

The Road and Bridge Department Manager attends last meeting

By Dana Paxton
dpaxton@nwkansas.com

Sandy Smith of the Norton County Road and Bridge Department addressed the commissioners on Monday. She wanted to see if she should re-submit an application for funds to get work done on two bridges near Lenora. They have already sent the application in twice but it hasn't yet been answered. Commissioner Charles Posson asked if they needed repair and Smith reported that most days the bridges see only 20 cars and that both bridges are listed as being in fair condition with the concrete being sound. Smith reported that at this point, \$43,000 had been spent on bridge #54 and \$29,000 had been spent on bridge #52. Posson then stated that since the usage was minimal and the condition of the bridges was still safe that it would be best to not re-

submit the application. Another topic Smith brought up was the 1,333 tons of good millings that have recently been put on area county roads. The estimated cost for this was \$12,000 but the actual cost was \$10,664 saving the county money. She reported that last week 20 loads of chunky millings were spread on the roads. On Friday, she said 67 loads or 1,600 ton of gravel and sand mix were put on Road K between E4 and E5 and the rest went to road E1 north of the landfill. This mix was free to the county and came from Venture Corporation. This was left over material from the road work on US Highway 36. Commissioner R.A. Peterson asked if any millings or gravel mix was placed on road L to keep the dust down and she said no. "By placing this material on road L it would not keep the dust down because it would break down and cause

more dust," Smith replied. The final topic discussed was that of the electrical work that needs done at the Road and Bridge Department office. Two bids have been submitted, Garrett's Plumbing and Heating put one in for \$25,000 which included re-wiring the front office and Bailey Electric bid it for \$75,000. The commissioners informed Ms. Smith that she needed to let the bidders know that currently this project is null and it needs to be re-bid. Smith concluded with saying, "Thank you for working with me for the last three years." As she is retiring and her last day was yesterday so this was her last commissioners meeting. Commissioner Posson told her that it had been a pleasure working with her and that she would be greatly missed.

Conservation District requests more money

By Dana Paxton
dpaxton@nwkansas.com

Norton County Conservation District Manager and WRAPS Coordinator, Twila Dizmag and board members, Greg Otter and Chris Harting met with the commissioners last Monday to discuss their upcoming budget. Every year the county helps the district with funding. Over the last few years \$10,000 was given to the district by the county and this year they are asking for \$15,000. It would allow funds to continue to promote conservation and be able to put Best Management Practices on the ground throughout the communities in Norton County. Commissioner R.A. Peterson

asked, "Why such and increase?" Dizmag replied by saying, "The district has really had to struggle with only \$10,000 and in comparison to other counties we seem to get the least amount. Even though the state matches funds it isn't enough, we have even had to do some layoffs to make up for the shortage of funds due to state cuts. We can make up some of the \$35,000 deficit through CRP drilling but it won't make it all up. I just don't want to see the Conservation District get lost in the dust, we help a lot of people in the area." All of the 2012 accomplishments of the Norton County Conservation District

can be seen in this year's Soil Conservation tab put out by the Norton Telegram on Jan. 25 of this year. It covers everything from terracing to wetland restoration acres. Peterson asked Norton County Treasurer Robert Wyatt if the normal \$10,000 had already been allocated for this year's budget, and Mr. Wyatt reported that, yes, it had been. Peterson then told their guests that they would see what they could do because all the commissioners agreed that, after all the district does for conservation in the county, they thought they deserved more from the county.

City Council

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bic yard for rock removal and replacement with suitable material, 2) \$100 per cubic yard for removal of unsatisfactory subgrade soils and replacement with approved general fill soils, 3) \$125 per cubic yard for removal of unsatisfactory subgrade soils and replacement with approved low volume change soils or material, and request the city's architect/engineer get in writing from the contractor that they will hold the bid prices on the alternates. The alternate bid items were as follows: parking lot east of building \$89,000, lighting for after hours use \$54,000, pool heater \$69,000. -Lawson also reported that Drew Eagleburger accepted the position of Apprentice Lineman and an ad will run for the water plant position. -the City has received its signed copy of the Geometric Project on U.S. Highway 36, for surfacing, curb and gutter on U.S. Highway 36 from Brown St. to approximately 300 feet west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 36 and U.S. Highway 283 in Norton. -a third geometric improvement project will be applied for, which will run from the four-way stop, headed east. -Roofmasters from Colby found hail damage on the roof at the library and an adjuster will look at it.

