

# Fairgrounds getting catch pit for steer wash

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News  
Sherman County commissioners approved a low bid from McClure's Plumbing Friday for \$2,636 to put a filter in the catch pit for the steer wash rack at the fairgrounds.

The sewer work, part of an upgrade required by the city to keep contamination out of the sewer system, should be completed before the fair in August, county extension agent Dana Belshe told the commissioners.

There were two bids, with Goody's

at \$4,000.

Belshe asked, and the commissioners approved, adding the name of an Eagle Scout, who help with Bill Gray Park at the fairgrounds to the back of a sign there.

There were two bids for chip sealing of the 16.25 miles of old U.S. 24 east of Goodland to the Thomas County line. Way said Heft and Sons bid at 59 cents a square yard (\$140,612) and LeFarge of Burlington bid 53 cents (\$126,317). Way said the LeFarge bid requires some assistance from the

county crew which would cost about \$2,500.

Way said it was time for the commissioners to look at adding a project for the upcoming five-year plan. He suggested they could consider something like the Beaver Creek bridge on west Eighth Street, which was built in 1935. He said the project could be a preliminary item and that it could be changed in the future if the commissioners came up with another.

The commissioners decided not to purchase a carpet cleaning system, and

talked about replacing the small tractor being used for snow removal and at the fairgrounds.

The commissioners approved papers for the mini-loan program that had been reviewed by County Attorney Bonnie Selby. Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said they have a brochure developed to hand out about the program, and these will be available at the county clerk's office and the Chamber of Commerce. He said the actual applications should be available in the next few weeks.

Jim Stewart asked the commissioners to open an access road to his property in the Sappa Creek Development on the west edge of Goodland.

He told the commissioners he did not need a fancy road, just access into his property.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he did not know the history on this subdivision. He asked if it had been platted and surveyed.

Stewart said it was his understanding the county had done some of the access roads in the past.

The commissioners assured Stewart that they would talk to Way about "making some kind of a road."

Bruce Gleason came to talk about the additional financing for his upcoming paramedic training. The commissioners discussed his request for more money, but Frankenfeld felt it should be something handled by all three of the participating groups because this is a request they expect to see more often in the future.

"I think we need a uniform policy on paramedics," he said. "After all we are doing much more for the doctors."

County Attorney Selby said she expected to get the tax sale judgment today, and told commissioners that the new target date for the sale is Wednesday, May 1. She said that three properties have been redeemed and are out of the sale. The next step will be to republish the remaining properties and set the actual sale date, she said.

Dave Branda and Gennifer House appeared on behalf of the Sherman County Historical Society. Branda said they had been researching the owner-

ship of the old school north of the High Plains Museum since an accidental fall injured someone last year.

He said he could find minutes where the society donated the school to the county, but was under the impression it had been transferred to the city. He said he had been through the historic minutes of each organization and could not find where that transfer had been completed.

As a housekeeping matter, he asked that the county draft a document giving the school to the city. The commissioners approved the request, and will draft a resolution for the transfer so there is something in writing.

Branda said from the historical society side they would put everything in writing to be sure the same thing doesn't happen in the future.

The commissioners approved monthly vouchers for \$191,357.

The next regular meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Avenue.

## Corporate farms not liked

MASON CITY, Iowa (AP) — In Pennsylvania, five cities have banned large corporations from owning farmland or operating farms. Leaders in a Missouri county upset by a hog waste spill ordered a company to take its hogs and get out. In Iowa, two counties passed unprecedented bans on livestock farms.

Across the nation's farm country, local governments are raising a stink about corporate agriculture — and in the process, stepping into a fight between large-scale farms and neighbors.

Some farmers and corporate interests call the trend disturbing and warn that overregulation could drive up food prices and lead some livestock production to move out of the country.

But local officials are taking matters into their own hands because states haven't adequately enforced laws already on the books, said Melanie Shepherdson, an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington.

"People are starting to realize that this isn't just happening in my town.

## Legislators to walk out

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ting the session down.

They believe the strategy would backfire dramatically, as special sessions historically have been responses to emergencies or disasters and not a method for wrapping up business for the year.

"I don't understand," said Senate Majority Leader Lana Oleen, R-Manhattan. "If people don't have their work done, why are they going home to face the people who sent them here — to get a job done?"

The state constitution sets the length of the Legislature's annual session at 90 calendar days but allows legislators to meet past that point by adopting a resolution with two-thirds majorities in both houses.

