

DEER

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under-road permits. The county will be selling, for bids, a 17,000-gallon fuel tank at the shop.

They talked about the prices of tractors but nothing has been bid. Supervisor Flemming will seek bids to bring to a future meeting.

County attorney's report

County attorney, Justin Barrett, said he had met with the St. Francis city attorney, chief of police and sheriff to begin working together in solving issues. One of the issues concerns jurisdictions. He noted that either entity can investigate crimes that occur within the city of St. Francis and, that anything happening in the county is covered by the sheriff's officer. However, if there is a need for backup, the city officers can be deputized.

He said all 911 calls are routed through the dispatch office and the calls will be dispatched to the proper departments.

Commissioner Ray Lee said it was important that everyone work together because someday, they may need each other.

Emergency management

Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said there is a workshop in Goodland on Feb. 11 and invited the commissioners to attend.

He was given permission to purchase a new desk for \$190 from Biers' Hometown Store. The desk will be used for the office in the new St. Francis Emergency Service building. The commissioners wondered if a similar desk would work for the emergency medical service office?

Mr. Beikman had information concerning fire trucks being sold by the state of California. Because of an accident, the type of fire trucks used in the state are being replaced and the old ones sold for very little. Mr. Beikman said he would find a website where Mr. Rogers can get more information.

Bird City's strategic plan

Cathy Domsch presented the Bird City Strategic Plan for the commissioners' signature. She talked about the town meetings that had been held where they had discussed the housing project. The project will be funded with a government grant and will include two single homes and two double (duplex) houses.

She asked for a copy of the county's incentive plan. They also discussed the turnoff on U.S. 36 at the Bird City Dairy's entrance. She said there will be dirt available for the dirt work when the new lagoon is dug. The big expense will be for the asphalt.

Radio equipment

Deborah Farland, St. Francis City Police Chief, had talked to Prairie States, Imperial, about installing the radio equipment on the new police car. However, the company was much higher than the sheriff in Sherman County who offered to put in the equipment.

After much discussion about what would qualify for 911 funds, the county attorney said that the equipment needed by the chief qualified. The commissioners told

her to submit her bill when the equipment had been installed.

911 dispatch center

Sheriff Craig Van Allen represented Carol Gamblin, communication technician, concerning the 911 dispatch center. He said a grant had been written for the county which would take care of upkeep costs for the system for 5 years. There are no matching costs.

The center has been moved to the third floor of the courthouse. If someone needs into the courthouse after hours, the dispatcher cannot leave the center to open the door.

Sheriff Van Allen said the dispatchers were wanting to installing a camera and a buzzer system for the side courthouse door. The dispatcher could buzz the door open if the highway patrol or other people needed in.

Sherman County has a similar system. The commissioners asked the sheriff to look into the costs and what it would take to install the equipment.

In other business

In other business:

- Attorney Barrett said a phone company is planning on erecting a 150-foot, self-supporting cell tower just outside the city limits east of Lorraine Street, St. Francis. The company representative is getting clearance from the Federal Aviation Administration before going ahead with plans.

- The commissioners were informed that the county had received a Community Development Block Grant for a new ambulance. The county's share is \$71,000 and the grant will cover the other \$71,000. The ambulance will go to the Bird City service. Terry Miller, clerk, will be attending a mandatory grant acceptance and assistance training.

- The commissioners decided that no political posters and advertisements will be posted in the courthouse.

- The Airport Authority agreed to upgrading the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) and will pay the extra \$300 a year to maintain.

- A letter had been received from the Kansas State Department of Transportation informing the commissioners that Doug Austin, St. Francis, was cleaning up his property on U.S. 36. Mr. Ketzner said he would take the letter to show Bob Yost.

- The commissioners agreed to stick to the employee policy and department head, John Garner will get comp time, not pay, for working during his vacation. They noted that they did appreciate the work that Mr. Garner does at the landfill.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

STEPS

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back to the original state.

He went onto say that the courthouse was a beautiful show piece and appeared to be much the same as when it was constructed in 1924.

"It has excellent integrity and overall appearance," Mr. Kite said. "The commissioners have done a fabulous job (of keeping it up) for years and years."

Replacing the steps with limestone would cost far more than cement but, Mr. Kite offered to write for a grant (at no cost to the county). Several months later, the Kansas State Historical Society awarded the

county a Heritage Trust Fund Grant of \$78,384 to replace the steps with limestone. The county would pay the remaining \$18,616 of the costs. It was noted that the county's cost was less than it would have been to run the concrete steps.

The commissioners had hoped to have the steps in before winter weather set in but, when the bids came in, they were higher than expected. The contractor advised waiting until after the first of the year and put the project out for bids again.

At the Friday meeting, the commissioners agreed to again seek bids on the project. With the help of the Kansas State Historical Society, two new concrete companies had been identified and Mr. Johnson would see if the companies would be interested in bidding on the steps.

They are hoping to have the project re-bid and the bids opened at the Feb. 29 commissioners' meeting but nothing is definite. Under the guidelines of the grant, the project is to be completed by August.

