

Landfill concerns at top of commissioners' agenda

By Karen Krien

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The majority of the Aug. 15 Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting was spent taking about landfill and how to meet Kansas

Department of Health and Environment requirements. In recent years, the county's landfill has been sited for breaking several of the regulations including excessive blowing trash and the

way the trench is being covered each day.

Adam Peter, the new landfill supervisor, told the commissioners that he had found some pipe at the landfill which can be used for additional fence. He also said he had talked to one of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment officials about the construction and demolition pile which is mostly building materials. She had informed him that these need to be put in the landfill trench. Only the branches and tree materials can be kept above ground.

Mr. Peter said the landfill grounds need to be kept up, trash picked out of the fences (and this needs to be done by hand) and the grounds mowed. A second person out at the landfill would be helpful, he said. People don't like to wait to have their load weighed but when he is working at the other end of the grounds, it is hard to get there immediately. There is also the problem of people putting items where they are not supposed to be like, he said, people throwing 2 by 4s in the tree pile.

If we could get a second guy out there, Mr. Peter said, maybe we could open on Mondays. People, after working in their yards over the weekend, have to wait until Tuesday to bring their trash out.

If the wind is blowing, we have to shut the landfill down, Mr. Peter said. By being open on Mondays would give people an extra day to bring out their trash.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, had information about compactor for the dump. If the landfill had a compactor, it would do a much better job of compacting the trash and would help the landfill pit from filling up so quickly. After looking over the information, the commissioner asked him to bring bids back to the next meeting.

Mr. Peter said the Bird City Dairy employees are bringing in huge tarps used for covering grain. They also put the baling twine inside the tarps. When I am trying to pack the pit with the loader, he said, the plastic breaks and the twine gets tangled up in the loader and it takes several hours to get them out. On top if it, the plastic will not pack down.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said he had already told Frontier Equity that the landfill would not take these tarps. The commissioners agreed that Mr. Peter should call the dairy and tell them they could no longer bring the tarps to the landfill.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, had been to a recent landfill meeting and he had several phone numbers where dairy and others with the tarps could call for more information on how and where to dispose of the tarps.

J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis city supervisor, was at the meeting. Earlier, the city council had agreed that the landfill could use one of their old dump trucks and, that way, people could just unload some of their trash into the truck and it would compact the trash. He said the truck was still available and they would get it out to the landfill.

City council approves budget; talks about water tower painting

By Nathan Fiala

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The St. Francis city council met on Monday, Aug. 13.

The first order of business was to approve the proposed budget, which all council members signed off on.

Back to painting the water tower, J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, said that even though they had more information as to replacing the water tower from Dana Daniels of Miller and Associates, he still felt they should repaint the water tower now. Roger Jensen, council member, asked how long the water tower is expected to be up there. Mr. Landenberger said approximately six to eight years, perhaps longer depending on the evaluation before it gets painted. Mr. Jensen also asked about getting a logo painted on the water tower and Mr. Landenberger expected that to cost in the range of three to five thousand dollars. Repainting the water tower was approved.

As to the federal flood plain insurance discussed at previous meetings, Michael Day, city attorney, said a draft of the proposed ordinance had been sent to Topeka and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and they are awaiting approval from the state.

The scout hut repairs are still to be scheduled, and Carla Lampe, council member, was interested in starting a schedule for times the scout hut was to be used so it could be open to other local groups too. A committee was suggested, consisting of council member Dale Weeks, city clerk Glorianne Milne and Joyce Russ. Representatives from the boy scouts and 4-H groups were also mentioned. No decision in forming a group was made and at this time the council is interested in finding out if any community groups are interested in holding meetings in the scout hut and will discuss it further.

The city got approval from the state to hire an architect for the band shell project and they are currently looking over contracts now.

The council had previously had a three-year contract presented to them by Addams, Brown, Beran and Ball for future budget auditing. Entering the contract would give a slight price break and it was agreed to sign it.

There were three building permits: Scott Houtman for a carport, Mark Mills for sidewalk replacement, and Junior Knorr for ramp. All were approved.

Mr. Landenberger gave the superintendent report, first saying that a replacement trash truck was in the budget for this year and he was working on getting bids.

Mr. Landenberger also said that Gene Dodd had approached him to see if the city was interested in sharing the cost of pouring some concrete on the west side of his house to divert water drainage. Mr. Landenberger said he'd price it out but it's not something the city had to do.

Trials for the billing software had been set up and a lead time

of a couple months would be needed to see the software work correctly.