In 1969, the Legislature began taking a 2 1/2 week spring break in April, returning afterward for a few scheduled days of work.

The short wrap-up allowed legislators to consider gubernatorial vetoes but evolved into the period in which lawmakers finish their most important business. To have the wrap-up, legislators need to adopt the session-extending resolution.

Republicans hold a 30-10 advantage in the Senate, three more than the 27 needed for a two-thirds majority. But they hold 79 seats to Democrats' 46 in the House, where 84 are needed for a two-thirds majority.

And House Democrats are ready to vote against a resolution. Their leader, Rep. Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville, said they are frustrated with the slow pace of Senate redistricting and a lack of Senate debate on major issues, such as the budget.

"I just think we need to see some movement in the Senate," he said. "I'd sure like to see them do a little heavy lifting."

Republican leaders argue that they are making progress on major issues. Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, pointed to a debate on redistricting set for Tuesday.

He said the Senate will consider the session-extending resolution after that debate. He professed little concern over whether it would win adoption.

Redistricting has become a catalyst for the talk of ending the session early because the 10 Democratic senators formed an alliance with 11 conservative Republicans.

That coalition of 21 passed a redistricting bill — later vetoed by Gov. Bill Graves — and is now pushing a slightly revised version.

The new plan came out of committee last week, but Graves and his allies are working for changes, which coalition members are resisting. Coalition members don't want their plan to stall again.

Talk about ending the session early is one result.

Other people are experiencing this, too," she said.

In February, officials in Iowa's Cerro Gordo County declared a one-year ban on the construction of new confinements. Days later, neighboring Franklin County followed suit.

The bans were unparalleled in Iowa, which leads the nation in pork and egg production.

Though Franklin County officials later backed off their ban, saying they needed to discuss it further with their health board, Cerro Gordo's had an immediate effect. Sparboe Farms, a Minnesota company, quickly withdrew its proposal to build an egg-laying plant with 2.4 million chickens near Clear Lake and now is looking elsewhere.

Factory-style farms have been around since the 1970s, but they've become more common in the last 15 years.

As they proliferate, so does concern that their concentrated manure is harming human health and environment, with its effects rippling as far south as the Gulf of Mexico, where manure runoff contributes to a dead zone in the sea.

"We need to protect the health of the public, at the same time create an en-

vironment that's conducive to agricultural growth," said Ron Osterholm, a member of the Cerro Gordo health board.

Osterholm and county supervisor Bob Amosson said they're prepared to be the target of possible lawsuits. Worth County, to the north, has been sued for making strict air and water pollution rules. The case is pending. Michelle Nowlin, an attorney who often handles such cases at Southern Environmental Law Center in Chapel Hill N.C., said one argument for local rules is that communities and counties vary in their economies and topography.

Federal and state standards don't consider those differences, she said.

"Only the people in that county are able to take a position in order to safeguard those natural features," Nowlin said.

Several North Carolina counties restrict how close livestock farms can be to water wells and homes, as do many Pennsylvania townships.

Don Parrish said the trend toward local regulation threatens the nation's livestock industry.

Rules can drive up farmers' expenses, leading to higher prices.

## Trash baler to be on display

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bales are then stacked into the landfill and covered.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel will give an update Tuesday on the cardboard recycling grant application which is to be submitted later this month. She has been collecting letters and petitions supporting the cardboard program as well as filling out the application.

Way and Steve Goodman, road and bridge shop foreman, told the commissioners Friday the loader at the transfer station is in poor shape and that it would cost a minimum of \$20,000 to bring it up to fair condition.

Goodman said he had talked to Martin Tractor about the loader, and they had agreed it could be used as a trade-in.

Way said a new loader would be leased for five years or 5,000 hours. He said the old loader has been averaging about 1,000 hours a year. The new loader would cost \$92,936 after the trade-in.

The commissioners approved moving forward with the lease.

Crystal Linsner handed the commissioners an agreement with Ellis County for the household hazardous waste program, another move to protect the landfill.

The cost will be \$1,900 to join the

region and Commissioner Kevin Rasure made a motion to approve it, seconded by Commissioner Mitch Tiede. The motion passed unanimously.

Linsner said they would be asking for a grant for four cabinets to hold the household hazardous waste, two to hold flammables and two to hold corrosives.

The cost is expected to be \$3,000. She said they would not get the money before July.

The commissioners suggested ordering the cabinets now so they would be here by July, and to see how soon after that a collection could be done. Linsner is to go to an all-day training this month.

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