

Public asks questions on plans at trash forum

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tion system.

At the end of the meeting, the audience was asked to raise their hands in a straw poll to see who was in favor of the county taking over the collection. Twenty-six people indicated their support for the county while at least two vocally said they thought the city should keep the system. About seven raised their hands saying they did not want the county to take over the system. The others did not indicate an opinion on either side.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the Colorado company, U.S. Waste Industries of Colorado Springs, plans to make a formal presentation to the city commission on Monday, Feb. 3.

One main question was, "what will be the cost if the trash goes out of state, and what about those on fixed incomes?"

Garcia said the primary mission

was to keep the costs as low as possible.

City Commissioner Curtis Hurd said that without seeing the proposal from U.S. Waste, it was hard to know what the costs may be.

"Nothing is firm," he said. "Neither commission has voted on this."

A question was asked about "why the city wants out of the collection business?"

Daniels said one reason was that they felt they were spending too much time on the trash and that getting out would give them more time and money to handle other needs of the city, including the streets.

Garcia said a county requirement for sorting trash question was one of the issues with the city, and that it would make things smoother to have the system under one agency through the county, which also runs the landfill.

Pickman said the system is at a break-even basis now. To keep the costs as low as possible, and to im-

prove the service, having the county handle the collections would be best.

City Commissioner Rick Billinger said that the collection system was not showing a profit, and that if the county takes over all the costs, there appeared to be a plus financially.

City Commissioner Dean Blume said he felt the city had been put in the middle between the county regulations and the citizens. He said the problems at the landfill, where the city employees were told they could not unload because of contamination in the loads, pointed out the problem.

"Costs are not the whole question," Blume said.

A question was asked about why the proposal said the county would pay the city \$1.25 per month per customer for billing and mailing.

Pickman said the city staff had looked at the costs over the past three years and found it spent

\$36,000 per year for the billing, which divided by the number of customers comes out to \$1.25.

Daniels said the proposal was to leave everything in place as it is now with the billing in an effort to keep the price at the current \$13.25.

Another question was whether city employees would lose their jobs with the county proposal.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the plan is to give the city employees first option to stay with the job or to consider a different position with the city.

There was a comment from one person that it could be cheaper to haul the city and county trash to the landfill at Garden City which was used until the county opened it's new landfill.

Daniels said this remains as an option, but the county plans to maintain the new landfill south of town.

Billinger said he thought this should be looked at because he felt

the sorting rule raised the cost above what it might cost to haul to Garden City.

"It is like the city power plant," Billinger said. "We are not generating power there because we can buy it cheaper from outside, but if the cost raises, we can produce our own power. It is our ace in the hole, and the same could be said for the county landfill."

Daniels said he felt the sorting problem began with the customers.

"I believe the people haven't understood the need to separate the trash," he said.

Questions about insurance costs to the county and a new building to house the trucks was answered by Rasure.

"There is no separate cost for a new building in the budget, but based on the figures, there should be enough to cover this," he said. "It pencils out. The insurance costs have been addressed and are in the budget."

"This cannot be subsidized by county taxes. It has to be funded by user fees only. By state law, we cannot use any property tax for this service."

A question was raised about increasing recycling to reduce the amount of trash.

Pickman said it was the goal of both the county and city to expand this program.

"We want to keep working on this, especially the cardboard, because this makes it easier to handle the trash, and there might be a way to get some money back."

Rasure said that recycling can grow under the city and county plan. At the end of the forum, several people said they knew more than when they came, and hoped that the city and county would continue to work together.

The county commissioners said during their meeting today they would finalize their proposal at the next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Morris under fire for immigrant stance

TOPEKA (AP) — A newly elected State Board of Education member didn't have to wait long before drawing sharp criticism for her view the state should not educate the children of illegal immigrants.

But Connie Morris, a St. Francis Republican, said at her first meeting since being elected that funding education for immigrants was an issue for her western Kansas constituents and she would be vocal.

Four people spoke Tuesday at the board's monthly meeting, directing their criticism at Morris.

"We can't afford to be known as the Trent Lott of the 50 states," said John Martellaro, executive board member of the Kansas Families United for Public Education.

Lott is the former U.S. Senate majority leader from Mississippi who resigned from his leadership

post after making remarks some interpreted as a supporting segregation.

Martellaro said the board's decision in 1999 to de-emphasize the teaching of evolution, later rescinded, brought international ridicule on Kansas and cost the state unknown dollars in lost economic development prospects.

"Being the butt of jokes on the Jay Leno and David Letterman shows wasn't funny," Martellaro said.

Morris defeated board Chairman Sonny Rundell of Syracuse in a Republican primary in August, and again in November, when Rundell mounted a write-in campaign.

Critics have said her proposal on immigrants is unconstitutional.

