

Director asked to set up class

By Karen Krien
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The county needs emergency medical technicians. On Thursday, the Cheyenne County Commissioners agreed to have the emergency medical service director set up a class.

Director Janelle Bowers said some of the technicians are out of town, others are working farmers in the field and, then there is one who is leaving town.

Mike Hansen, technician, had completed his classes and would be able to teach a first responder class. She said a first responder can do almost everything that an emergency medical technician can but it takes only 90 hours of training, compared to 220 hours for a technician.

She had been talking to different people and, at the time of the meeting, had four people who were seriously considering taking the class. The cost of the class was not known at the time.

The commissioners asked that Mrs. Bowers figure the cost of paying the technicians when they were on call. At least, then they would know what the cost would be when figuring the budget.

Mrs. Bowers said that one of the ambulances was caught in a terrible hail storm between Park and Quinter. The windshield will need to be replaced and there is quite a bit of hail damage to the vehicle. If the ambulance is down for any length of time, an ambulance from Bird City will be brought over to St. Francis.

Shelves are needed for the ambulance department in the new St. Francis Emergency Building. The commissioners asked her to buy the shelves locally and to consider the cost.

911 Dispatch report

Carol Gamblin, dispatch director, told the commissioners about a recent 911 Dispatch Board meeting. She said the county attorney had written a letter to the commissioners on Jan. 29, asking that the city police have their phone system turn over into the dispatch. So far, the city hasn't complied, she said. She noted that now all calls to the sheriff's office will go over the dispatch to the sheriff's office.

Mrs. Gamblin was allowed to go

to sex offender registration training in Garden City.

Road and bridge department report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the crew will be chip sealing the St. Francis Cemetery road on June 9. He said he had sold the mower at auction for \$2,500. He had bought a bucket for the excavator for \$250. He also purchased a 1998 Chevy pickup for \$900 (as is) through the internet.

The crew had put in a Living Fence at the Terry Culwell place. He also talked about county bridges which need repair.

Auditor's report

Auditor Jack Eldridge talked about the changes in accounting. He explained that there are things that the commissioners can do to make the financial statements their's, not necessarily the statements made by the auditors. He pointed out that commissioners need to be able to look at the statements and know what is there and what is supposed to be there.

"The county, as a whole, needs to have this expertise," he said.

He had taken a check list and modified it so the commissioners can use it to compare the statements.

The auditors, he said, should not be auditing something they created.

In other business

In other business:

• Attorney Barrett presented two scholarships for \$1,000 each to Taylor Leibbrandt and Katlin Marin. The scholarships were made available through the Diversion Fund.

• Attorney Barrett was given permission to attend a spring conference in Wichita.

• Sheriff Craig Van Allen said he had tentatively hired a new officer to replace the one who recently resigned. The commissioners asked that all officers hired sign an agreement to serve a certain amount of time or pay back the expense of their training as it is expensive. They esti-

ated that the training cost is around \$15,000.

• Danny Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog manager, had his report of work since the prairie dog season is over. He was approved to go to a summer training in Hiawatha. The training qualifies him for recertification hours.

• Dick Bursch, fair board president, wanted to know where the deed was for some fairground land. The county attorney will be working on it.

• Virginia Cooper was approved as a part-time employment as she had worked in the appraiser's office when the other staff had meetings.

Executive sessions

Throughout the commissioners meeting, three executive sessions were called to discuss personnel and, after coming out of session, no decisions were made.

The commissioners called executive session with Attorney Barrett for 15 minutes. Fifteen minutes executive session was called with Kathy Graf, former secretary in the appraiser's office. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, called for 10 minutes executive session with the other commissioners and Mrs. Gamblin to discuss personnel.

Vouchers reviewed

Vouchers reviewed by the commissioners and approved were: 16604, \$552 paid to Yost Ford Mercury for ambulance maintenance; 16609, \$83 paid to Dundy County Hospital for a blood draw; 16616, \$60 paid to Ken Johnson for computer services; 16617, \$621 to Gary Rogers for mileage (\$486) and chairs (\$135); 16631, \$896 paid to St. Francis Equity for chemicals and supplies; 16634, \$27 paid to Dan Schlittenhardt for tractor rental; 16638, \$2,182 paid to Blackwolf Brokerage for hauling concrete rock; 16639, \$1,135 paid to LG Everist for crushed gravel.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be June 16.



TY ZWEYGARDT, Isaac Schiltz and Caitlin Northrup watch Jenna Hill as she takes her turn decorating the retaining wall around the hospital. The students, all members of the junior high art class., wanted the wall to look more cheery.

Many items discussed when dispatch board has meeting

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"I don't know who has the chip on their shoulder but, when I arrive on a scene, I want an officer or all of them there," said Michael Hansen, emergency medical technician.

This comment was made at the 911 Dispatch Board meeting after a lot of serious talk about which law department should cover calls made in the city. George Harper, fire chief, at the end of the meeting also agreed that there seemed to be some chips on shoulders. Many of the issues appeared to be resolved by the time the meeting adjourned.

Carol Gamblin, dispatch director, said she felt that she had been "ambushed" when Scott Schultz, St. Francis mayor, two council members and Deborah Farland, city police chief, had come to her office Thursday morning. They were there to discuss the matter of the city police not being called to handle an unattended death happening within the city limits.

Craig Van Allen, sheriff, said state statute mandates that the county corner makes the calls on investigations. Any costs incurred in the investigation comes out of the sheriff's budget. He said if the KBI comes in and orders tests, the tests also comes out of the sheriff's budget — it is not a matter of jurisdiction. Both Jim Walters, city officer, and Natalie Knodel, city council woman, did not think this was right — that the city should handle cases within the city and the sheriff, outside the city.

Officer Walters said that he didn't think the resources provided by the city police were being used. He pointed out that the police officer is paid for 40 hours so there would be no reason to send the county a bill for services.

Again, Sheriff Van Allen said that expenses for an unattended

death investigation come out of his budget, he will be responsible for the call. He did say that the city police could have stopped by.

The emergency medical technicians had been called to the scene and the sheriff had followed. Officer Walters said he was not on duty but the officer who was on duty was out making checks and only heard part of the page.

Again, the officer and council woman were concerned that the city was not getting all the city calls. Mrs. Gamblin had a log of calls which were handed to Mrs. Knodel for her to look over.

Sheriff Van Allen said his officers had basically quit patrolling within the city. They are not taking city calls.

"We are trying to be fair and work with the city," he said. "There is plenty of work for all of us."

It was pointed out that the city officers seldom hear any calls made to the sheriff. Mrs. Gamblin said, because of the location of the two offices (right beside each other), when the sheriff is paged, the radio system squeals loudly. And, since the sheriff is close, the dispatcher just tells him there is a call and where to go.

It was also noted that when there is an emergency medical techni-

cian call, any of the officers can and should respond to the call.

After discussion, Mrs. Knodel said she felt that the sheriff could meet their requests by allowing his page to go out over the radio so it doesn't appear the dispatch is hiding calls. The sheriff and dispatch director agreed to do this.

Technique Wrestling Camp

Tuesday, June 10

10 a.m. - Noon & 1 - 3:30 p.m.

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