

Oberlin considers wind options

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Oberlin City Council received a new proposal from Sunflower Wind LLC on Thursday which would basically allow the firm to have the first chance to match any power proposal given to the city.

Oberlin would be able to keep its existing power contracts but pay a slightly higher rate for wind power the firm hopes to produce in Decatur County.

Earlier in the month, Dan Rasure of Goodland, managing partner for the firm, had given the council a contract which required the city to cancel its existing power agreements with Sunflower Electric Power Corp. and the federal Western Area Power Administration.

He gave the city three weeks to make a decision, but council members said they wanted to have an outside consultant look at the contracts. Since then, said Mr. Rasure, Sunflower Wind had its lawyers draft a new proposal for first right of refusal to sell the city power. Basically, he said, the agreement allows the company an option to match any new power proposal term for term.

The company took out all of the economic development incentives, which would have provided power cheaper to companies willing to use more, he said.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he asked Kansas Municipal Energy Agency to go over what the city pays and found that on average,

the city now pays 5.6 cents per kilowatt hour. Mr. Rasure said his figures show the average as 5.9 cents that the city pays.

The Goodland firm had offered a contract at 6 cents per kilowatt hour if the city would cancel its other contracts. Today, the city buys power from the federal agency for an average of 3.5 cents and from Sunflower Electric for an average of 8.7 cents per kilowatt hour.

He said Sunflower Wind wants a commitment from the city. If the company is going to put in a wind farm in the county, he said, they want to at least have the first option to match any contract presented to the city.

Sunflower Wind's long-term goal, said Mr. Rasure, still is to provide 100 percent of the city's power. Basically, said Councilwoman Rhonda May, if the city goes to renegotiate a contract, Sunflower Wind wants the chance to match it or do better? If the city doesn't agree to this, she asked, will the company still build a wind farm near Oberlin.

"If we can't get the simplest amount of commitment from the city," said Mr. Rasure, "we have to ask if this a community we want to be in?"

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer compared the idea of the city switching to wind power to the way the city's idea of a 7,000-foot runway in Oberlin struck Federal Aviation Administration officials in Kansas City.

What makes your power cost less? asked Ms. May, noting that

she'd heard wind power cost 10 cents a kilowatt hour to generate. Better technology, said Mr. Rasure. The cost for them to generate wind power is less.

The feed lot will be part of the company's plans, said Mrs. Lohoefer, with the methane part. Mr. Rasure said they are still working on that. The company will still have a hydrogen back-up when the wind is not blowing, he said.

So the methane part, said Ms. May, isn't talking about a natural gas line coming into the wind farm; it's about methane from "cow poop."

Yes, said Mr. Rasure, but the generators will also be set up for natural gas.

What would it cost the city to hook up to the wind power? asked Mayor Joe Stanley. Mr. Rasure said they aren't asking the city to pay for anything. If the connecting line is a double loop, the company might provide the transmission line and the city do the hook up, but that can be negotiated down the road.

The council, said Councilman Jay Anderson, really wants to stick a toe in, instead of just jump into the future.

This is what the first right of refusal allows, said Mr. Rasure. Sunflower Wind will still have to match the other companies or do better. The company is just asking for a chance.

Mrs. Lohoefer said she has talked to a lot of people about wind power and there are a lot who are interested in it. If she is doing business with someone, she said, she

wants to know about the financial stability and who is behind the money. Mr. Rasure said he will have to ask his board about how much he can say on that.

If the council accepts this proposal and the city has four years until it is looking for a new contract, asked Councilman Ray Ward, will the wind farm still be built? If the city accepts the new proposal, said Mr. Rasure, he feels that the company is going to move forward.

What if Sunflower Wind can match the cost, said Mr. Shike, but the city isn't convinced that it meets its needs? The proposal will match the cost, quality, terms and guarantees, said Mr. Rasure.

What made Sunflower Wind go from a firm agreement to this? asked Ms. May. Mr. Rasure said they didn't feel that the first offer would be accepted in such a tight time frame.

The situation in St. Francis and Sharon Springs, the other two proposed sites for wind farms, is different, said Mr. Rasure. This agreement is similar to the one sent to St. Francis, he said.

Dr. Anderson asked what it would cost the city to break the current contracts. Jim Widener, with Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, said the contract with Sunflower Electric can be broken by mutual agreement. It is up in four years, he said, adding that he isn't agreeing to let the city out of the contract. The contract is through the agency.

To get out of the federal contract, he said, the city would need to go to the government.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the city and the Economic Development Corp., said she showed the contract to a lawyer she knows and he didn't see any penalty for breaking it. City Attorney Steve Hirsch said Mr. Widener is talking about the energy agency and they aren't going to mutually agree for the city to get out of the contract.