-City crews will be putting up the fair rides this week. -work on the drainage project on West Crane has begun. -the terraces that were recently repaired at the airport have helped with the water runoff. -Harriett Gill reported the Airport Board did not have a quorum for the second month in a row. The board received a report from Olsson Associates. Justina Smith will take over for Sandy Smith on the board. The next meeting is July 8. -Donna Foley reported Travel and Tourism discussed ideas for the kiosk at Veteran Memorial Park and approved a grant for the Norton Archery Club for the Carp Derby. -Funds were approved for the Adobe House windmill at Sebelius Reservoir, which will be repaired by an Eagle Scout group. -Tony Grysch discussed entertainment enhancements to the Smokin' in the Barn event. -Foley also reported that Economic Development received a report on the moderate income housing possibilities in Alma, and that the Ryan Addition, street and sewer project, will take approximately 60 days to complete. Also, the 2014 budget was reviewed and approved, and the possibility of a downtown market study was discussed. -approved the 2013 cereal malt beverage license application for Destination Kitchen at 115 West Main.

-approved the Special Event cereal malt beverage license for the American Legion Riders, to have a beer garden in a confined area in front of 106 S. First Street, during the Norton Car Show on July 12. -approved the Special Event cereal malt beverage license for the American Legion Riders, to have a beer garden in a confined area in the livestock barn, during the Smokin' in the Barn Contest on Aug. 23-24. -set a public hearing on July 3 at 5:45 p.m. regarding the Notice and Order issued on the property located at 1007 N. Norton St., as requested by John Stielow. The following building permits were presented: Warren Byrum - \$25,000, construct garage at 106 E. Wilberforce Susan Thomson - \$1,200, repair siding on garage at 1011 N. Norton Ave. Nile Cochran - \$5,000, re-roofing at 1022 N. Truman Carlos Hernandez - \$10,000, add roof on patio at 203 W. Washington St. Dale Carlson - \$10,000, re-roofing at 321 Brown Bette Townsend - \$4,500, re-roofing at 913 Westridge Jack Woodyard - \$8,000, re-roofing at 610 W. Woodfield Travis/Mandy Hogan - \$25,000, construct addition at 1024 Churchill Drive

Shred day held...



Randy Brazil, of the Cintas Document Management Company, dumps a load of papers in the truck to be shredded. Moffet Drug has offered this service free of charge for four years now and really had a good turn out again this year. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Severe wind gusts across plains

Researchers across the country recently published a peer-reviewed paper about severe thunderstorm wind gusts. A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces wind gusts of 58 mph or greater. In addition to determining severe thunderstorm gust climatology, the researchers wanted to contrast wind gusts measured by meteorological equipment with gusts that are estimated by human observers. There are four official measuring sites across the Tri-State area. These sites, known as ASOS (Automated Surface Observing System) sites, meet specific meteorological siting requirements and are calibrated four times a year to ensure data quality is high. The ASOS sites are located at airports in the area: Burlington, Colo.; Goodland; Hill City; McCook, Neb.. There are over 900 ASOS sites across the country.

mechanism responsible for strong thunderstorm winds occurs when precipitation falling from a thunderstorm channels faster-moving air from aloft down to the surface, which often results in a swath of damage. Still other examples include processes occurring in well-organized storms known as supercells, and organized clusters of storms called bow echoes. Each of these has its own mechanism for developing severe winds at the surface.

Rank	Site	Number of Events
1	Burlington, CO	18
2	Lubbock, TX	15
3	Hill City, KS	13
4	Liberal, KS	12
4	Childress, TX	12
4	Guadalupe Pass, TX	12
4	Wichita Falls, TX	12
8	McCook, NE	11
8	Dodge City, KS	11
10	Goodland, KS	10

Examining data from 2003-09, researchers determined that 1,911 measured severe thunderstorm wind gusts occurred across the contiguous United States. Further, researchers discovered that ASOS sites in the High Plains recorded the highest number of severe thunderstorm wind gusts in that seven year period. In fact, the station that reported the most number of severe thunderstorm wind gusts across the country during that period was Burlington, Colo., with 18 events. The ASOS in Hill City, recorded the third highest number. ASOS sites in McCook, Neb., and Goodland, were in the top 10. Severe thunderstorm wind gusts are common across the High Plains and can originate via several processes. In dry microbursts, precipitation falling from a thunderstorm begins to evaporate when it encounters drier air below. This process can cool the air significantly, which then forms a rapidly descending downdraft which can produce extreme wind gusts of 70 to 90 mph or greater. Another



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