

Cost of utilities and other expenses soon to be solved

By Karen Krien

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It appears that the matter of the costs of utilities and other expenses at the St. Francis Emergency Building will soon be solved.

Mike Day, city attorney, had sent a letter to Kari Gilliland, county attorney, who passed it on to the commissioners. He asked that the chairman meet with Scott Schultz, St. Francis Mayor, and the three entities heads using the emergency building, Gary Rogers, Janelle Bowers and George Harper. They will review last year's operations and, after attempting to look to the future, make recommendations to what the county and city of St. Francis should pay.

This, he wrote, was the original plan when the agreement was discussed. He asked that the matter might be quickly and quietly resolved.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said he would attend the meeting representing the commissioners.

Following the Friday commissioners' meeting, it was learned that the recommended anti-freeze had not been used in the boiler so that was why the boiler wouldn't heat properly and ran continuously, causing the heating costs to be so high.

Ambulance bid accepted

The commissioners ran an ad for sealed bids to be submitted on a 1984 Ford disabled ambulance. Bids were requested to be at least \$300. When the bids were opened, Frank Sowers, Benkelman, had a bid for \$202; Brent Hostetler, Siebert, Colo., placed a bid for \$200; and Adam Peter, St. Francis, \$301.49. The commissioners accepted Mr. Peter's bid.

Front door locks

At a previous meeting, the commissioners had agreed to install new locks on the top side doors on the south side of the courthouse. Rodney Ritchey, locksmith, had discovered that the area where the lock is installed was too narrow. The door

is locked and unlocked on the bottom with the use of a screwdriver which is inconvenient but, the overall cost to change the locks to work with a key will be \$700. Terry Miller, clerk, said he was withdrawing his request for the locks.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said he will talk to Mr. Ritchey to see if something else can be worked out. He said if the door can be taken apart, he is offering to do the machine work.

Mr. Miller said that he didn't realize how much the doors would be used until they started unlocking them after the steps were completed. Many people use them, he said.

Firemen's pagers

George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, had talked to Mr. Beikman concerning replacing the pagers for the fire department. The department needs 18 pagers at a cost of \$455 each. The nylon cases are \$10 each and batteries are \$56. The total cost for the 18 radios would be \$8,433.

The money is generally taken out of the 911 fund which is generated with land-line and cell phone taxes but there wasn't enough money for all of them.

The commissioners looked at several different funds that money could be used to buy the pagers but Clerk Miller said he would need to do some checking with the auditor as well as Mr. Harper to see exactly what could be done and what might be planned for one of the funds. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, reported that the county has 1,096 miles of county roads and 1,046 are maintained.

Mr. Flemming gave his report on work that had been done in the county. The commissioners asked about the graders and if he was thinking about purchasing a new one? He said that he always keeps his eyes open for a good deal but right now, he can get by.

What the department needs, he said, is a different excavator.

The work the crew had done at Keller Pond north of St. Francis had made a difference, he said. They had excavated the pond's edges on both the east and west side, making it bigger as well as making it better for people to fish on the west side.

"I've heard a lot of positive comments," he said.

He told the commissioners that, in the near future, he will be elevating some of the county roads and will be working on the Rath bridge northwest of St. Francis in the near future. The crew has also been graveling roads

He will be taking sealed bids on two Allis Chambers tractors.

Danny Schlittenhardt's report on mowing ditches, weed and prairie dog control was submitted for review.

Supervisor Flemming announced he has a candidate he would hire for the noxious weed supervisor position, and another candidate to work in road and bridge as an equipment operator. Pending notification of all applicants, no names were mentioned.

In other business

In other business:

- Mary Morrow, register of deeds, was given permission to attend a meeting in March.

- The commissioners signed a letter of support for Wade Krien who is seeking to take instructor coordinator emergency medical technician training.

- Ernie Ketzner, chairman, signed the paper to allow Mila Bandel, county health nurse, to apply for grants.

- Shelley Christensen, maintenance supervisor, was given permission to purchase an industrial strength wet and dry vacuum for \$280. The regular price was \$858. She was also given permission to buy a floor buffing machine that is a buffer as well as a wax remover. That cost was \$1,156.

- Mrs. Gilliland had reviewed statutes and it was agreed that the county has an "Airport Board" instead of an "Airport Authority."

- The commissioners signed a resolution to support having a judge in each county. Mrs. Gilliland said the legislature is considering taking county judges away in an effort to save money. However, she said, it would be inconvenient as well as it would cost the county money.

Next meeting

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



HADLEIGH HILT receives a coloring award presented by Myra Hyde at the Soil Conservation Awards banquet on Feb. 23.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Council agrees to repair scout hut

By Peggy Horinek

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At the Feb. 22 meeting, the St. Francis City Council agreed to go ahead with repairs to the Scout Hut located on West Spencer Street.

At the Nov. 9 city council meeting, Deb Gohl, representing the Girl Scouts, reported that the building was not suitable for holding scout meetings. The council and city superintendent, J.R. Landenberger, had looked at the building noting some of the problems and what repairs would be needed.

At the February meeting, the council agreed to go ahead with the repairs to the Hut. The estimate for the repairs of siding, windows, paint and roof is \$8,000 for supplies with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts paying half the costs.

