

General purpose tax defined



Dear Editor
This letter summarizes the action that the Norton City Council has taken and clarifies some misconceptions in regards to the proposed sales tax vote. The City Council approved placing on the ballot a .75 percent city-wide general purpose sales tax, with specific directions that the revenue would be applied to finance the costs to construct and equip a City Swimming pool project. The adopted language also states that the revenue will be applied to pay the costs of operating and maintaining that swimming pool and to finance general operating and capital improvement expenses of the

City.
This is a general purpose sales tax, adopted under K.S.A. 12-187 with specific language requiring that the sales tax money revenues received from the tax will be used to pay for financing the construction and equipping of the new pool. If there were enough funds available they could be used to pay the costs of operating and maintaining the swimming pool.
The general purpose sales tax was adopted at .75 percent which was the amount needed to finance the pool. There was no amount added for any additional operating or capital

improvement expenses of the City. State law requires that the city must specify generally the purpose of the revenue from a sales tax when the tax is included on the ballot, and that the City must also include the general purposes language. There is no way, under state law, to pass a general purpose sales tax, without the general operating and capital improvement language.
The proposed sales tax referendum vote also puts an end date of twenty years on the sales tax. The council chose an end date as the date of the pay off of the bonds which would finance the proposed swimming pool.

The sales tax will automatically end, without any action of the public or the council. In addition, the council could not extend the tax, without putting the issue back on the ballot.
Just to clarify, this is a general purpose tax that has a specific purpose for which it must be used, that is, a new swimming pool. Secondly, this tax will automatically end in twenty years, because that is the number of years of the proposed pool bonds.

Karen L. Griffiths
Norton City Attorney

Former residents put in their two cents

Asking for your write-in vote

Dear Norton Friends:
It's hard to believe that we have been gone from Norton from almost 12 years but our short stay living in your community brings back many fond memories of an area with great people, amazing schools, and remarkable community pride. We have learned that on November 6th, the City of Norton will have the chance to vote on a sales tax increase to build a new swimming pool. This vote interests us tremendously because we headed the committee that had a successful campaign for a similar vote in our hometown of Beloit, Kansas in June of 2010. Through friends, local media, and Facebook we have learned of some of the concerns that have been expressed regarding the new pool. These are the same concerns that were shared during our campaign; cost of the project, tax increase, too large of facility, true need, only being used for 4 months of the year, etc. Going through this entire process from the conception of the idea to opening day our top two responses include: (1) We should have done this five years ago (2) This project gave back to Beloit TEN FOLD! This was our first year of operation at the new Chautauqua Swimming Pool and we capitalized on the theme "Build It and They Will Come", and boy did they come. Our swimming pool averaged over 250 swimmers a day, tripled its

revenue, and saved the City of Beloit over \$25,000 from its local budget. We had swimmers from all over North Central Kansas and South Central Nebraska travel to our local community to utilize our pool, they bought gas at our gas stations, ate at our local restaurants, and shopped at our local grocery stores and our sales tax revenue increases for the summer months have the numbers to prove it. We have received an amazing amount of publicity from around the state through newspapers, magazines, and even TV stations who have focused on Beloit being a small community refusing to not progress. Recruiting efforts of young families, new professionals, and industry workers always include a tour of the new facility and have been a draw for these individuals. We feel the amazing similarities between projects; including size of community, age of the old pool, size of new pool, pool designer, etc. which can only mean Norton would have the same positive outcomes of a new pool that the City of Beloit has had. We strongly urge you to vote yes for this project because we truly believe that it will be something to benefit Norton for generations to come!

Best Regards;
Jim and Heather Johnson

Dear Editor,
I'd like to begin by thanking everyone that voted for me in the Primary Election. It appears that the theme this year is that everyone was Norton born and bred. Ok, everyone except me. I can understand that one might think that someone of like mind is who we want in office. But I don't see where whether you were or were not Norton born and bred makes anyone the right candidate. Does that make one have good people skills, good office etiquette, supervisory skills or work ethics? (These are skills that I'd bring to the position).
I was going to wait and thank everyone for believing that I could handle the position, that I ran for, when the fat lady sings. Oh, I mean when the General Election is held but, I have not been able to go out and meet everyone - this was suggested so that everyone could get to know me before 11/6/2012. I offer no excuses for not being able to accomplish this but, it is something I had hoped to do. However, November is knocking on our door and I've not begun to get out to the outlying farms and homes.
I'd like to thank you all for voting for me and if you'd like to entertain the thought of a write in, go right ahead. I don't know if it will allow me to take on the office of County Treasurer, but I'd sure like the chance.

