

Citizens get chance to vote on time change

The Goodland Star-News is sponsoring a straw vote on the question "Should Sherman County become part of the Central Time Zone," to be held on Tuesday, April 1, in the lobby of the Sherman County courthouse.

Discussion in the community about the possibility of asking the U.S. Department of Transportation to make such a change was started last month, and there are several petitions circulating.

The Goodland Star-News staff decided holding a straw poll would be a good way to give all citizens of Sherman County over 18 a chance

to express their opinion.

There is no provision for a formal election on the issue, but the straw poll would give the county commissioners and others an indication of the feeling of the citizens.

Tuesday the Sherman County commissioners decided to remain neutral on the issue because they will be the board which could be asked to request the time change from the Department of Transportation.

"The Sherman County commissioners would like to notify the citizens of Sherman County that we are aware of the time change issue that

is being discussed in the community and to officially inform the citizens that the commissioners are neutral on the issue.

"We encourage all citizens to express their opinion by participating in the straw poll that will be held on April 1."

With the petitions and the straw poll results the commissioners will be asked to pass a resolution requesting the Department of Transportation to consider changing the county from Mountain to Central time.

The county resolution is the first step in the process, and the transpor-

tation office of counsel general will assign a docket number to the request and schedule a public hearing to be held in Goodland.

Anyone will be able to attend the public hearing and express their opinion as well as the petitions and straw vote results will be submitted as part of the process.

After the public hearing citizens can file written comments for an additional 30 days.

Then the decision is taken to the board of the transportation department for their decision.

It could take several months to more than a year for the decision

to be made, and if the transportation department approves the change it will become official the next time the clocks are turned back in October.

This is the second straw poll taken on the time issue in Sherman County.

An earlier straw vote conducted by County Clerk Janet Rumpel was held in April 1989.

The Goodland Daily News and Sherman County Herald distributed the ballots to all who wanted to voted

There were also several locations in the city where ballots were avail-

able.

The ballots were mailed or taken to the county clerk's office.

The ballots were checked against the registered voter list before they were counted.

The ballots were counted and the final result showed that the citizens preferred to stay on Mountain time.

The tally showed 1,035 in favor of Mountain time and 579 votes for changing to Central time.

Following the straw vote the Sherman County commissioners decided the issue was dead at that time.

County buys van

Herl Chevrolet was the low bidder for a new van for the Sherman County Health Department and the commissioners approved the purchase during their meeting Tuesday.

There were bids from Herl, Dan Brenner Ford and Finley Motor. The bid was for a new van with the trade of the two the health department has been using.

Herl's bid was \$8,500 after the trade. Brenner's was \$9,600, and Finley's was \$10,500.

Michelle Shoff of the American Cancer Society asked the commissioners to donate the utilities for the Relay for Life to be held at the fairgrounds on August 22.

The commissioners unanimously approved the request.

With the approval Monday night of the trash agreement the county commissioners discussed the next step in the process. They will ask county attorney Bonnie Selby to review a draft contract, and will hold a work session on the trash program at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

The commissioners approved a letter encouraging people to participate in the straw poll on the time zone issue to be held on April 1, and said they will remain neutral until they see the outcome of the election.

"The Sherman County Commission is aware of the time change issue being discussed in the community, and officially the board of county commissioners are neutral on the issue.

"We encourage all citizens to express their opinions by participating in the straw poll to be held on April 1, in the lobby of the Sherman County courthouse."

Sherman County will have a bowling team in the upcoming Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake on April 5, and Commissioner Mitch Tiede is the team captain.

Members of the county team are Commissioner Chuck Thomas, former commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld and public works director Curt Way. The commissioners approved making a donation of \$50 per team member to help the Big Brother/Big Sister program in their fund raising effort. The city and school district are expected to have teams in the program.

Waiting to get back on the road



About 100 trucks were parked filling the lots at Total, Presto and Wal-Mart from until Thursday morning as I-70 was closed because of the record heavy snow in the Denver area. Motels in Goodland were full as the record winter storm in Denver closed all the major highways on Tuesday and I-70 was closed as far east as Salina as the people heading west were stopped as hotels were filled. The Interstate was opened about 8 a.m. Thursday. Dave Floyd, of the Goodland office of the National Weather Service said the northwest Kansas area had a solid one inch to one and three-quarters. Floyd

said it was a nice gentle soaking rain. "We need a couple more like this over the next couple of months," he said. Goodland has 1.2 inches for the month of March, and Floyd says that is .48 above normal and the 2.03 inches so far this year is .44 above normal. "We are a long way from saying the drought is over," Floyd said. "We have about nine inches to make up over the last two years. There's a chance for scattered showers early next week and some possible the last part of the week" Photos by Bill Wagoner / The Goodland Star-News

City and county reach agreement on trash

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

After years of informal discussions and months of contract negotiations, the City of Goodland and Sherman County have reached an agreement for the county to take over solid waste collection.

