

Economic Development turns in budget for year

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com
Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul handed in a flat budget to the county commissioners on Monday.

Mr. Sproul said that he wasn't asking for any more or less money but had moved some items around to make more sense for what is likely to happen next year.

"I'm happy with the way you did that," Commissioner Charles Posson told him.

Mr. Sproul also asked for a letter of support from the commissioners for a Commercial Rehabilitative Community Development Block Grant for 109 East Main in Norton. He said he

is working with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission in Hill City and is getting the historical documentation ready.

There will be a public hearing on the project, he said, and in the end the city will have to decide what to do with it.

Commissioner Posson noted that it will take a lot of money to rehabilitate the building, which was damaged in a fire.

Mr. Sproul said that he has not been able to find any money to help with the rewiring of the county shop, which is a WPA building but that he is still looking.

He asked the commissioners to look around and see if there is anything else they can think

of that might need funding over the next year or two.

"It's getting tougher and tougher (to find money for projects,)" Mr. Sproul said.

He said that Almena will probably be looking to expand its fire station in the future because it has another fire vehicle coming soon.

The other thing he is working on, he said, is getting national sponsors for the Kansas Ringneck Classic, the third annual governor's pheasant hunt Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 14 to 17. This year Norton and Graham counties are playing host for the event, which was held in Oakley the last two years.

Recycling program still facing issues

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com
While Norton County doesn't make any money off its recycling program and it has its problems, Solid Waste Supervisor John Miller thinks it's a good idea.

The more recycling, he told the Norton County commissioners a week ago, the slower the landfill gets used up. Plastic bottles are a special problem, he said, because they're very hard to compress. Even when baled for recycling, Mr. Miller said, they are hard to handle and one blew up one time and filled the room with plastic.

Most of things at the recycling center aren't resalable, Mr. Miller said.

The big exception is cardboard and paper, which are purchased by the shingle plant in Phillipsburg.

Tin cans are baled and an outfit out of Denver comes and gets them, he said, but the county doesn't get anything for them. It just gets rid of them.

"We give them away," Mr. Miller said. "I'd just as soon get paid for them or send them to F & F Iron.

The recyclables come in to the center in bags, which usually have been put in the trash trucks and compacted.

As soon as the end of the truck is opened, Mr. Miller said, broken glass spills out everywhere.

Lenora and Almena do bring their recycling in a trailer sometimes, he said, but sometimes it comes in the trash truck and then it is compacted to make for fewer trips.

The commissioners and County Attorney Doug Sebelius were surprised that the recyclable loads would be crushed before delivery to the center.

"I never gave it any thought that you'd have to sweep up bro-

ken glass," Mr. Sebelius said.

Why are they crushing recyclables, he wanted to know.

Mr. Miller said that it is understandable that the trash trucks would crush the recyclables otherwise they would have to make way too many trips and that would be prohibitively expensive.

Mr. Miller said that not only does his staff sort but that he has three inmates working at the sorting table and they know how to deal with the problems. He said his inmate crew right now is exceptional. They have a system for getting everything where it belongs in the shortest amount of time.

"It's a process," Mr. Miller said. "It works."

Commissioner R.A. Peterson wanted to know if it was hot in the recycling room.

"Yep," Mr. Miller said.

When it's a 100 degrees outside it can get to 120 degrees inside, he said, but he has installed several large fans to help with the problem. He said that they try to pull cooler air into the building in the morning and then from the shady side of the building during the day. And

they open up every door in the building, he said, to get circulation.

The commissioners asked about the new T shirts the landfill employees have been wearing.

Mr. Miller said that the shirts serve two purposes. It tells people who is a member of the county crew, he said, since the inmate workers just wear light blue T shirts and jeans now instead of the old orange jumpsuits.

The second purpose, he said, is to advertise the recycling program.

"We've got to do a better job on promoting our recycling," Mr. Miller said. "We get calls every day asking what we take."

The crew first wore their new shirts at the kid's fishing day at the lake, he said.

He said that he plans to continue doing this for every major event with members of his crew available to answer questions and put out recycling containers.

"I don't mind bringing containers and bags," he told the commissioners.

USD 211 has the following vacancies for the 2013-14 school year

Applications are available at the USD 211 Offices located at 105 E. Waverly, Norton, by calling 785-877-3386 or at www.usd211.org and select Employment. Applications will be accepted until these positions are filled and a limited number of applicants will be invited to interview. USD 211 is an EOE.

(1) **AT-RISK TUTOR FOR THE NORTON JUNIOR HIGH** - Successful applicants must have at least 60 college hours and qualify for a substitute teacher's certificate. Preference given to those with teacher certification or training in the teaching of reading and/or mathematics. Official college transcripts will be required. Thirty-five hours per week minimum while school is in session.

(2) **SPECIAL EDUCATION PARA-PROFESSIONAL AT EES AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL** - A minimum of a high school diploma or GED is required with some college preferred. Seven and one half hours per day while school is in session.

(3) **ASSISTANT COOK IN THE NORTON JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL KITCHEN**. A high school diploma or GED preferred. A minimum of 35 hours per week while school is in session.

These positions offer a competitive wage and come with the following benefits: KPERS retirement and life insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, financial assistant with health insurance, paid sick leave, personal leave and some paid holidays.

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Quick cool down...



The Norton City Fire Department provided a way to cool off during the hot 110 degree day on Saturday during the Norton Car Show. Caren Thomson gets a little extra help cooling off when Bradley Nuzum carries her into Lane Archer's line of fire. For most of the day volunteers could challenge each other to a water fight by spraying a hose at a barrel while all were getting soaked.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

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Open House of the Completed Phase 2B of Our Facility Master Plan

Friday, July 19 | 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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You'll tour Community Hospital's new Infusion Center where six more chemotherapy bays have been added for space and comfort. Patients needing shots or lab work are also served in this relaxing area. You'll also tour:

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