeast of Prairie View. After we had children, we moved into Prairie View in 1951.



Vivian Jansonius has written Prairie View News for The Norton Telegram since the 1940s.

— Photo by Phillips County Review

We had four children, John of Phillipsburg, Georgia Brown of Missouri, Anita De Boer of Phillipsburg, and Van of New Mexico."

"I was always busy. I helped start the Prairie View Alumni and the Prairie View Library. When we first started the library we had it in our basement. We received books from the State Library Association. When we grew larger we moved it into a house, and then into the current library building."

"We started 4-H back in 1952,

and I am still active in it. I helped start High Plains Mental Health in Hays back in the 1960s."

"Somewhere along with all that, I started writing for the newspaper. I gathered the news mostly by calling people on the phone. It is hard to tell why I did it. I guess I just needed something to do. I have really enjoyed doing it, though."

"I don't have to call so much anymore. I've been doing it so long that by now people know to call me with their news."

Personal property application deadline is soon

The Norton County Appraiser's Office reminds all persons or businesses that all personal property must be filed with the office by March 15 to avoid the application of penalties and late filing. Types of personal property needing to be reported include mobile homes (not listed on owned real estate); trucks and pickups with a tag greater than 12M; nonhighway or

untagged vehicles; camping, car and utility trailers, unless tagged with an RV tag; golf carts; snowmobiles; all-terrain vehicles; boats, motors, jet ski, and trailers; aircraft; and business and office equipment.

Any person or business which has in their possession any tangible personal property belonging to others (not specifically listed

above) must list the property with the appraiser in the name of the owner of the property.

If you are uncertain whether you have property that you are required to report, contact the office, on the second floor of the Norton County Courthouse, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-12 noon, 1-5 p.m., or phone (785) 877-5700.

City of Norton will soon have new method of treating water

By VERONICA MONIER

A new way of treating water should work well for Norton once the new plant is built.

Thaniel Monaco of Miller and Associates Engineering Firm told the Norton City Council at its Feb. 15 meeting that they tested a new treatment process at the water plant and it went well. It was a five-day, full scale test that used enhanced coagulation with ferric chloride at a reduced pH. The city's normal coagulation process uses aluminum sulfate and alum at ambient pH.

Mr. Monaco said the test treated only surface water, which reduces some of the water plant's load. The new treatment will help with the disinfectant bi-products, which the city is having problems with now.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said quarterly letters are sent out to water users explaining the disinfectant bi-products.

"It looks good in comparison," Mr. Monaco said.

He said the study was one they are looking at implementing in the new water plant and won't be done to the current plant. They have another study to do as well.

The studies are used to show the state that they will work, he said. But, he said, it's not anything new since a lot of cities use it.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Mr. Monaco that bid letting for the wastewater treatment plant is scheduled for March 10. He said nine general contractors have requested plans and he hopes to have several bids to consider.

- Approved the lease purchase documents agreement with First State Bank for the digger derrick truck.

- Approved Resolution 3-2006, authorizing the city to enter into a lease purchase agreement with

First State Bank, for the purchase of a digger derrick truck.

- Heard from Mr. Lawson that the keep warm system at the power plant is down again and repairs have been ordered. The repairs are estimated to cost around \$14,000 and should be finished around the first part of March. The city will be generating power until the problem is fixed, he said.

- Learned the clean-up on the properties which were condemned last year has begun. City crews demolished the trailer of 409 South St. and the cost of labor, equipment and landfill fees was \$5,504.84. Mr. Lawson said the properties at 513 and 515 W. Main were scheduled for demolition last week. The properties at 510, 512 and 512 1/2 N. Archer have been recently sold. The new owner has contacted the city and said the properties will all be cleaned up within six months, he said.

- Authorized Mr. Lawson to sell the 1997 Ford Crown Victoria, the 1983 GMC pickup, the 1978 Ford pickup, and the 1984 Ford bucket truck, in addition to other un-

needed surplus items at the upcoming annual surplus auction held by McMullen and Wyatt.

- Heard from Councilman Jerry Jones that the Travel and Tourism Committee met with Regina Nickell from the Travel and Tourism division of the Kansas Department of Commerce. He said she gave a presentation on grant money that is available, for which the city may qualify. The Norton Tourism Committee will look at the grants available for marketing and recreation, and would like to meet with the Parks Committee sometime. He said Ms. Nickell would also like to meet with the Parks Committee.

- Heard from Nancy Myers, who said she had written a letter to the editor about the condition of the cemetery and was not attacking any individual employees and didn't mean for anyone to get hurt. She said she is handicapped and can't walk through the cemetery when there is snow and branches on the ground. She said maybe that needed to be taken up with the Public Safety Committee.

Norton County Weather - Feb. 28th - Mar. 4th

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
75/35	60/28	58/25	65/28	55/25

Normal High: 49 Sunrise: 7:09 to 7:14 A.M.
Normal Low: 22 Sunset: 6:31 to 6:36 P.M.

Record warmth with highs near 80 degrees will finish the month of February. In addition, we virtually saw no precipitation during the month, putting us in a situation where we must see a nice rain or late season snow storm in March. A Pacific front tomorrow has no moisture with it and a storm system over the weekend looks like it will track directly over us, thus putting us in the dry slot. We may see temperatures near 80 again next week, so chances for a big snow storm get slimmer and slimmer as we move along!

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Featured Homes of the Week

 610 SUNSET DRIVE - FRONT VIEW	<p>4 Bedrooms 3 1/2 Baths Walk-Out Basement Rec Room w/Wet Bar Formal Dining Large Family/Living Room/Eat-in Kitchen Covered Deck First Floor Laundry Double Car Garage</p>	 610 SUNSET DRIVE - BACK VIEW
 903 VALLEY DRIVE	<p>4 Bedrooms 3 Baths, LRDR Eat-in Kitchen Large Master Bedroom with Jacuzzi Full Finished Basement Rec Room with Storage and Office Double Car Garage</p>	 801 TIMBERCREEK
 910 WESTRIDGE - FRONT VIEW	<p>4 Bedrooms 3 Baths Walk-Out Basement Beautiful Landscape Double Garage CH/CA</p>	 910 WESTRIDGE - BACK VIEW
 406 W. WAVERLY	<p>2 Bedrooms Eat-in Kitchen Living Room Full Finished Basement Rec Room Large Oversized New Garage</p>	 708 VAN HORN - ALMENA
 613 W. NORTH	<p>3 Bedrooms Eat-in Kitchen Living Room One Car Garage (Attached) Full Basement CH/CA</p>	 803 NORTH GRANT
 AHLEMeyer REPAIR	<p>West Side Location 40'x70' Metal Building with Shop/Office —Open Your Own Repair Shop</p>	 67 RADIO ROAD

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