Sarah Durham

An out of towners' thoughts on our new pool

Dear Editor;
My name is Sally Jones and I am from Colby. About a month ago, I was at a craft fair, and met up with a Norton resident who was discussing how Norton was considering a new pool and that it would be placed on the November ballot. I immediately got excited. I told her that I was from Colby and explained my experience with our swimming pool. I began swimming on our local swim team at age 6 and swam until age 18. I then coached the swim team for 26 years. Our old pool was built in the 1930's by the WPA and it was even added on the historical register. We battled costly repairs and our city lost an average of \$80,000 a year. The pool was always cold and so outdated and therefore the attendance was very low. When Oakley built their new pool, many of the Colby residents took their families to Oakley.

In 2010, Colby put a new \$5 million dollar water park on the ballot. The project was funded through a sales tax and a 20 year bond. It passed by a wide margin. The facility opened May 2011 and in the first year it had 33,000 in attendance. This summer it had 27,000 in attendance with the decrease due to being open less hours. The first year the facility had many new set up expenses but this year it broke even. It employs 16 people a day to operate the pool which has created additional jobs for our young people. It has brought in many people who come to shop, buy gas, eat out and spend the day in Colby, which has been a boost for our local economy. What I witnessed at the new pool compared to the old pool was complete families coming and spending the day together, even grandma and grandpas. On the weekends, the pool is packed with these families. I remember the first time I

saw this and was in total disbelief. I myself enjoy taking my grandchildren and they absolutely love it. We had the league swim meet last year and how awesome to have this beautiful facility compared to the old. I was so proud that this dream that many of us had for a long time has come true.
Living in rural America we don't have all the opportunities the cities can give to our youth and our families. A swimming pool is a wonderful asset to a rural community.
I would like to encourage you to vote "yes" on your new pool. I believe this project will enhance your community's quality of life for those who choose to live and visit Norton by creating jobs, boost the economy, encourage exercise, create family time and make your city proud.

Sincerely,
Sally Jones
Colby, Ks

Thankful for what we have had

Letter to the Editor:
As a kid growing up on a farm in southwest Nebraska, we lived 23 miles from a town with a swimming pool. We were not able to take swimming lessons. When I was in high school, our class, at the end of the school year would have a party at the lake. My parents would tell us to stay out of the boats and out of the water. Like most kids we would do just the opposite. We would get in the boats and in the

water.
When I moved to Norton in 1976, I started to raise a family. I wanted my kids to know how to swim, so that when they were around water, I wouldn't have to worry as much for their safety, like my folks did. All four of my kids have had Red Cross swimming lessons, and as an adult I wanted to know how to swim so I could be able to play with my kids in the water. So I took swimming lessons after

work for several years.
Now my wife and I are taking water aerobics classes and I was so surprised at the number of older adults taking these classes. It's great to see so many people of all ages using the Norton pool. It is time to replace our pool. I'm looking forward to the new pool and upgrades to our community.

Ed Witt

Keeping our community a progressive one

Letter to the Editor,
To all who may be concerned:
The Norton swimming pool has been an object of discussion and dissension among the Norton population. The fact still remains, if we are to be a viable business community and a progressive town to raise our families in, we can not afford to vote NO. This is not just about building a swimming pool but about providing for the future of our community. The pool is one important part of what brings families to our town looking for work, leisure activities, schools, churches, business opportunities and a safe place to live. It is also a tool for recruitment of teachers, industrial

workers, state employees, grocery store clerks, ministers, shopkeepers and corporate entities.
We are on the road to a progressive future for Norton with the help of a strong economic development, chamber of commerce, tourism staff and foundations designed to better our community with the preservation of buildings, housing needs and business recruitment. How can we possibly vote No?
Please consider your decision carefully and vote Yes for the future of Norton.

