

Commissioners hear new recycling report

By Karen Krien
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Regional recycling is doing "pretty well," said Roger Jensen, county representative for the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization, at the Friday morning Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting.

In the eight counties belonging to the organization, Mr. Jensen said Cheyenne County is running in the middle as far as bringing in the number of tons of recyclable items. He noted that the recession has also hit recycling.

Scott County, which joined the organization about a year ago, is bringing in almost as much as Cheyenne County, he said.

Tentatively, the e-waste recycling pickup for the county will be the second Tuesday in March. This will allow county residents to bring in old computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, just to name some, and they will be taken for no charge at the landfill. There will be a charge for businesses to bring equipment.

There are not enough bins for Bird City, Mr. Jensen said. He was asking for the county to purchase some of the bins (six bins are needed).

The bins are made by an out-of-county business. Andy Beikman, commissioner, asked if there was a business or two in the county that would be able to build the bins? Mr. Jensen will check with Ross Manufacturing and Greg Walz Welding to see if they could build the bins and bring the prices back to the commissioners. The commissioners said they would see if the cost of the bins could be worked into the budget.

Joy Anderegg, who also serves on the recycling board, was present.

Wellness program
Mila Bandel, county health nurse, talked about the health "wellness" program which will help county employees to keep in check with their health. Terry Miller, clerk, said the county health insurance includes the spouses participation in the program.

Mrs. Bandel said she would rather have the same program for the whole county. After discussion, Mrs. Bandel will send a letter to all employees telling them about the program and the days they should come in. She said that blood draws will be taken in March.

Emergency preparedness
Mrs. Bandel said the county health office is very involved in emergency preparedness and bio terrorism. An emergency can happen at any time, she said, referring to the Greensburg tornado.

She said the county is with an eight-county group that meets quarterly. A new work plan requires that the county must conduct a practice "point of dispensing medication" once a year. The state has been notified that she plans to do the medication dispensing on March 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at the St. Francis Grade School. Sophomore, junior and senior students will act like patients and will be given medications (chocolate candies).

She said she will need the help of the community members. These people will also be responding if there is an actual emergency.

"I will be evaluated by the state," she said. "This can (we hope it doesn't) happen."

Nevertheless, she is required to

keep supplies available for such a time.

She said the county commissioners are considered the "county board of health." Mr. Miller oversees the management of the volunteers and Kari Gilliland is in charge of giving information to the press.

Mapping
Bruce Webb, county appraiser, and Bruce Schneider with R and S Digital, discussed the digital mapping for the county. Mr. Webb is wanting to get the county's maps up to speed and get the process rolling.

Mr. Snider said the 911 mapping is satisfactory. His cost is \$7.50 per parcel and there are 4,700 parcels in the county. No decision was made.

Road supervisor's report
Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the city of St. Francis had asked the county crew to do some road elevation to the southwest side of the city. He thought it would only take a couple of days. The commissioners agreed that it would be good to help the city out.

Mr. Flemming said the D-5 dozer needs repairs and the estimated cost to have someone repair it would be \$16,165. He said he thought the county mechanics could maybe fix part of it but it definitely needs to be repaired in the very near future.

He said Cleveland Run township trustees have some money. They suggested it be used to build a walking path north of St. Francis from the railroad tracks to the bridge. He pointed out that the amount of money to be donated was not enough to put in an asphalt walking path and there was also the problem of where to put it. He didn't think it was safe to run it beside the road and didn't want to put it in the ditch. No decision was made.

Mr. Flemming said his employees had been given a choice of four different options of working hours/pay. They had voted to work a 40-hour week but use last year's pay schedule of 45 hours and get the overtime.

Dale Patton, commissioner, pointed out that it wasn't fair for the county crew to set their own schedules for a certain amount of pay when the employees working in the courthouse were not allowed the same privilege.

The commissioners agreed that they did not approve of the employees' choice and that the same schedule would be retained but they could take their vacations one-half day at a time instead of keeping full days.

In other business
In other business:
• The commissioners agreed to pay the county's half, \$1,535, to have the firemen bunker gear storage unit built in the new St. Francis Emergency Building. The St. Francis City Council has approved its share.
• The commissioners approved for the sheriff to purchase tires for one of the vehicles. The cost is \$250 each. "It is a safety issue," said Mr. Beikman.

Next meeting
The next commissioners' meeting has been set for 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 13, in the commissioners' room. On the agenda is Cathy Domsch, Century II director, Bird City, who will be asking the commissioners to waive the landfill fee for a project.