Goodland girl earns all-tournament honor

Goodland native Dani Bedore, starting her first season of college volleyball, earned all-tournament honors last weekend at the Delaware Invitational after helping lead the University of South Carolina to a 2-1 record.

Bedore, a 2006 graduate of Brewster High, shares the team lead in kills with another "true" freshman with 27. She got nine kills in the Gamecock's 3-0 win over the University of Binghamton last Friday in the opening match.

In South Carolina's first match Saturday, Bedore recorded a match-high 10 kills as the Gamecocks defeated Boston College 3-

0. She got eight kills in a 3-0 loss to the University of Delaware.

Bedore and her teammates are at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond today and Saturday to play in the 3rd Degree Sportsweek Invitational. South Carolina plays the host team today, then take on the University of Maryland and George Washington University on Saturday.

The Gamecocks' home opener will be next Friday when South Carolina plays host to Rice, Troy and Appalachian State universities for the Nike Gamecock Invitational.



Bedore

Director to fly back to town

DIRECTOR, from Page 1

The council went into closed session for 30 minutes with McMinn, but took no action when it returned to open session.

The council again went into closed session for 20 minutes to discuss applications for the director's position.

The next meeting will be 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 18. The location will depend on where McMinn is; the meeting last week was

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held at S&T Communications so the members could use the speaker phone, but the council usually meets in the basement meeting room at Western State Bank.

Council opens round two of grants

GRANTS, from Page 1

was a great program and made the motion to do a second round. McMinn said the housing grants would be an incentive to property owners to fix things up.

"I think this would be an incentive to help remove unsightly houses," McMinn said. "We would offer a \$1,500 per grant to help improve two houses."

The downtown "front facade" project would offer a similar grant to two businesses looking to improve their look, McMinn said.

"These would be to help those businesses who can't qualify for anything from the state," McMinn said, "and are making a living in our town."

The council set the deadline to apply for Friday, Sept. 21, with the grants to be awarded by the first of October.

McMinn said the first-round housing grants went to Lola Wiley at 1501 Center to help paint and shingle her house, and LeAnn Haarberg at 1307 Harrison to replace rotting soffit and fascia. She said the homeowners are matching the \$1,500 grants with a total of \$8,860.

She said the first-round business grants went to the Goodland Grind and Gallery at 1530 Main to help put in a courtyard-style patio on the north side of the coffeehouse, and for awnings in front of Pioneer Health at 910 Main. The businesses will be matching the \$1,500 eco-

nomic development grants with a total of \$5,500.

Helen Dobbs, council office manager, said the awnings have been completed at Pioneer Health and one of the housing projects is done. She said the Shine On Sherman County beautification committee may help the other homeowner, who is having trouble getting her home painted. She said the outdoor patio at Goodland Grind and Gallery will be built when the temperatures cool off a little.

The applications and guidelines are available at the council office, 104 E. 10th, from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 890-3743 to talk to Dobbs about the project.

Crossword Puzzle

Take a Rest

ACROSS

1. Hatfields, to McCoys

5. Positive aspect

9. Eliot Ness, e.g.

13. Thomas — Edison

14. Food that's "slung"

15. Oscar winner Witherspoon

16. Line to the heart

17. Twistable cookie

18. Give the O.K. to

19. Chuck Berry's genre

22. Frequently, in verse

23. All you own

24. Captured on a VCR

26. Nile snakes

29. Pay with plastic

32. Dryly witty

36. Mayberry moppet

38. Big bash

39. Roman twins of legend

42. A, — "apple"

43. Pre-Easter time

44. Really steamed

45. Navy's goat or Army's mule

47. Menthol cigarette brand

49. Hammerhead, for one

51. Printers' proofs

56. Architect I. M. —

58. Go into hysterics

61. Be nuts about

63. I, on a frat sweater

64. Help in a heist

65. — and dined

66. Catch a glimpse of

67. Pub projectile

68. Hatchling's abode

DOWN

1. Packers star Brett

2. Bread spreads

3. Boot out

4. Decaf brand

5. Calls up

6. Fat in a can

7. Computer tech's caller

8. Pull the trigger

9. — Aviv

10. Soap opera, e.g.

11. Beginning on

12. Politico Gingrich

15. Jackie's "The Honeyymooners" role

20. In the least

21. Spiked, like punch

25. Itching to go

27. Sit for a portrait

28. Give a tanning to

30. Excess supply

31. Life of Riley

32. Perfume measure

33. Civil rights activist Parks

34. Things left out

35. "Let's do —"

37. Fascinated by

40. UV part

41. Really steamed

46. Propelled a shell

48. Like Liberate's outfits

50. Potato-filled goodie

52. Madrid museum

53. Morocco's capital

54. In plain view

55. Brief tussle

56. En passant capture

57. Carmela player

59. " — 'the momm'!"