Respectfully,
Rose Garrison, Norton

Let your opinion be heard!

Dr. Dan McGowan

will be seeing patients at the Norton County Hospital

Tuesday morning, November 6

At which time he will be resuming his previous schedule. Please call the Norton County Hospital at 785-877-3351 to schedule an appointment.

BOARD CERTIFIED IN CARDIOLOGY AND INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY

270 ACRES FURNAS COUNTY LAND AUCTION

MONDAY - NOVEMBER 19, 2012 - 10:00 A.M. BEAVER CITY, NEBRASKA

AUCTION LOCATION: Beaver City Community Building

SELLERS: DAN & JENNY SHOEMAKER

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This auction offers 270 acres of cropland, C.R.P., and pasture that is very attractive for wildlife with an annual abundance of pheasant, quail, turkey and deer. For more information and a tour of this property, or a complete sale bill with color pictures, contact Jessup Realty, Monte Jessup, Broker, 785-653-2322 or 785-476-5328 or KRVN.com

LAND LOCATION: 270 Acres, more or less, located from Beaver City, Nebraska, 5 mile south, 4 1/2 miles east, and 1 mile south to the northwest corner of the property.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The West Half of the Northeast Quarter (W 1/2 NE 1/4), except the cemetery, West Half of the Southeast Quarter (W 1/2 SE 1/4), South Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (S 1/2 NE 1/4 SE 1/4), the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW 1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4) except a strip of land 4 rods wide along the north side, Section Nineteen (19), Township One (1), North, Range Twenty One (21), and the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4 SW 1/4) Section Twenty (20), Township One North Range Twenty One (21) West of the 6th P.M., Furnas County, Nebraska.

ACREAGE: 54.2 acres Cropland (53.6 Acres cornstalks); 86.2 Acres C.R.P. (Annual Contract Payment - 124.0 Acres Pasture - four wire fence, approx. half new in the last 5 years, 2 ponds and 2 water wells; 8 acres at \$475.00 per year to 9-30-20; 76.2 acres at \$3,372.00 per year to 9-30-25)

FARM SERVICE AGENCY DATA: Effective Cropland - 54.2 Acres; Wheat Base: 34.4 Acres - Yield 40 Bu.; Grain Sorghum Base: 19.0 Acres - Yield 56 Bu.; Soybean Base: .8 Acres - Yield 19 bu.

2011 TAXES: \$2,037.42

TERMS: 10% down payment at the auction, with the balance to be paid at closing. Closing shall be on or before December 19, 2012.

POSSESSION: Full possession of the property will be transferred to the buyer at closing.

ESA PAYMENTS: The buyer will receive the 2013 and subsequent years government payment and C.R.P. payments.

EVIDENCE OF MARKETABLE TITLE: Title insurance shall be used to guarantee marketable title. The cost will be divided equally between the seller and the buyer.

ESCROW AGENT: Dodson & Dodson Attorneys will be the closing agent. The closing cost will be divided equally between the seller and the buyer.

TAXES: The 2012 and prior years taxes will be paid in full by the sellers. The 2013 and subsequent years are the responsibility of the buyer.

MINERALS: The seller's rights transfer to the buyer at closing.

HUNTING: The sellers are retaining the rights for their family to hunt on this property.

MANNER OF SALE: This property will be auctioned by the acre for 270 acres.

AGENCY OF DISCLOSURE: Jessup Realty, L.L.C. is the agent of the sellers with the duty to represent the seller's interest.

CONDITIONS: All acreages are based on U.S. Government measurements and are considered approximate. All statements, representations, and information are from reliable sources and are believed to be correct; however, the sellers and Jessup Realty makes no warranties, either expressed or implied. Any costs incurred in establishing boundaries are the responsibility of the buyer. Buyer's should verify details and view the property prior to the auction. This property sells in "as is" condition. Announcements made at the auction take precedence over printed material.

155 W. 500 Rd. • Phillipsburg, Kansas 67661
(785) 653-2322
Monte Jessup • Broker/Auctioneer

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