

Options may save money on resurfacing old U.S. 24

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Bids will be opened Wednesday for resurfacing old U.S. 24 across Sherman County, and Tuesday the Sherman County commissioners heard some options that could save the county money.

Jerol DeBoer, engineer and owner of Penco Engineering of Plainville, told commissioners he had updated the estimates for two options and thought they are a little lower, especially with the drop in oil prices.

The first option is to do a mill and overlay on the road without doing any subgrade work near Edson.

DeBoer said there may be enough money to do the second option, which would include doing some subgrade work near Edson, which would bring the price to

about \$5.2 million.

He said to save money on milling, the county could have the bidders use square yards rather than by weight so the contractor would not have to weigh each load, saving \$2 to \$3 a ton.

"They have that much tied up in the hauling of a scale?" Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked.

Another option, DeBoer said, is to split the asphalt overlays into two line items rather than as one. He said this would give the county the option to save some money on the aggregate. He said the top overlay could be done using a percentage of the millings rather than all new asphalt.

"What would it save?" Thomas asked. DeBoer said about \$150,000.

"It would make it so we would have to chip seal earlier," said Curt Way, public

works manager.

"I don't think the \$150,000 is worth saving at this time," Tiede said. "But it won't hurt to have the option in there."

Rasure said he agreed that it would not be a real savings if the county has to chip seal the road earlier, and did not feel it was a good option.

DeBoer said he would like to leave the option in whether the county accepted it or not.

The engineer said it appears there will be three main bidders will be Venture Corp. of Great Bend, APAC of Hays and Western Engineering of North Platte, Neb., the company handling the K-27 project south of town. He said he would send the bidders a letter this week giving them the new options.

Tiede asked if Grasser Construction of

Stratton, Colo., had shown interest.

Way said he thought Grasser was interested in the city projects, but had other commitments that would make doing the old U.S. 24 job difficult.

Rasure asked about the other two county projects, including the resurfacing of Eighth Street west to County Road 14, and a one-mile stretch of County Road 16 between old U.S. 24 and Eighth Street.

DeBoer said he has not done much with those two. He said the survey work has been completed on Eighth, and he will get to work on those as soon as the bids are wrapped up on old U.S. 24. DeBoer said he might have Eighth Street ready to bid in May.

"If Eighth Street is bid while we are working on the others, we might have someone who is here and could contract for

that," Way said. "It depends on the subgrade modifications on Eighth."

"As soon as winter leaves us, we can get on Road 16?" Thomas asked.

DeBoer said yes. He said the county needs to decide exactly what to do on Eighth, where there are some options for the overlay and subgrade work.

"We'll see what happens next Wednesday," Rasure said.

DeBoer said the storms kept him from getting to the December meeting and brought a package of sausage and cheese for each commissioner and offered them new hats. Tiede said he did not wear a hat, as did Rasure. Thomas said he would take a hat. The commissioners gave the sausage and cheese to County Clerk Janet Rumpel to use for a meeting on Thursday.

School board amends policy

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board adopted changes to its policy absence and tardy policy for the district recently at a school board. One change is credit for partial days and students will get 10 minutes before they are counted tardy.

One change is that students who make it to school for part of a day will be counted toward daily attendance, said Superintendent Shelly Angelos. Attendance is taken in the morning and the afternoon in kindergarten to sixth grade. In the junior high and high school, attendance will be taken at each class period.

A change for the junior high and high school in the definition of missing "a significant part of the day," which had been defined as one class period but now is the same for all students, two hours.

An appointment with a professional now will need documentation to be counted as an excused absence.

Junior high and senior high students will have the first 10 minutes of a period to get to a class before they are called tardy instead of five minutes. If excessive tardies are causing the student to fail or be near failing, they can be suspended under the policy.

Board member Andrew House asked Goodland High Principal Harvey Swager if anyone had been suspended because of tardies. He said no one that he knew of.

In kindergarten to sixth, a student will be considered tardy after the first ten minutes of the morning or afternoon session.

