

Roads to landfill, rural homes to remain open

ROADWORK, from Page 1

he was going to get more traffic on his road and that it would get torn up. Binning said residents can call the transportation department if there is a problem. "You'll have a nice road when we're done," Armstrong said. The man said he thought the state was doing what was easiest and cheapest for them and not being considerate of people here.

One woman asked if the road being closed would keep semi tractor trailers out of Goodland because the official detour is 30 miles to the east in Colby, and the county detour is over gravel roads.

Binning said the semi trucks can get here, but will have to take the official detour. There will be a local access road, she said, but the county will post weight limits.

Another person asked about paving a road beside the highway like had been done when U.S. 36 into St. Francis was closed. Binning said that cost \$2 million and no one was stepping forward



Donna Binning, construction engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation, spoke with Keith Dankenbring, a St. Francis businessman, after a meeting held Tuesday evening in the Goodland High School auditorium to discuss the K-27 project.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

to give the state money to do that.

Armstrong said then they would have to buy people's ground and people don't usually like that.

The people living along the highway are the ones, Binning said, the state will service. She said the state won't patrol county roads, as that will be the

county's responsibility. Binning said semis can be ticketed if caught on county roads.

She assured county residents living along K-27 they would be able to get to their homes on either sand or rock surfaced roads. She said the state had given some money for gravel to the county, but that it was up to the county to decide where to put it.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Curt Way said the county had received the money, but part of it had been used for chip sealing on West Eighth Street.

Another man asked if anyone had done a study to see how the road being closed would effect Goodland dollar wise. Armstrong and Binning said not to their knowledge.

City Manager Ron Pickman asked if Caldwell will be closed when the pretzel is being worked on. Binning and Armstrong said the new alignment would be done before the pretzel was done away with and Caldwell will be open, so people can get to the landfill.

She said the state department would work with the U.S. Post Office, so residents along the highway can have mail delivered to their homes, rather than having to pick it up.

Binning said she understands farmers might be worried about getting their wheat harvest in and told people to let her know their situation in advance to make it as easy as possible.

She said the side roads across K-27 will be open and the state will notify residents by moving barricades a mile in advance of the highway work.

She wanted to remind residents that if they go past a barricade and something happens, then their car insurance won't pay.

The number in Atwood where Binning can be reached is (785) 626-3258.

Trash has troubles

TRASH, from Page 1

problem with people driving by and throwing things into the open dumpsters.

There was the suggestion to get rid of the dumpsters and go to a different collection system. City Commissioner Curtis Hurd said the city should look at the cost of going to an individual container collection system for next year's budget.

"We are trying to provide a service to the citizens of the city," said Mayor Chuck Lutters. "We need to look four or five years into the future and find a solution."

Most of the discussion focused on the need for a collection point where the material could be taken and then possibly have a bailer to handle the processing to sell to an outside broker.

"There are several brokers out there that will buy just about anything you can gather," said Ed Wolak, city public works director, "but in most cases the items must be bailed before the broker will take them."

Wolak said the bailed material must be stored until a trailer load has been collected. For some of the recycled materials, such as plastic, that could take quite a bit of storage area, because it cannot be stored outdoors. He said the cardboard can be stored outdoors after it has been bailed for a period of six months.

Both the city and county commissioners said they did not know of a building where this could presently be done.

Pickman was asked if there were grants available which might help in setting up such an operation and providing some of the equipment.

"Yes, there are some grants available," he said, "but they want the project to be as wide as possible and be a joint effort. They also want to know how much you expect to handle on a per ton basis. The more information you have, the better."

Way said the new landfill should last about 250 years, as long as the tons of trash being buried remains about the same.

He said the county expects to add at least one employee to haul the trash from the transfer station to the landfill site and then after dumping to also compact and cover the trash.

The county will need to purchase a compactor, loader and tractor, he said, to pull the trailer and probably a scraper to cover the trash.

Way said they expect to have the new site open by the fall, depending on the state's acceptance of the liner compaction.

"Our method of collections has to change," Hurd said.

"How did we get away from handling solid waste?" Pickman asked. "In the old days it was a great system when we could burn and simply dig a hole and dump it all in. Now we can't do that, and what we have is the worst system in the world to get this done without it costing a high amount."

Both sides agreed that a joint plan needs to be developed.

"Let's get on top of it," Frankenfild said.

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