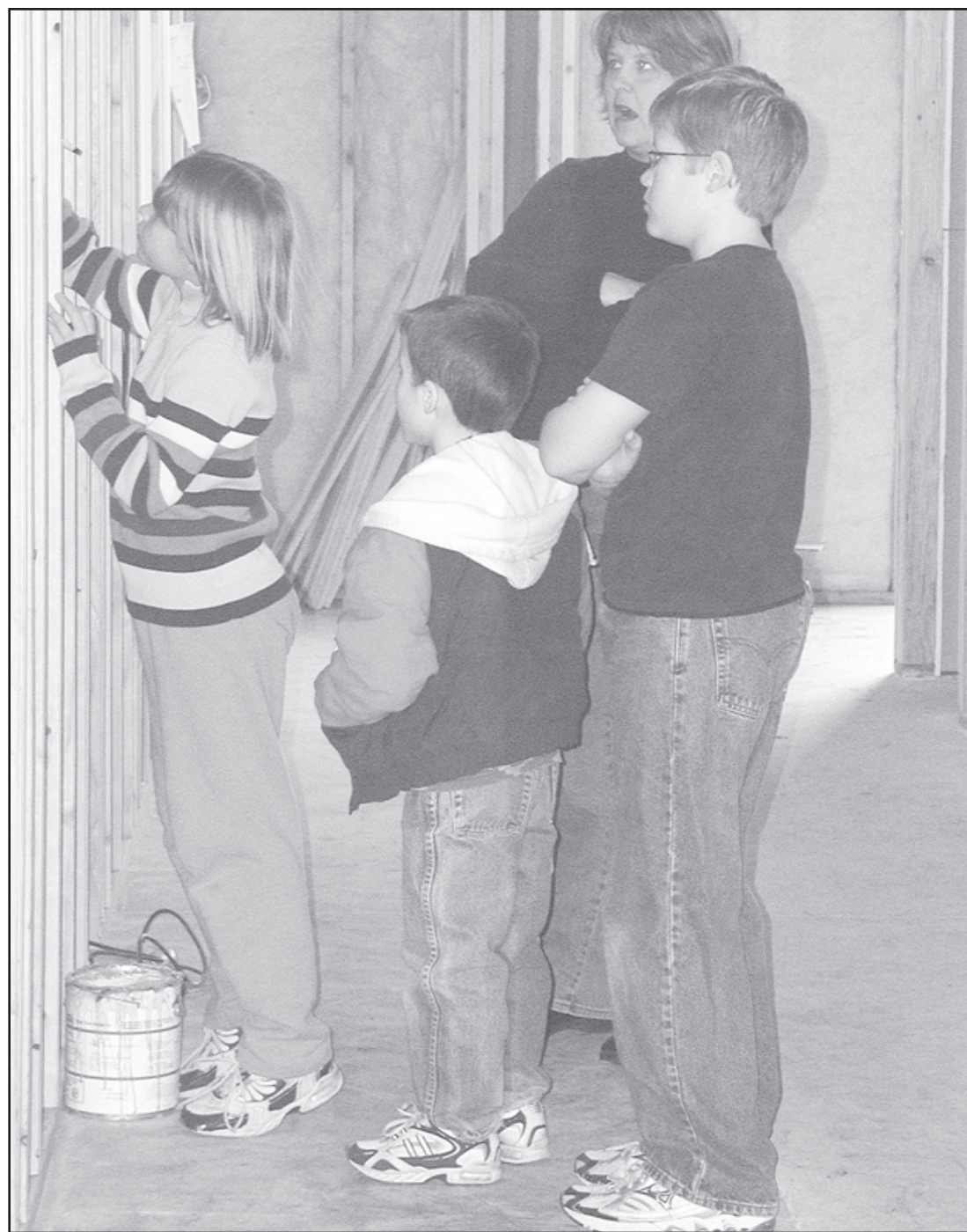
DOGS

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then, they will begin enforcing county policy to keep the dogs down.

Mr. Schlittenhardt asked to attend the annual noxious weed conference the first week of March. Because the deadline for treating prairie dogs is March 15, the commissioners suggested that he wait and see how the treating is going before making arrangements to go to the conference.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, asked for 5 minutes executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made following the session.



SIGNING — Katie Schmid sighed her name on sheet rock at the new St. Francis Emergency Service building. Her name will eventually be covered with insulation and sheet rock. However, someday, this may come down and her name will be there for future generations to wonder 'Who was Katie Schmid?' She is shown with her mother Tina Schmid and brothers Mason and Ian.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Club Clip

Music Club

The Saint Francis Music Club met Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the home of Beth Maifeld. Roll call was answered by 17 members and seven guests.

In the absence of president, Marsha Magley, vice president, Beth Maifeld, chaired the short business meeting. Treasurer Armita Yost, reported that the Candy Store at the Yuletide Festival was a financial success because of the support of the club members and generosity of the community.

The Poetry Moment was presented by Kim Zwegardt who delighted those present with a humorous, original poem

about holiday goodies and the discouraging report by the bathroom scale.

The evening's musical program was provided by Louanne Isernhagen and Talley Morrow. Together they brought Italian composer and violinist, Antonio Vivaldi to life with stories and history intermingled with musical selections. Jean Ann Confer accompanied Mrs. Isernhagen as she played "Concerto in A Minor" on her violin. Mrs. Confer also accompanied Mrs. Morrow in her vocal presentation of a Vivaldi oratorio "Gloria" in Italian. Those in attendance listened to

a recording of a portion of the familiar Vivaldi composition, "Four Seasons" during the program and while they visited and enjoyed refreshments served by Betty Orth and Jackie Butler.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Jean Ann Confer on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. The musical program will be a tribute to Julie Andrews. The Saint Francis Music Club is open to anyone who has an appreciation of music.

For more information, contact Mrs. Magley at 332-3360 or Mrs. Maifeld at 332-3133.

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