A definition of perfect attendance was added. All absences, excused and unexcused, count against perfect attendance if the student is gone for more than two hours in a day. School-caused absences are the only exception.

It still remains the student's responsibility to make up work from excused or unexcused absences, the policy says.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Front door delivery



A truck delivered windows to be installed in the new Holiday Inn Express by Dependable Glass last Friday to the building next to *The Goodland Star-News*. Newspaper staff inside the building were surprised to see big tires rolling past the front windows.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/*The Goodland Star-News*

Goodland senior wins \$3,500 in Masonic scholarships

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland High senior placed second in the state in the Masonic essay contest, winning \$3,500 in scholarships to show for it.

Lea Shores, daughter of Nancy Shores of Goodland, won the Goodland Masonic Lodge's essay contest, receiving a \$500 scholarship for tuition and books at the college of her choice.

Her essay, "How Is Trade with China Affecting Life in America?"

was entered in the state grand lodge's public school essay contest.

For second place, she received a \$3,000 scholarship.

Everyone in the state wrote on the same topic, said Nancy Shores; Lea submitted hers as a research paper.

There was plenty of information, Lea said; the problem was sorting out what was relevant and getting statistics rather than opinions.

Shores said she did most of her research on the Internet, using five sources.

One requirement, she said, was that the essay be 300-500 words.

"I had a hard time keeping to 500," she said.

"It was hard digging through and

sticking to what's relevant."

Shores spent about five hours on research and about three organizing the material and writing.

"I had to sit down and write it all at one time," she said. "I was afraid if I got up, I would forget some of the points I wanted to make."

Her thesis was "Trade between the United States and China is affecting the economy, improving the lives of those in the United States and supporting globalization.

Critics complain that trade with China costs Americans jobs, she said, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

The output of factories in the United States has increased since China fixed its currency in 1994, Shores said, proving that trade with China has not been a major cause of job loss. Job loss is a result of decreasing domestic demand, she said.

Americans benefit from trade with China, Shores said, because

China can produce things more cheaply, giving consumers lower prices. In 2002, she said, when America's exports were falling worldwide, they actually increased by 14.4 percent with China.

The relationship also benefits China, she said, and affects the United States' relationships with other countries. It promotes globalization, she said, the increasing interdependence, integration and interaction between people and companies in disparate locations. Globalization is helping to pull developing countries into the industrialized world, she said.

Shores said it was a relief to know she won the scholarships.

"There are more scholarship applications coming up," she said. "It's overwhelming all the work you have to do, but this rejuvenated me."

She has applications in for four and is working on a dozen more. Shores said she plans to attend Southwest College in Winfield, a private, Methodist liberal-arts college, majoring in prepharmacy and

biochemistry.

"I enjoy that," she said. "I'll go on to pharmacy school in a couple of years."

The college is one of the first campuses that is entirely wireless,

Shores said; the tuition sounds expensive, but they give a laptop computer to all freshmen and then they get an upgrade when they are juniors which they can keep when they graduate.



Shores

student of the week



Name: Heidi Yonkey
Parents: Gary & Miriam Yonkey

Grade: Junior
Age: 17

We've nominated this student because: she consistently excels in the classroom. Her work and tests are always well done. She participates in class and is inquisitive enough to enhance her learning beyond normal. She is a very positive influence at GHS.

Student Comment: My favorite subjects are Trigonometry & Chemistry. The best part of GHS is being in a great learn-

ing environment as well as being with my friends. When I leave GHS, I will always remember the great times with my friends as well and Golf & FCCLA trips.

Activities involved in at school: 4-H, Golf, GAA, Golf, Piano, Science Olympiad.

My choice of movies, books, and games: My favorite movies are comedy & "chick flick" movies. I like Country music and reading any kinds of books.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to an undetermined college and study in the field of medicine or field of teaching.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: beginning a career in the field I choose. Later on getting married & starting a family.

Favorite Quote: I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can always adjust my sails to reach my destination."

- Jimmy Dean

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