The city commission voted three to two at its meeting Monday to accept a contract with the county. Commissioners Rick Billinger and Chuck Lutters and Mayor Tom Rohr voted to accept the contract, and Commissioners Curtis Hurd and Dean Blume voted against it.

The contract provides for the city to sell three trash trucks, 1,000 dumpsters and 600 90-gallon trash carts for \$400,000 over a five-year period, with the city writing off \$80,000 each year during this period.

The county has the right to sell, trade or upgrade the equipment at its

discretion. If the contract is terminated during the five years, the county will owe the city \$80,000 for each full year remaining and a prorated amount for any partial year.

The city will provide storage for the trucks and carts for the first year at no cost to the county and will let the county use the city shop to service and clean the vehicles. Rent and utilities will be negotiated after the first year. Hurd and Blume said they voted against the contract because they felt the city should have advertised for bids on the trash service as was previously discussed.

Hurd said he is glad the county is taking it over because he thought all along the city and county should work together on trash collection. But he said he is unhappy with the contract.

"I'm not happy with this agreement," Hurd said, "because, not only are we giving it away, we are

paying \$3,600 a year for (the county) to take it."

Blume said he agreed with Hurd that it is not right for the city to pay the utilities, adding that he thinks the county should make a donation for that, rather than passing it on to the citizens.

Hurd said he is glad the city is getting rid of the trash service and can talk about something besides trash but that the selling it to the county was hard to accept.

"It took time for me to accept this," he said. "I thought private enterprise should be involved."

Blume agreed that private enterprise should be involved with trash collection and said he felt the commission deprived someone of an opportunity.

"We've tried to keep private enterprise out of it," he said. "A local person was deprived of the opportunity to operate the business and

pay taxes to the county.

"We talk about economic development, but we are trying everything to deprive private enterprise of this."

Private enterprise was going to rent the facility and pay the utilities, Hurd said, but we are going to pay that.

Billinger said he never thought the city needed to get out of trash collection but was voting "with the majority."

"I never agreed to sell," he said. "I didn't think we needed to get out of it."

The city isn't giving anything away, he said, since the equipment has been paid for by user fees and will continue to be used by the same users.

Lutters said he didn't think the taxpayers should be double taxed on the service.

County Commissioner Kevin

Rasure said he felt the agreement was one both commissions could live with and that they people they represent could benefit from.

"The same people who own the equipment," he said, "are those who pay for trash pickup."

Rasure said the county may subcontract some of the labor but would own the equipment and set the overall policies for the service.

The agreement states that the county will take over trash collection no more than three months after the city and county both approved the agreement and that the city will continue to bill for the fees and will then pay the county.

In other business:

- the commission approved payment of \$641 to Evans, Bierly Hutchison and Associates for the airport property acquisition project and \$1,353 for the airport runway.

- City Manager Ron Pickman told the commissioners he had four people signed up to bowl on the city team for the Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters and that they now need to attain around \$500 in pledges and donations.

- The city manager reminded the commission that the Farm-City Banquet is at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Safari Steakhouse.

- After an executive session, the commission voted to allow the city manager to continue negotiating to acquire property.

Sixth group graduates from Leadership Sherman County

The sixth graduation for the Leadership Sherman County was last Wednesday at Safari Steak House with eight class members graduating.

Class members Hazel Estes, Kanorado mayor and an insurance agent, is the first person from Kanorado to go through the class, and David Floyd, from the Goodland office of the National Weather Service were the two selected to talk about their experiences.

Estes talked about going to the head house on the Mueller Grain elevator. Floyd said he was surprised

how things got done in Topeka.

Darin Neufeld was the evening's master of ceremonies, and introduced the speaker Samuel Lane, enterprise facilitator from the Western Kansas Enterprise Facilitation Consortium.

Lane said that most of the politicians are not leaders, but rather good organizers.

"A good leader is one who can lead from the front, from the side and even from behind," Lane said. "A good leader is one who sees what needs to be done and sees that it moves forward."

The certificates were given by Jeanne Irvin and Neufeld who were co-chairs.

Those graduating were Cindy

Bowman, David Daniels, Estes, Floyd, Carrie Peter, Rebecca Schmidtberger, Amy Sederstrom and Chad Tuttle.



David Floyd



Hazel Estes



Sam Lane

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