

Household hazardous waste collection Sept. 13

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 Sherman County citizens will be able to bring their household hazardous waste to the county facility across from Pizza Hut from 7 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, Commissioner Mitch Tiede said at the special meeting Friday.
 Rural Fire Chief Kenny Griffith, who works for the county road and bridge department, and Daryl West, head of the Noxious Weed Department, have agreed to help handle the waste. They replace Crystal Linsner, who is a deputy county clerk and handles the county com-

puter system and payroll.
 Linsner resigned from the hazardous waste job after commissioners declined to give her a raise to cover the extra training and work. They had given her 40 cents an hour before she was completed the training and was certified, but after completing the training she asked for a raise and it was denied.
 Tiede said that a supervisor will come from Hays to help with the collection, and be there for the bulk of flammable liquids.
 "We are having a problem with people dropping things off at all times of day and night," Tiede said.

"This is a problem because it is considered illegal dumping and could get the county in trouble if an inspector saw it."
 "The best thing is for people to hold their waste until the collection date."
 Kevin Arnold approached the commissioners about the possibility of renting the back half of the building the county is using for the household hazardous waste collection and storage.
 Arnold said he had been talking to Kendall Cooper, the building owner, about using the back part to open a radiator shop. He said he had

contacted the city building inspector, but that he needed access to the building.
 The commissioners said they had no problem with Arnold opening a radiator shop, but suggested he talk to Cooper about opening a side entrance and fencing the county portion off to avoid extra traffic.
 "We have enough problems with people dropping things off now," Tiede said. "I am afraid that if we opened that for your business it would be much worse, and all that traffic would not be good for our operation. We do not need all the open area in the back, but it would

be better if there is another entrance for your business."
 Arnold said he would talk to Cooper about the entrance and if that will work, he will let Commissioner Kevin Rasure know and they can deal with sharing the electric and gas bills.
 The commissioners talked to William McKnight, building maintenance supervisor, about a new "confined space" policy which is required by the county liability insurance pool.
 The rule is designed to have a way to keep track of people who go into the basement of the courthouse for

maintenance reasons.
 Under the policy, anyone who needs to go to the basement will be required to sign in at the clerk's office and sign out when they are done.
 McKnight said he felt this was a workable way to handle the insurance requirement.
 "The idea is that if something happens," Rasure said, "we need to know who might be down there, and if they have been down there for a long time, we need to know that so they can be checked on in an emergency."

County tries to hold taxes

BUDGET, from Page 1
 number of farmers who have picked up prairie dog bait since the first of the month," Tiede said. "We have already given out 22 of 24 pallets in less than three weeks."
 The commissioners decided to wait until September to see how the prairie dog committee feels things are going, and to see how much bait West will need.
 Turning to the appraiser's budget, the commissioners went through it line by line and suggested cuts totaling about \$5,000. They tried to talk to Appraiser Terry Ballard about the budget, but he was

not in his office. He will be invited to the next commission meeting on Thursday.
 The rural fire board will be invited to discuss its request for an increase of over 3 mills.
 Rumpel said the fire board wants to build up money in its capital reserve to be able to buy a new truck. She said they have included \$60,000 in this year's budget, and want \$135,000 for next year.
 The commissioners suggested the fire board be invited to the meeting on Thursday because it may be possible to use a lease/purchase to reduce the cost and lower the tax increase needed next year.





















Rumpel said based on the assessed valuation, one mill raises \$32,608.
 Looking at the list of other budgets, the commissioners decided to do a 10 percent across the board cut of the historical society, programs for the elderly, the county fair, cemetery, city/county recreation and the library.
 The total reduction is \$19,170, and would cut the tax levy by about one-third of a mill.
 "Where does it stop?" Rasure asked. "We are now paying for about two and one-half years of cuts from the state."



Sherman County Commissioners Chuck Thomas, Kevin Rasure and Mitch Tiede looked at a map of county roads that Curt Way (left), public works manager, brought to show where some savings might be made in maintaining the more than 1,200 miles of county roads.
 Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

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