

Questions raised about city costs on K-27 project

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
City commissioners favor replacing the asphalt on K-27 from I-70 to Business U.S. 24, but raised questions Monday about why the city has to pay part of the cost since the road carries a state highway. Mayor Rick Billinger asked why the city has to pay anything for the work, even 7 percent. "This is a state highway," he said. "Why are they asking us to spend money on a state highway?" Engineer Darin Neufeld, who wrote a grant application to get the work done, said the road is a city responsibility, not the state's, since it's within city limits. The state does not build roads inside city limits, he said, but it does do some maintenance. He said K-27 is a state highway, but since the city signed an agreement years ago, the state is no longer responsible for major improvements north of the freeway. He said the state has money for "geometric improvement" projects on city "connecting links" which carry state highways, and that is how

K-27 project first phase gets OK

K-27, from Page 1

"Not until it is public right of way," Neufeld said, "or when you own it." Daniels said based on the state estimate, the total city cost could be \$750,000 in a worst case scenario. Neufeld said that could be true if the city would up with the higher cost estimated by the state. He said it is possible that over the next few years, the state amount could go higher than the \$750,000. City Attorney Jeff Mason, who served on the state Highway Advisory Commission, said the state limit has gone up from \$600,000 to the \$750,000 in the past few years because of the higher material costs. Dechant asked City Clerk Mary Volk if the city has money set aside to match grant projects. Volk said when there is a project, they set aside money in the budget. Neufeld said the city would have three to four

years to get the match ready for this project. "This is just getting our foot in the door?" Fairbanks asked. "The city will get a letter from the state and then when it is signed, you are agreeing to the project," Neufeld said, "and you have to pay 5 percent or what you can pay over the 5 percent. It's our job to keep within that 5 percent cost." Billinger asked if Neufeld could keep the cost within the 5 percent for the other phases, and Neufeld said he could because each phase would be designed to fit the money available. "Did the state come and ask us about this?" Daniels asked. "We send in an application every year, in August," Neufeld said. "We've always applied, but have not always gotten the money." Dechant made the motion to accept the grant offer, and it was approved unanimously.

the improvement to K-27 would be done. Grants are limited to \$750,000 per job, he said, so the project would be spread over several years to keep the city's cost down. "We spent a lot of money out

there in 1999," Billinger complained, "taking out the center stuff the state did not like. We must have spent about \$250,000." "If we don't do this," Commissioner Josh Dechant responded,

"the road will keep deteriorating." "They will do a patch job like they did last year," Neufeld agreed. "It just bothers me," Billinger said. "Why wasn't it done in concrete in 1999? We are spending

about \$600,000 on a state highway. At the time in 1999, the big thing was to get the turning lanes out. Now Hays is putting them back in." City Attorney Jeff Mason, a former member of the state Highway Advisory Commission, said with this type of project, there is a local match requirement. "Can we go to a four-phase program to cut the cost to the city?" Billinger asked. Neufeld said he could design the project to do the maximum based on the money the city is willing to spend, and if it takes four phases, that would be what it would take. He said the state has suggested narrowing the turning lane, and that could save some money. "I would rather do city streets than highways," Billinger said. "I agree, I would rather do streets," Dechant said, "but we need the highways to bring people into the city." "We keep pushing for economic development," said Commissioner Annette Fairbanks. "We need to get it done and do it right. I know it is a lot of money."

One reason the asphalt has not held up, said, may be that truck traffic is increasing. "State highway counts shows about 6,000 vehicles a day along that stretch," Neufeld said, "and 35 percent are 'heavies,' or about 1,700 a day." "On the fairness meter it doesn't seem very fair," Fairbanks said. "With progress there comes a cost. We need to do it." "It is a tough call," Commissioner John Garcia said. "I can see that we want to move forward. If we could break it up into four phases, it would be better for the city. We need to put some pressure on the politicians to get us some help out here so we might not have to spend \$750,000 for all of this." "We gave up our sales tax for 10 years to do the joint program with the county." "If we do it in four phases, we might be able to save more," Billinger said. "It would be \$60,000 for the first one and maybe three at \$35,000. I might even vote for it."