To deny those children access to education would invite lawsuits at a time when, Martellaro said, "we simply cannot afford to waste that kind of money pandering to extreme right-wing ideology."

Split board struggles to organize

TOPEKA (AP) — The state Board of Education tried Tuesday to chart a course for the next two years, only to discover it again is stuck in place by an ideological split.

After repeated failures, the board ended the first of two days of meetings without electing a new chairman, spitting several votes on varying options.

They mostly included either electing board member Janet Waugh, a Democrat from Kansas City, Kan., or splitting the two-year term into a pair of one-year appointments.

The board's chairman and vice chairman are normally elected for a two-year term and set the 10-member board's agenda.

No nomination for Waugh or any compromise plan received more than five votes. Board action requires six.

Waugh was vice chairwoman in 2001-02. The board will continue to put the selection of a chairman on its agenda each month until the issue is resolved.

Following November's elections, the board is split between five members identified as conservative Republicans and a coalition of

Democrats and moderate Republicans.

During the meetings this week, the coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans generally supported Waugh and refused to support the split-term proposal or offer a compromise. The block is made up of Waugh, Sue Gamble of Shawnee, Carol Rupe of Wichita, Bill Wagon of Topeka and Bruce Wyatt of Salina. Board member John Bacon, an Olathe conservative, said electing a chairman who represented only moderate views was inappropriate and would misrepresent the board's views

Principals give reports on schools

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School on Feb. 7 and 8 and for two weekends in March.

- Spanish is anticipated to start in six weeks for the Central building.

- Gregory invited board members to attend the soup supper which was held on Tuesday night at the school. Performances by students were held throughout the evening.

North Elementary School - Steve Raymer

- Raymer who is working as principal for North as well as the athletic director of the high school said that his double-duty is keeping him busy. He announced the Regional Wrestling Tournament will be held Feb. 21-22 in Goodland and plans are being worked on for the event.

West Elementary School - Gerald Burkett

- The first annual talent contest was held recently at the school Burkett said it was successful and would be something to encourage talents and interests of the students.

Grant Junior High - Jim Mull

- Training on the Palm Pilot handheld planners started Tuesday. On Tuesday students started training in math class and continued training on Wednesday in science class.

- Tuesday coaches from the high school talked to the student body about weight training, discipline and maintaining grades. Mull said he felt this was a good coordination between the schools and good information for the junior high students to hear.

Goodland High School - Harvey Swager

- Swager told the board how thankful he was of the faculty and staff who handled business while he was ill.

- Seminar classes at the high school are in the process of being changed around to help focus students on special skills for the upcoming assessment tests. He said freshmen would be focusing on science, sophomores on math and juniors on English.

- Before Christmas break, Swager said a questionnaire was sent out to parents asking if they felt it would be beneficial for students to be required to wear uniforms. Of the returned questionnaires, he said two thirds were not interested.

Congratulations Dr. Sid Unruh!!

The staff of **Unruh Family Chiropractic**, Britany, Courtney and Colleen, would like to congratulate

Dr. Sid A. Unruh, on his recent completion of the "Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician" Degree. Dr. Unruh obtained the postgraduate designation by the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians. Dr. Unruh has spent one weekend per month, for the last year in Denver where he was attending classes for the CCSP degree. The CCSP degree requires the doctor to attend a minimum of 100 hours of a 120 hour postgraduate program. The instruction is specific to physical fitness and the evaluation and treatment of injuries encountered in sports. Following the completion of these hours, the doctor must then take and successfully pass a comprehensive written examination. Dr. Unruh finished at the top of his class and we are very proud of him! **Dr. Unruh is the only Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician in Northwest Kansas!** This new training will aid Dr. Unruh in the prevention and treatment of athletic injuries by enhancing his diagnostic skills and patient care. Dr. Unruh can help with more than just neck and back pain. He can treat many other ailments not limited to: shoulder pain, elbow, wrist, knee pain, heel spurs and of course, SPORTS INJURIES.

If you need an appointment with Dr. Unruh, please call 785-899-2225

His office is located at 1109 Main in Goodland.



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All meetings will start at 2:00 C.S.T. unless otherwise noted and will last around one and one-half hours followed by a question and answer session.

Wednesday, January 15th at the Gateway building located at the junctions of Highways 36 and 83 in Oberlin, Kansas.

Wednesday, January 22nd at the Buffalo Inn meeting room (west of the motel) located on West Highway 24 in Goodland, Kansas at 1:30 M.S.T.

Wednesday, January 29th at the Red Willow County Community Building meeting room located at the fairgrounds in McCook, Nebraska.

For more information on these meetings or to request copies of the information to be presented, you may call us at 1-800-867-8289 or visit our website at www.marketdatainc.com and click on the USDA/RMA tab

Please plan to attend these free informational meetings

No RSVP is required however, your reservation would help us with our preparations