Representing the Girl Scouts at the meeting were Deb Gohl and Becky Ayers and the Boys Scouts were represented by Elmer Kellner, Mark Scheopner, Jeff Paulsen and Kara Rodriguez. They agreed that the Scout Hut could be used by other organizations when it is not reserved for scouting functions. A procedure will be made for scheduling and proper use and care by those groups.

The scouts will be having fund raisers to raise the \$4,000. It was noted that donations from scout families, individuals, organizations, businesses and alumni would be appreciated and will be tax deductible. They will also be needing volunteers to help with the repairs. More information on where to send donations will be available when arrangements are made.

Spotlight the Positive

Kelly Frewen was selected as the person spotlighting the positive for the month of February. He has been a leader in the community and helped to accomplish many things. He is retiring from the St. Francis Fire Department after serving for 32 years. Also presented a plaque was Dale Weeks who has served on the fire department for 20 years and is also retiring.

Emergency Building

The January gas bill for the Emergency Building of \$1,111 was hopefully a one time thing. Gene Dodd with Midwest Energy had double checked the meter reading and it was correct. It was felt the fault of the high gas bill was due to working on the boiler and it running a lot while they tried to repair it. The boiler has been a big expense and letters sent to the company they bought the boiler from have been unsuccessful so they feel they need to get with them in person.

Employee benefits

The cost of health insurance for city employees has gone up 12 percent for the year. The council discussed at length what the increase should be for the city employees. A decision was not reached and it will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Dog ordinance

Israel Nipps addressed the council regarding his dog which he says is a

Staffordshire but is always thought to be a pit bull. He told the council he has had the dog for nine years and it is like his child. He said the dog is very obedient and never leaves the yard. He asked the council to consider changing the ordinance to allow him to keep his dog.

Senior Center

Art Krueger and Ken Quigley attended the meeting representing the Senior Center. Mr. Krueger said there could not be a senior center without the help of the city and county. The center served 8,135 meals during 2009 and delivered 2,895 meals.

They need people to help deliver meals to the shut-ins, he said. It would only take about 30 minutes as they are delivering to about 22 people right now. They would like to have some of the younger seniors start coming to the center. The cost of the meals are \$2.75 for 60 or over and \$5 under 60. It is also a good time to visit and mingle, they said.

They have two projects which they need to raise money for. The first is to fix the flat roof on the north side of the building. The second is to replace a kitchen stove. A new professional stove will cost approximately \$4,500. They are also needing some extra cooks.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be held at 7:30 on Monday, March 8, in the city hall.

Club Clip

Cheyenne County Hospital Guild

The March 1 meeting of the Hospital Guild was held at the Senior Citizen Center.

The program was canceled due to illness.

President Eileen Nolan opened the business meeting. Minutes were approved with one correction. Anita Miller will be calling members with the time of the April 5 luncheon and members will also be reminded of the bakeless food sale. Dolores Kincheloe

gave the treasurer's report, and Helen Burnham reported on sales slips.

President Nolan asked that a slate of new officers be ready for the May meeting.

There were 11 members present.

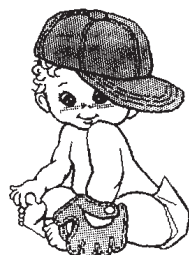
The meeting adjourned and Deloris Wiley and Helen Burnham served good refreshments from a pretty tea table.

A Come & Go Baby Shower

Brady Mac

Son of
Lori (Houtman) Engelland
Sunday, March 7
2 - 4 p.m.

St. Francis Library



In Advance: \$10 per ticket
At the door: \$12 per ticket

THE TUMBLEWEED CHORUS & PRAIRIE ROSE HARMONY PRESENTS:

MALT SHOP BARBERSHOP

Featured Quartet:
ACOUSTIX



Colby Community College
Cultural Arts Center
Frahm Theatre
Saturday, March 27, 2010
3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Call 785-332-3138 or 785-772-7008

Tri-State Engine & Thresher Show ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, March 6
10 a.m.

Show Grounds Shop

This Year's Show Dates:
July 29-31



Pork Sausage is back!

The new pricing will be \$10 for any medium pizza, \$2 more for stuffed crust.

Any large up to 3 toppings will be \$10, Specialty price will be \$12 and Super Specialty is \$13, \$2 more for stuffed crust.



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HOURS: Thursday • 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. • 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sun. • 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.



Texas Red's BBQ

will be at St. Francis Super's
Tuesday, March 2
thru
Saturday, March 6



Beef brisket, smoked
pork, turkey breast,
ribs & sausage

\$1,500
+ rebate



\$1,500
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Notice

Individual and Business Personal Property Assessment

Starts Monday, January 11, 2010 and must be completed by no later than March 15, 2010. The March 15 deadline applies to all people who render or list personal property. Assessments must be personally signed.

Taxable Items Include:

Pickups and trucks with 16M or heavier tags; Aircraft; watercraft; Off Road Vehicles such as ATVs; Non-tagged motorcycles; Kit cars; Non-ag trailers; Golf Carts; Snowmobiles; Jet Skis and Skidoos; Mopeds; Campers; Camping Trailers that are not self contained; Micro Utility Trucks; Mobile Homes on rented or leased ground; Business and Industrial Equipment and Fixtures.

Real Estate improvements or structural changes to buildings must be reported to the county Appraiser.

Anyone having questions should contact the Appraiser's Office at 785-332-8830

K.S.A. 79-1422: Penalty for late filing:
5% per month up to a maximum of 25%

Penalty for failure to file: 50%.

Cheyenne County Appraiser's Office