

Sheriff's officers to assist city police

By Karen Krien
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The members of the St. Francis City Council and the Cheyenne County Commissioners discussed law enforcement at the July 15 commissioners' meeting. The key words coming from the discussion were "accountability, communication and professionalism." At the end of their meeting, it was agreed that, in the best interest and safety of the people, a contract be drawn up, hiring the sheriff's officers for 15 hours a week plus being on call during business hours. The agreement will start on Aug. 1 and end on Dec. 31. At that time, the matter will be addressed again.

As you know, said Mike Day, city attorney, the city of St. Francis is down to a two-man force. The city council has had an ongoing discussion on how to better use tax dollars.

The commissioners showed concern that the sheriff would be responsible for holidays and weekends but Mr. Day assured them that would not happen. And, he said, if there is a call after hours, the city police force will be on call.

We will work hard to have the level of communication improved upon and be seamless. We will share our schedule with dispatch and the sheriff's department.

He went on to say that the city council thought it was important that law officers be visible before and after school as well as during the day. If there is an incident, the city officers can respond but, the sheriff officers can also enforce city laws.

The city has different statutes than state statutes. The last time we tried this (helping out the city), said Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, it didn't work because our officers stepped on some toes and a city councilman blew up. I'm not going to let this happen again; I'm not going to have someone chew Cody (Beeson, sheriff).

If there is a city violation, Mr. Day said, the sheriff will handle it. The city police department will respond when there is a larger issue. If there is an event, we

need to have a presence but the city, county and dispatch should be able to work those things out.

If we are going to do this, said Brett Poling, commissioner, we will do it with professionalism and communication.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said the contract to cover law enforcement in the city of Bird City has worked pretty well. I am concerned about our staffing level - we need to make sure we have enough force to facilitate this avenue. He went on to say that when services are duplicated, the tax money is getting "burned."

The sheriff's office does have an obligation to cover services for everyone in the county, said Roger Jensen, councilman, but the city is not asking for free gratis. We are willing to pay.

Sheriff Beeson had already studied the costs per hour per officer which included salary, benefits, vehicle and other costs. It will cost \$38.90 per hour, he said.

Paula Keller, city council woman, asked the sheriff if he could work with the city police force. The sheriff answered, "yes." Right now it is fine and I am optimistic about the future. My concern is holidays and we need to know what the city ordinances are. There might be some rough times but I think we can work matters out, he said.

The matter of golf carts driven in the city limits was brought up. Sheriff Beeson said the ordinance in Bird City allows golf carts driven on city streets. In this case, we let city ordinances override state ordinances as long as the driver is a licensed driver.

I just don't want the sheriff's office always being the bad guy, Sheriff Beeson said.

We are asking for an agreement, not a city marshal, Mr. Day said.

Mr. Day will meet with Karan Thadani, county attorney, to draw up a contract. A special meeting may be held to discuss any problems.

Sheriff Beeson then requested 10 minutes executive session to discuss personnel. Upon return to regular session, Sheriff Beeson was given permission to place an ad in the paper for a deputy sheriff.



Bonnie and Gary Cooper

Couple celebrates golden anniversary

Bonnie and Gary Cooper will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at their home after the Cheyenne County Fair Parade on Saturday, Aug. 9. Those planning to come should

notify them at kjcooper0405@yahoo.com. If you are unable to attend, cards can be sent to them at PO Box 894, St. Francis, KS 67756.

Sainty Sharks swim in championship meet

The Sainty Sharks put in their last week of practice last week as they prepared for the championship meet. The weather was not so cooperative for swimming but they kept swimming. On Tuesday the team had a surprise party for Coach Poling's 25 years as head coach. Fun swims, cake and punch and a super gift. It was a fun time and a total surprise.

On Thursday the team did each of their races as a final prep and had fun relays, t-shirts and watermelon. Judged diving was next and finally diving for tokens and money at the bottom of the pool.

The team headed to Lexington, Neb., early Saturday morning. Some families went up Friday

night. The weather was very cooperative and we didn't bake. It was a long day and I was extremely proud of the swimmers. The finals were to be in on Sunday, but the head of the league took ill and the results will be in later in the week. I will get them in next weeks paper, said Coach Poling.

We head back to Arapahoe for medals and the end of the season meeting on Tuesday. I totally appreciate all the support from the parents and the citizens of St. Francis who cheered on the team. I especially liked the team spirit and all the families that came to watch and support all the swimmers. They made me very proud, said Coach Poling.

Baby's first birthday celebrated

Madeline Kechter celebrated her first birthday on June 15. Travis and Jill Kechter are her proud parents. Madeline's grandparents are Kent and Marsha Kechter and Donald and Glenda Vessey.



Madeline Kechter

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Beer garden planned

Amanda Miller
amiller@nwkans.com

The St. Francis City Council agreed to approve a beer garden license for Saturday, August 9, after the Cheyenne County Fair Demolition Derby. The beer garden will be located in Sawhill Park from 9 p.m. to midnight, by the bandshell where a dance and concert will be held featuring the band Vehicle.

Kip and De Wiese have generously donated so that a band will perform Saturday evening in the bandshell, on August 9 from 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission will be free to the public. At the Monday city council meeting, Mr. Wiese came to ask the council for permission, on behalf of Brock McAtee, to have a beer garden in the Sawhill Park that will coincide with the bandshell dance.

Mr. Wiese explained that they have discussed using the corral panneling with the co-op to help with containment. He explained that he will not personally be doing the beer garden, but that Mr. McAtee, with the help of some of his work crew and other friends, were going to. He was present on Mr. McAtee's behalf because he was not able to attend the council meeting. Mr. McAtee's crew and friends plan to help with checking ID's, keeping minors out, and making sure that everything stays under control. They plan to place the panels around the fountain, with only one opening through the bandshell, to keep minors from getting in and people from leaving with the 3.2 percent beer.

Carla Lampe, council member, said that she thought that so far things have gone well with the beer gardens the council has allowed. She felt they were well organized and contained.

Paula Keller, council member, asked the St. Francis City Police Chief what his thoughts were on holding the beer garden that evening. Officer Shane Guggenmos said that he did not like having beer gardens in the past cities he has worked at be-

cause they were always problematic, the ones held in St. Francis had been the opposite of that. He felt that the last two were well guarded, and there have not been any issues. He said while there was one issue at the first one, it was quickly contained and the community responded because everyone wanted a peaceful, fun event.

City Attorney Mike Day reiterated that the first time there is a bad incident, the city council will put an end to beer gardens. This has been the policy with every beer garden the council has allowed.

Council member Roger Jensen said he did not want to discourage people, especially a young group of volunteers like this, from doing things in town. He thought it was worth a try.

Mr. Day said that the council will tentatively approve the beer garden, but that it was contingent upon Brock McAtee coming in and talking to Officer Guggenmos. The city council would like to hear from Mr. McAtee and find out his exact plans first.

Mayor Scott Schultz asked Mr. Wiese to have Mr. McAtee put something together. He said he would like to see the bandshell being used again. The city council has just finished renovating the facility, and this would be another great way to utilize it.

The city council took a vote to tentatively approve the beer garden contingent upon Brock McAtee visiting with Officer Guggenmos. All council members voted yes to approve the beer garden with the exception of Bruce Swihart.

Once Brock McAtee goes to the city and files a proper application, and visits with Officer Guggenmos and receives his approval, the beer garden will be approved.

The band Vehicle will be playing Saturday, Aug. 9 from 9 p.m. to midnight at the bandshell in Sawhill Park. Admission to the dance is free. The beer garden will be serving beer from 9 p.m. to midnight right next to the bandshell in the park during the dance.

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