

Request to add county position tabled

By Tom Betz
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With one Sherman County commissioner absent and one saying he did not support a plan to hire a county road and bridge shop assistant, a decision was tabled until the next meeting Tuesday.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas brought up the proposal to hire a full-time shop assistant at the meeting this Tuesday, but Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he was not in favor of adding an employee to the department. With Commissioner Mitch Tiede absent, Thomas said the question would be put off until the next meeting at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.

Public Works Director Curt Way said the added person would help with handling trash issues and with tracking vehicle maintenance.

Rasure said he was not against a third person

in the shop, but suggested training an employee already on the payroll to do the work.

"What do you mean about training someone and not adding a third person?" Way asked.

"I can see where it could be handy at times," Rasure said, "but do not see a need for a third full-time person."

"Without the other commissioner here," Thomas said, "I guess we should table it to the next meeting."

The discussion came up after a 10-minute closed-door session requested by Way to discuss personnel with the commissioners. Way and Steve Goodman, road and bridge supervisor, were in the closed meeting with Thomas and Rasure.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved adding a clause to a right-of-way purchase contract with Bob Gramzow to cover concerns about his water well dur-

ing widening of Road 16 next year.

Gramzow said the well would be close to the edge of his property when the road is moved to the east this spring.

A paragraph that was added said "If there are damages done to the well during construction, the county will compensate or remedy the problem."

Thomas added "up to 30 days after completion of the road." Commissioners suggested Gramzow take samples before and during construction.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby she was going to call Gramzow to pick up and redo the contract after commissioners approved the changes.

- Approved a contract with the city and Goodland Public Library to allow Sherman County residents access. City Manager Wayne Hill was at the meeting to ask the commissioners if there was a possibility of raising the

county's contribution from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. Hill said he was asking at the request of the City Commission.

Thomas said the county has already done the budget, and Rasure said it was something that could be considered next year.

• Approved a change to the county burn ban to say that if there is a fire while a ban is in place, the person or landowner where the fire started "shall" be responsible for any cost.

A second change was that to have a controlled burn, a landowner "must" get a burn permit through a rural fire chief.

• Approved Christmas bonuses for county employees of \$150 for all full-time employees who have been with the county for six months or more, and \$75 for part-time employees. The Christmas bonuses include all elected county officials.

• Heard from County Clerk Janet Rumpel

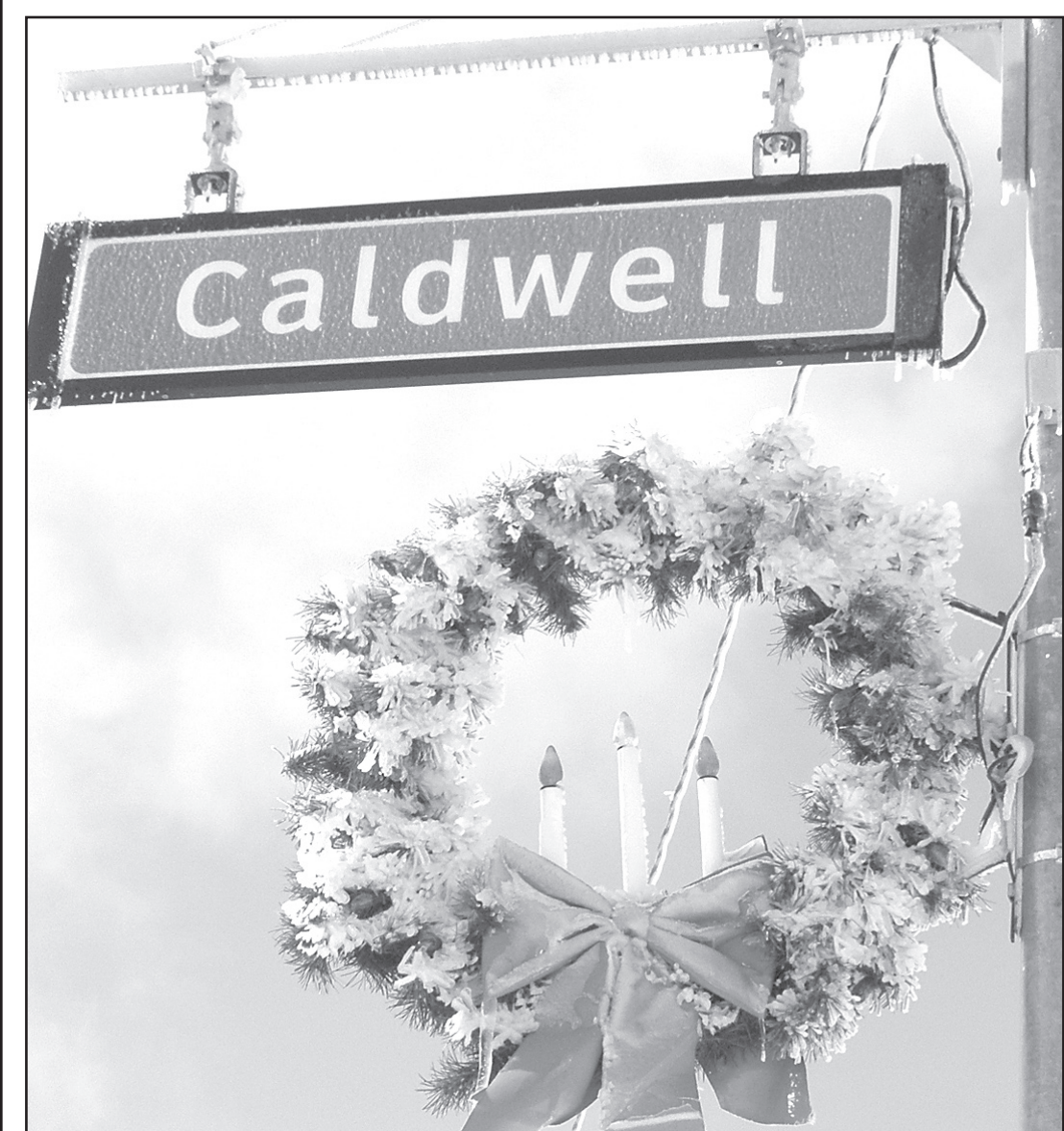
that the Neighborhood Revitalization program, which gives tax incentives for new construction and repairs, has been renewed for three years. The commissioners had asked because it had been slated to end at the end of this year.