EVERY JENSEN was keeping her dad, Travis, busy at Carl Williams' retirement party.

J-turns now illegal

By Karen Krien
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The St. Francis City Council, at the Jan. 20 meeting, adopted an ordinance that will make "J" turns and backing out across the on-coming lane of traffic to the other side illegal. A "J" turn is when a driver makes a left-hand turn across the lane of oncoming traffic to park.

This ruling only applies to Washington (Main) and College streets.

The matter of illegal turns has been on the city council's agenda for the last two months. Carla Lampe, council woman, said

council members had been getting calls concerning the illegal turns — some, she said, have reported near misses of an accident.

She was not aware of any accidents happening because illegal turns but there was an apparent danger which needed to be addressed.

The ordinance was published in *The Saint Francis Herald* in the Jan. 29 issue which made it effective as of that date. People making "J" turns or backing across the lane of traffic to the other side can be given a ticket by the city police. If they are convicted, they can be fined from \$10 to \$50.

RUNWAY

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cost a little more but it was better than waiting for instrument approach changes.

Mr. Yost and Mr. Grace both agreed that they would rather have the runway longer rather than wider but, the Federal Aviation Administration wanted it widened first so when the runway is lengthened at the new 75-foot width, it would match the width of the north end of the runway.

Mr. Yost said the bids are to be let in July or August. He said he had talked to Diane Hofer with Olsson Associates, Lincoln, Neb., who had said that she estimates the bids to come in at around \$1,948,000. With the 95/5 percent grant, the county's share will be approximately \$97,800. Adding up all of the money available for the project, the county is short about \$11,850.

Ms. Hofer said she always esti-

mates high and, in reality, expects the bid to come in less, Mr. Yost said. The commissioners, Mr. Yost and Mr. Grace talked about postponing some projects but everyone agreed that widening the runway along with landing lights must be done together.

In the consideration of all projects, an agreement has been made with Robert Uplinger in purchasing the land south of the current runway for the lengthening project. When the purchase contract is complete, and the Aviation Administration has grant money available, the Airport Authority will get money back because of items already paid like the environmental study and surveying.

With a signed purchase agreement with Mr. Uplinger, Mr. Yost said, grant funds will be available from the Aviation Administration as early as March.

Both Mr. Yost and Mr. Grace said a 95/5 grant is hard to get and it is important that the county keep moving toward the completion of the runway. Kari Gilliland, county attorney, pointed out that having the runway is also extremely important to the medical community.

After a great deal of discussion, Andy Beikman, commissioner, agreed that the county should go ahead as planned. We are into the project, he said, and it is a good deal.

The commissioners agreed that everything should be ready so the county can get Federal Aviation Administration grant funds to continue the runway project.

VOTE

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Mr. Beikman asked if a resolution is passed and, in a year, they didn't feel like it was working satisfactory, could they withdraw it? Yes, they could, Mrs. Gilliland said.

Mr. Beikman also said he felt that, by not allowing liquor in the fair building, the fair board was losing money. He had been approached by the Cheyenne County Wildlife members who want to rotate having their annual banquet in St. Francis, then Bird City.

It was mentioned that some of the fair board members were wanting a beer garden during the fair. There was discussion on where and rules but no decision was made on the beer garden.

Dick Bursch, fair board president, said since there has been a rule that there be no alcohol in the demolition derby pit area, there has been little trouble. A few years ago, there were fights that needed to be broken up, the ladies rest room and some of the other buildings had damage. He said in Goodland, spot checks for liquor are made on coolers.

Mrs. Gilliland said the resolution could be written to state that the liquor is to be limited to a certain building and for special events.

Mr. Patton suggested that when someone rents the building, that it be known that law enforcement will have the right to make arrests if there is a problem.

The board agreed to allow liquor

to be served at the fairgrounds with Mr. Beikman and Mr. Patton voting "yes" and Ernie Ketzner, "no." Mrs. Gilliland will draw up a resolution.

Contracts
Mr. Bursch said there was an incident several months ago where some folding chairs were laid on the kitchen stove. At the time, the switch was accidentally turned on and there was a fire which caused some damage.

He had Mrs. Gilliland look at the renting contract to see if more "teeth" needed to be put into it so the signer of the contract would

take care of any damage. Mrs. Gilliland said it already stated this and felt like the contract was probably OK.

It was suggested that only one person be responsible for renting the building and the contract and deposit needed to be in hand before the key handed over.

Map
Mr. Bursch said the map for the property exchange between the fair board and Butch Ewing had been lost. Mrs. Gilliland said she would work with the appraiser's office and take care of the matter.

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