City street project bids for Caldwell, 17th Street to open next week

BIDS, from Page 1

City Manager Wayne Hill said he'll forward the request to county commissioners to have the bills paid out of the special sales tax bond money. Neufeld had three other payment

requests, for designing the 17th Street project and the asphalt on Caldwell from Eighth Street to the airport. The design cost for 17th Street was \$2,118, and for the Caldwell sections \$5,453 for Toelkes to the airport and \$5,419 for Eighth to Toelkes.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked what kind of warranty there is on the concrete intersections if it starts to chip after a year. Neufeld said there is a one-year performance warranty, and beyond that it depends on what happens and whether it is a construction or ma-

terial problem. "If there is something," he said, "I would be surprised. We have been careful about checking the temperatures and concrete during the pouring." Mayor Rick Billinger asked about the concrete tube ends on Caldwell. Neufeld said they are not replacing the concrete tubes, but are adding the ends on as a safety measure. He said he thought they cost about \$500 each.

Billinger said the engineering cost for the asphalt street seemed a bit high. "It may not seem like much on that stretch of road," Neufeld said, "but it takes about 60 sheets of details to give to a contractor to bid on the project." "The cost is about 4 percent. If it was a state project, it would be about 10 percent."

He said they are separate projects, but they hope that one contractor will bid on all of them to get a lower price. Daniels asked when the projects would start. Neufeld said the 17th Street project has to be started by March 15 to have the intersection at Main done by May, in time for the wheat harvest. He said the rest of the work would be completed by September. He said when they redo the intersection at Main, they are not putting the bricks back.

County road bid opening next week

ROADS, from Page 1

North Platte, Neb., the company handling the K-27 project south of town. DeBoer said that Koss Construction of Topeka had pulled a copy of the plans for the milling portion. He said he expects Koss to be a subcontractor with somebody. He said both the county and city bids will be opened at the same time, but they are separate projects. He said if the same contractor is low bidder on more than one project, it could save some money.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that one of the lots for the expansion of the Kanorado fire station has been purchased for \$500 and the deed registered to the county. Rasure said a lot that is supposed to be donated has not been transferred.
- An automatic door opener was installed after Christmas at the Kanorado city building to allow the ambulance to be stored there, Commissioner Chuck Thomas said. The county will begin paying Kanorado \$150 a month to house the ambu-

lance until the addition can be built on the south end of the fire station.

- Signed a contract with the state Department of Transportation to spray weeds along I-70 and K-27. Daryl West, county noxious weed director, said he kept the hourly rate at \$25 for his time and \$45 for the use of the truck.
- On the prairie dog bait program, West said he has spent about \$50,000, and collected about \$14,000 of the \$25,000 the county is to get back from landowners. Thomas asked if the bait price was the same, and West said yes.

Commissioners question antique tag sale

LICENSE, from Page 1

Janet Rumpel, who had raised the issue with the commissioners. She said when her office was working the motor vehicle registrations to distribute the money, they found the out-of-county tag sale and questioned how to distribute the money. "Why are we selling tags for someone who does not live in Sherman County?" Rasure asked. "They work in Sherman County and had all the paperwork," Scheopner replied. Rumpel noted that the license form says the person who signs is saying he is a resident of Sherman County. The man's name was never mentioned in the discussion because, officials said, it is not a public record. Thomas said people who work in

Sherman County and live in Colorado get Colorado tags. "The person doesn't have any property in Sherman County," Tiede said. "We don't know what to do with the money." Rumpel said the state license rules say the person has to live in the county or have a business here. "He does work here," Scheopner said. "I guess we can check on it again." "The rules say resident or business," Rasure said. "Thomas County won't take the money for antique tags?" Thomas asked. "Not without the proper papers," Scheopner said. "I don't see how we can sell a tag to someone who doesn't live here or own a business here," Rasure said. "I agree we cannot do it this way,"

Tiede said. "This is a false signature." "We have had other cases like this?" Rasure asked. "We have sold to other people who have not been able to get their tags in Thomas County," Scheopner said. "We can't do this just because they can't get a tag in Thomas County," Tiede said. "You have people from Thomas County, but they own property in Sherman County," Thomas said. "How do we get this rectified?" Tiede asked. "Let us know." Rumpel suggested asking County Attorney Bonnie Selby what to do. Scheopner said she would find out what needs to be done. "The issue I questioned has been addressed," Rasure said, "and I think Iris for that."