60. Neutrino's place

62. Part of AARP: Abbr.

The Goodland Star-News

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SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Saturday
9 a.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Third Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
10 a.m. 22/28 ESPN College Football East Carolina Pirates at Virginia Tech Hokies from Lane Stadium
11 a.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Third Round from Flushing Meadows
1:30 p.m. 4/6 ABC College Football 22/28 ESPN College Football Teams 23/29 ESPN2 College Football Missouri Tigers at Illinois Fighting Illini from Memorial Stadium
3/9 NBC College Football Georgia Tech at Notre Dame from South Bend, Ind.
2 p.m. 30/27 FXSP College Football UCLA Bruins at Stanford Cardinal from Stanford
3 p.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Third Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
4:45 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 College Football Oklahoma State Cowboys at Georgia Bulldogs from Sanford Stadium
5 p.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's Third and Women's Fourth Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
5:45 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Football Kansas State Wildcats vs Auburn Tigers from Jordan-Hare Stadium
6 p.m. 4/6 ABC Saturday Night Football Tennessee Volunteers at California Golden Bears from Berkeley
7:30 p.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Third Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
8 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series Camping World 300 from California Speedway
8:15 p.m. 30/27 FXSP College Football Idaho Vandals at USC Trojans from Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

Sunday
9 a.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Third Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
10 a.m. 22/28 ESPN High School Football St. Xavier (OH) vs Dematha (MD) from Cincinnati, Ohio
11 a.m. 4/6 ABC WNBA Basketball Conference Finals Game 2
7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Third Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
25/38 IND MLB Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves from Turner Field
60/79 UNIV F'tbol Liga Mexicana Necaxa Rayos at Toluca Diablos from Bambonera
12:10 p.m. 99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Houston Astros at Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field
1 p.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Third Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
3/9 NBC PGA Tournament Deutsche

Bank Championship: Third Round from Boston
1:30 p.m. 4/6 ABC Indy Racing League Detroit Indy Grand Prix from Belle Isle, Detroit
2:30 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at Arizona Diamondbacks from Chase Field
3 p.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Third Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
3:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 WNBA Basketball Conference Finals Game 3 (If Necessary)
5 p.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's Third and Women's Fourth Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN NASCAR Nextel Cup Sharp AQUOS 500 from California Speedway
23/29 ESPN2 MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim from Angel Stadium of Anaheim
30/27 FXSP FIBA World Basketball Gold Medal Game Americas Championship from Las Vegas
7:30 p.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's Third and Women's Fourth Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.

Monday
9 a.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's and Women's Fourth Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
12 p.m. 3/9 NBC PGA Tournament Deutsche Bank Championship: Final Round from Boston
12:30 p.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's and Women's Fourth Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
1 p.m. 8/8 NBC PGA Tournament Deutsche Bank Championship: Final Round from Boston
2 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Football Texas Tech Red Raiders at Southern Methodist Mustangs from Gerald J. Ford Stadium
99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field
2:30 p.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's and Women's Fourth Round from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Football Florida State Seminoles at Clemson Tigers from Memorial Stadium
7 p.m. 20/37 USA WWE Monday Night RAW WWE Monday Night RAW
Tuesday
9 a.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's 4th Rounds & Women's Quarterfinals from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
11 p.m. 22/28 ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.

Wednesday
9 a.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Quarterfinal from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
11 a.m. 25/38 IND MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Atlanta Braves from Turner Field

12:30 p.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's & Women's Quarterfinal from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field
23/29 ESPN2 WNBA Basketball Finals
99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field

Thursday
9 a.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Mixed Doubles Final & Men's Quarterfinal from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
11 a.m. 99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Detroit Tigers from Comerica Park
12:30 p.m. 20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Mixed Doubles Final & Men's Quarterfinal from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 College Football Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders at Louisville Cardinals from Papa John's Cardinal Stadium
20/37 USA U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's Quarterfinal from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
5:30 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Football Oregon State Beavers at Cincinnati Bearcats from Nippert Stadium
6:30 p.m. 3/9 NBC NFL Football New Orleans Saints at Indianapolis Colts from RCA Dome, Indianapolis
8 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 MLS Soccer D.C. United at CD Chivas USA from Home Depot Center

Friday
8 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Practice Richmond
9 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Nextel Cup Richmond-Happy Hour
10:30 a.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's Doubles and Women's Semi-finals from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
2 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Qualifying Richmond
2:30 p.m. 7/11 CBS U.S. Open Tennis Tournament Men's Doubles and Women's Semi-finals from Flushing Meadows, N.Y.
4 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Nextel Cup Qualifying Richmond International Raceway from Richmond.
5 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Football Navy Midshipmen at Rutgers Scarlet Knights from Rutgers Stadium
5:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Countdown Richmond
6 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series Emerson Radio 250 from Richmond International Raceway
8 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at San Francisco Giants from AT&T Park
8:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Friday Night Fights Zab Judah vs Edwin Vasquez from Biloxi, Miss.