

Commissioners' budget is now extremely tight

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwks.com

The Cheyenne County Commissioners were faced with several requests for purchases and a limited budget when they met on Monday morning. The road and bridge department supervisor is looking at purchasing a new road grader, the appraiser's office needs a new mapping printer and will have mapping costs; and the warrant for health care insurance. To top it off, it is the end of the year and the budget is extremely tight.

Dustin Daniels, representative for Martin Tractor Sales, Colby, presented information on a new M-Series Caterpillar road grader which will cost \$180,000 after a \$100,000 trade in for a 1991 grader.

Dale Patton, commissioner-elect, asked what Mr. Flemming had in his budget? Mr. Flemming said that there was not enough to purchase the grader and the equipment trailer they had purchased still needed to be paid for.

Mr. Daniels said that the graders were expected to go up 5 to 8 percent after the first of the year. If they wanted the lower price, the bill would need to be made out for Dec. 31. Terry Miller, clerk, had talked to the auditor and if they did not have the money, they could not purchase anything before the first of the year. Even after the first of the year, there would need to be some other financial arrangements made to buy the grader. The commissioners agreed to hold off on the purchase.

Later, Mr. Daniels came back to the meeting, saying he had talked to his boss who said the grader's lower price could still be in effect until the commissioners' first meeting in January. No decisions were made as there is still one more meeting left in December.

Supervisor Flemming said the warranties on the two New Holland tractors purchased this year could be extended. For full coverage, the cost would be \$6,851 per tractor; and for power-train coverage, the cost would be \$2,692 per year per tractor. There was some discussion but, again, no decision was made.

Mr. Flemming asked the commissioners about extending the length of the trench at the landfill. He felt this was a good time to hire contractors to do the work as there is a lot of competition in this field. Digging deeper would help extend the life of the landfill. The commissioners asked Mr. Flemming to get some bids for the work.

He noted that the landfill had been inspected and there had been some deficiencies which will be corrected.

Appraiser's report

County appraiser, Bruce Webb, talked about a new mapping printer as well as contracting for help in GIS mapping. The printer cost is \$5,995 and would replace the blue line printer currently in use. The mapping cost proposal from R and S Digital Services is \$57,750. The total includes parcel mapping, agricultural use maps, integration of Natural Resources Conservation Service digital soil maps, and the production of agricultural and soil reports.

Road trenching

John Lampe, St. Francis farmer, asked about boring under the road compared to trenching. The commissioners earlier signed a resolution which would carry a fine of \$2,500 for those who were trenching across county roads without a permit.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, explained that every time a cut is made across the road, it is hard to fill it back in like it was. Also, when trenching is done, at the ends, the trencher has trouble going as deep, consequently, if the road grader forgets that there is a line there, it may be severed.

The decision to draw up the resolution, he said, was made after two years of problems.

Ambulance department report

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, had adjustment write-offs for \$2,774. She pointed out that most of the problems are with the Eagle Med air transports that Medicare doesn't pay.

She said that, as of Monday, there had been 305 ambulance runs. There are 43 more runs than at this same time a year ago. With more runs, she expects the payroll to be over budget before the first of January.

She said four first responder students have completed training and three have taken the test so are certified nationally and in Kansas. The other student will take the test in Hays in the near future. Those taking the IV class are doing quite well, she said. Their test day is Jan. 24 and she noted that they will pay their way for the own testing.

The emergency medical technicians had elected officers. Loren White is the president; Reid Raile, vice president; Teri Chase, secretary; and Tammi Sherlock, treasurer. They had recommended Mrs. Bowers continue as the director.

Mrs. Bowers asked for an executive session to discuss financial matters of the third party as well as personnel matters. No decision was made.

Mrs. Bowers was given approval to give emergency medical technicians bonuses in the amounts of

\$50 and \$100. No further information was available.

Hospital board

Jerry Toler's four-year term on the hospital board will be up at the end of the year. As in the past, the commissioners open up the position to see if there are others who might want to serve. An ad will be run in the papers and interviews will be set up at the Dec. 31 meeting. Mr. Toler said he would be happy to serve again but he will need to interview with the others.

In other business

In other business:

- A warrant for health care insurance for \$20,577 was reviewed. This was a direct debit transaction from the week of Dec. 8.

- The commissioners agreed to pay the city of St. Francis \$2,399 for Kent Allard's officer training expenses. Mr. Allard is a new officer in the sheriff's department.

- The commissioners signed a crossing permit to allow Murfin Drilling to bore under a county road.

- The commissioners signed the contract with the city of St. Francis to pay \$750 per month for utilities at the new emergency building. Mr. Beikman also noted that the contract includes insurance on the building. Any money not needed for those expenses will be put into a fund to be used for repairs. The costs will be looked at again in July and the contract will be renegotiated in a year.

- Dan Schlittenhardt was given permission to attend a weed meeting in Garden City on Dec. 17.