City of Goodland financial statement

For the period from October 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

FUNDS	PREVIOUS BALANCE	RECEIPT	DISBURSEMENT	CURRENT BALANCE
Special Highway	\$11,782.26	\$31,083.68	0.00	\$42,865.94
Self Insurance	\$923,697.78	\$89,983.82	\$86,765.93	\$926,915.67
Airport Fund	\$309,798.01	\$8,625.19	\$15,710.38	\$302,712.82
General Operating	\$1,747,247.86	\$326,124.61	\$507,038.26	\$1,566,334.21
Bond & Interest	\$95,296.71	\$6,663.49	0.00	\$101,960.20
Library	18.02	\$2,652.19	0.00	\$2,670.21
Sales Tax	\$6,135.09	\$43,153.37	\$41,897.63	\$7,390.83
Electric Utility	\$2,103,936.08	\$1,453,078.63	\$1,285,830.09	\$2,271,184.62
Municipal Court Div. Fees	\$19,462.22	\$4,410.74	35.54	\$23,837.42
Law Enforcement	\$22,983.84	\$1,230.10	0.00	\$24,213.94
Electric Meter Deposit	\$124,207.00	\$6,350.00	\$6,770.00	\$123,787.00
Water Utility	\$197,158.86	\$266,396.45	\$243,651.79	\$219,903.52
Water Service Deposit	\$58,705.00	\$4,900.00	\$5,085.00	\$58,520.00
Sewer Utility	\$123,248.25	\$135,765.78	\$108,383.96	\$150,630.07
Special Park & Rec.	\$28,365.91	\$3,055.15	300.00	\$31,121.06
Vehicle Inspections(VIN)	\$18,861.00	\$1,759.27	\$1,406.00	\$19,214.27
Grant Imp Reserve Fund	\$217,595.06	\$182,221.18	\$192,160.51	\$207,655.73
Steever Park Project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Solid Waste	\$53,107.24	\$94,919.75	\$94,002.66	\$54,024.33
Fire Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Airport Improvement	\$-15,515.65	\$235,707.50	\$220,191.17	0.68
CDBG Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Imp. Reserve	\$2,322,400.00	\$259,773.14	\$50,306.20	\$2,531,866.94
Insurance Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Benefit	\$375,695.63	\$25,450.15	\$103,679.77	\$297,466.01
Library Emp. Benefit	49.17	227.50	0.00	276.67
State Water Fund	\$6,783.42	\$3,087.98	\$5,115.91	\$4,755.49
Cemetery-Perp. Care	\$82,500.00	0.00	0.00	\$82,500.00
Cemetery Endowment	\$73,250.79	\$2,000.00	0.00	\$75,250.79
Cemetery Improvement	\$92,353.70	\$2,603.59	0.00	\$94,957.29
Replacement Tree	\$1,149.10	19.24	0.00	\$1,168.34
Electric Reserve	\$1,684,187.88	\$20,561.26	0.00	\$1,704,749.14
Water Reserve	\$822,882.18	\$11,854.37	0.00	\$834,736.55
Water System Improv. Proj.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FEMA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sewer Reserve	\$617,896.40	\$7,328.51	0.00	\$625,224.91
M.E.R.F.	\$2,329,127.85	\$78,219.11	\$86,811.68	\$2,320,535.28
Total	\$14,454,366.66	\$3,309,205.75	\$3,055,142.48	\$14,708,429.93

AVAILABLE CASH	PREVIOUS BALANCE	CURRENT BALANCE
Cashier's Change	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Checking Accounts:		
BANKWEST	\$691,079.84	\$909,143.11
Investments	\$13,761,286.82	\$13,797,286.82
Total Available Cash	\$14,454,366.66	\$14,708,429.93

LIABILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

ST OF KS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN	\$1,809,757.41
STEEVER PARK PROJECT LEASE PURCHASE	\$945,046.71
GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS	\$85,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,839,804.12

I, Janeil Dilling, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

Signature _____ Title _____ City Treasurer



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