Police chief Shane Guggenmos gave the police report, first saying that they got an extension on training, but that two of them would need to get in 60 hours by November.

Mr. Guggenmos said that there had been a couple of hit and run accidents and that a theft had occurred from one of the vehicles also and wanted to remind the community to please lock their vehicles.

Mr. Guggenmos had also heard some concerns about the safety of children in golf carts around town, as passengers and drivers, and would be looking into what he could do about that.

Council member Bruce Swihart gave the pool report and said the pool board met and talked about the season. He also said the school did not want to use it this year and that they would need another training class next year to fill life guard positions, as three were expected to come back and three weren't.

Mrs. Milne gave the clerk report, saying that Jason Padgett needed to update the website, and that the office had received the new computers they ordered.

For council comments, council member Paula Keller said that the theater board had met and decided against running local business trailers at the beginning of movies.

Mr. Weeks said he'd heard from some concerned citizens about a residence that was stockpiling propane tanks to refferbish and resell. Mrs. Keller said she knew of the same concern and had talked to the resident and he had quickly responded to her concerns.

Mr. Weeks also said that Milton Lampe had called about concerns about the horses at the Riverwalk and if he should build a fence for them. Mr. Landenberger said that's between Mr. Lampe and Tom Keller, and that Mr. Keller didn't know how to proceed.

Mr. Jensen said he and Mr. Landenberger had talked with the county commissioners about the city's charges at the landfill. They were told the rates cannot go down, but that the county could give money to the city to recoup the costs. Mr. Jensen will talk with them further about the issue.

The meeting was adjourned and the council will meet again in the city office on Aug. 27 at 7:30 p.m.



Former Classmates and friends of Eda Mae Hancock are invited to a 'Surprise' reception in her honor at her childhood residence, The Spencer House, 110 E. Spencer, on Sunday, Sept. 2 from 2-4 p.m.



J.W. MILLIKEN, member of the county road and bridge crew, stands in a hole that was found in the road north of St. Francis. Herald photo by Dave Flemming

County crew repairs country road

On Thursday, the county road and bridge department received a call asking them if they knew there was a hole in the road north of town?

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, sent a crew out immediately.

The hole, located about 10 miles north of St. Francis on the Parks Road, was big, Flemming said. Big enough to cause some real damage to a vehicle and it's occupants. They measured it to be about 3-by 3-foot square and about 3-foot deep.

They determined it to have been started by a

ground squirrel. The surface is hard but as time went by, it continued to erode away beneath the surface until the ground gave away.

Needless to say, the county crew was on the scene, first blocking off the area and, by that afternoon, had it repaired.

We appreciated the call letting us know about the hole, Mr. Flemming said. We hope that people seeing anything else like this will please let us know. The office number is 332-8840 or the shop number is 332-8841.

Radio tower put on top elevator

Ryan Murray, emergency manager, reported on the towers needed for the 800 mhz radios. He said that the coverage using the Kansas Department of Transportation tower near McDonald doesn't provide the needed coverage for the county radios.

He said that Frontier Ag in Bird City had agreed to let them install an antenna on the top of the elevator. There will be the cost of the antenna but it will be a one-time charge and the cost for upkeep and replacement. They agreed to ask the Bird City Council to pay one-half of the cost since it is covering that area.

The cost of the tower lease with the Kansas Department of Transportation will also need to be shared. This is an on-going cost and the city of St. Francis will be asked to pay for one-half of the lease.

Mr. Murray will get the costs of equipment and leases and report back to the commissioners.

He noted that the expenses will need to come out of the different departments using the equipment and leases.

Mr. Flemming asked for 10 minutes executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made upon coming out of the session.

The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse. The budget hearing will be held at 9 a.m.

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Help Wanted

Cheyenne County Communications Center is accepting applications for Communications DIRECTOR and DISPATCHER. Applicants must be 18 years-old able to multi-task, and willing to work day/night shifts. Applications may be picked up at the communications office in the courthouse. Please contact 785-332-8822 if you have any questions.

Bird City Times

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The Saint Francis Herald will be closed Mon., Sept. 3 in observance of Labor Day

DEADLINE for ads, news and pictures is Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 5 p.m.

The paper will be delivered a day late.





Back To School Time

ATTENTION St. Francis School Students, faculty and staff, pick up your FREE instant DISCOUNT card at the Uptown Market. Receive a 15% discount on all your purchases of snacks, drinks, sub sandwiches, soup, fresh fruit and fried chicken meals. Valid for the 2012-2013 School Year. Simple to use, simple to save.

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