- The commissioners agreed to trade in the John Deere riding mower snow blower attachment for a walk-behind snow blower. There is no cost for the trade.

Next meetings

The next regular meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Dec. 31. On the agenda will be a hearing for amending the 2008 budget. The county, at the end of the year, was over because of health insurance, fuel costs and extra hours in the road and bridge department; and in dispatch, which is a new department.

The January meeting will be on the second Monday, Jan. 12, at 8 a.m. At that time, the new commissioner will be sworn in.



ELLIE POCHOP is happy to give Kay Miller one of the poinsettias after her name was drawn during the Senior Christmas Dinner in Bird City.

Couple exchange wedding vows overlooking the ocean

Lacey Rae Bowers, daughter of Danny and Janelle Bowers of Bird City, and Kyle Russell Mallory, son of Larry and Mary Kay Mallory of Hutchinson, were married in Los Osos, Calif., on Oct. 9, 2008.

The couple was married on a private estate overlooking the ocean surrounded by friends and family. Close friend, Paul Buschur, performed the ceremony.

The maid of honor was Kelsi Bowers of Hoxie, sister of the bride. The best man was Michael Smith of Yuma, Ariz, brother-in-law. Rita, Ava and Oliva Buschur of San Luis Obispo, Calif., were flower girls. Jack Buschur of San Luis Obispo was the ring bearer.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father, Danny Bowers, and given away by her mother and father. The parents of the bride and groom stood and supported the couple in their marriage. The bride wore an Alfred de Angelo dress made of silk with a beaded bodice.

A reception immediately followed at the estate on a cliff overlooking the ocean. Dinner and dancing were enjoyed into the late hours of the night.

The bride is a 2008 graduate of Kansas City Kansas Community College and is employed as a registered nurse at Twin Cities Community Hospital in Templeton, Calif. She is currently attending the University of Missouri Kansas City working on her master's degree.



Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Mallory

The groom is a graduate of Kansas State University-Salina, and is employed as a first officer for SkyWest Airlines.

The couple honeymooned in Carmel, Calif., before returning to their home in Cayucos, Calif.



Moments with Mila By Mila Bandel, County Health Nurse

Helping the elderly beat the holiday blues

While the holiday season is a festive time for many, it can cause depression for the more elderly population who've lost loved ones or are having health or financial problems.

The American Geriatrics Society offers seniors some tips on how to avoid feeling blue during the holidays.

- Get out and about. Ask family and friends for help traveling to parties and events or invite family and friends to your home.
- Volunteer. Helping others can be a great mood lifter. Contact lo-

cal schools, churches, chamber of commerce, and other organizations to find out about volunteer opportunities.

- Don't drink too much alcohol, which can lower your spirits.
- Accept and express your feelings. There's nothing wrong with not feeling happy during the holidays - many people feel the same way. Talking about your feelings can help you understand why you feel the way you do.
- Recognize the signs of depression, which include; sadness that won't lift; loss of interest or pleasure; changes in appetite and weight; sleeping much more

than normal; crying often; feeling restless or tired all the time; feeling worthless, helpless or guilty, slowed thinking; thought of death or suicide.

If you notice that an older loved one seems depressed, lend a hand by offering to help them with shopping, transportation and preparations for get-togethers in their homes. Encourage your loved one

to talk about how he or she is feeling and acknowledge their difficulty feelings.

You should also encourage your loved one to talk to a health care provider. Many older people don't realize when they're depressed. If you believe an older loved one is depressed, tell them depression is a medical illness that can be treated and managed.

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Santa Claus is Coming to McDonald

Saturday, Dec. 20

Start your day at the McDoanld Legion with a Pancake and Sausage dinner Served by McDonald Lions 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Santa will arrive soon after 1 p.m.

Treats for All!!!

MAD Bingo after Santa's Departure

Prizes for all ages.

Shoot for turkeys and hams or play Pitch in the basement. Sponsored by McDonald Legion

Many Thanks to You

Thank you to everyone who participated in Cruise Night! Special thanks to Bumper To Bumper for your donation and Dave Burns for helping to get it started.

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785-734-7280
Bird City, Ks.

Help Wanted

Human Resources/Marketing Director

The Cheyenne County Hospital is a 16-bed Critical access Hospital located in Northwest Kansas. Cheyenne County Hospital offers an excellent and competitive compensation and benefits package. This position requires a degree in human resources, a related field, or equivalent experience. A strong working knowledge and/or practical experience in human resource management, payroll, recruitment and conflict resolution, along with excellent personal computer and communication skills are necessary. The successful candidate will provide oversight and coordinate the human resource function within the hospital and report directly to the administrator. EOE Please contact: Les Lacy, Administrator Cheyenne County Hospital PO Box 547 St. Francis, Ks 67756

Phone: 785-332-2104
Email: llacy@cheyennecountyhospital.com

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