Rumpel said the program had been approved for a three-year extension by the county, city and school district, and everyone had completed the paperwork.

The program gives property owners a refund on increased property taxes when they fix up their property, with the approval of the county commission. A one-page application is available through the county assessor's office.

• Approved payment of bills of \$34,110 and agreed that bills coming in later in the week could be paid with the approval of Thomas. Rasure asked to have the other commissioners get copies of bills he approves.

It's a slick, white December



Ice and snow covered one of the Christmas wreaths and icicles hung from the Caldwell Avenue sign near Pioneer Park on Wednesday. A storm that began on Monday brought about five inches of snow to the area and closed schools for two days. The snow brought about .4 of an inch of moisture, also the total for the month. The snow prompted several cancellations and postponements, including the Goodland School District's Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner, which was put off to today. The forecast is for one to three inches of snow, beginning after midnight and continuing through today. Saturday is expected to be mostly sunny with a high around 32.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Schools get new motto

By Ramona C. Sanders
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The Goodland School Board approved a new district motto to guide the staff during a meeting Monday: "Engage, Enrich, Empower — Every Student, Every Day."

The selection was part of a months-long process to update the district's mission statement.

"We really liked that motto," said board member Leann Friedrichs. "We felt it was something people can remember, but when it came down to a mission statement, we wanted to challenge ourselves, our students and the staff."

The board selected a committee composed of Friedrichs, Chuck Wilkens and Superintendent Shelly Angelos to incorporate ideas submitted by all members for a final mission statement. Wilkens said the committee met twice for two hours each to decide on four key points that were essential to include in the mission statement: the learning environment, inclusion of each student, the outcome or goals and education.

"As far as a complete mission statement, we wanted it to be more comprehensive than just a slogan," Wilkens said.

The board voted 7-0 to approve the final suggestion for a mission statement:

"Goodland School District (USD 352) will provide a safe and positive environment in which high standards of learning are established. We will motivate and challenge each student to engage in high levels of achievement through effective and innovative teaching practices designed to serve a unique and diverse student population. We are committed to prepare each student to become a positive member of society and will work collaboratively to achieve this shared purpose."

"I like it," said board member Amy Sederstrom. "We need a slogan that's short and sweet, but then (a mission statement) that includes everything."

In other business, the board:

• Heard from City Manager Wayne Hill and engineer Darin Neufeld about a plan to improve the streets and traffic flow around West Elementary School. The board will discuss the proposal during its Jan. 14 meeting, said President Dick Short.

• Heard from Sue Hagerman that of the district's Health Insurance Committee was looking into health plans, self-funding options and costs analysis to deal with the rising cost of medical coverage.

• Heard from board member John Hendrich about the Kansas Association of School Board meet-

ing. Hendrich said conventioners considered proposals, met with vendors and voted to retain President Pam Robinson. Hendrich gave the board two publications award certificates from the state organization for the school handbook and school calendar.

• Heard from Angelos that the gas bill so far this year had increased \$6,700 from last year and the electric bill was up about \$3,000. She said she was looking into whether the increases were based on usage or rates and will report back to the board.

• Received from Angelos a list of the district's properties and facilities, including the insured value of the buildings and their contents. Angelos asked that the board consider forming a facilities task force for future planning on updating, renovating and modernizing all district buildings.

• Approved 7-0 the hiring of Christa Hamilton as a classroom aide at West and Kyle Westin as an aide at Central, and accepted the resignation of aide Melissa Mason effective Dec. 31.

• Approved 7-0 the payment of bills in the amount of \$119,873.

• Agreed the next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 14, at the district office.

corrections

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Bureau to update designs on billboards

By Sharon Corcoran
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After catching a break on prices, the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau will spend about \$2,000 to update its billboards advertising Goodland's attractions along I-70.

The bureau's board voted Tuesday to spend \$2,190 plus sales tax to update four of their billboards. That includes vinyl printing and installation, said Director Donna Price.

The bureau leases the boards from Lamar Co. out of Baton Rouge, La., and was having Magic Media prepare new designs for the boards. Lamar was going to charge \$250 per billboard to install the vinyl from Magic Media of Bangor, Pa., Price said, which would have made the total cost of updating the boards nearly \$4,000.

After some negotiation, she said, Lamar agreed to cut the cost of production and not to charge for installation if they produce the vinyl. Price said she forwarded the design concepts they had chosen with Magic Media. She said Lamar will do a redesign and within a couple of weeks, they should have the designs ready for approval.

Once the designs are approved and the contracts signed, she said, it should only take until January to have the new messages to promote Goodland and Sherman County posted along the Interstate.

"I'm excited to get them up," Price said, noting that the bureau spends 52 percent of its marketing budget on billboards.

The vinyl for the Sugar Hills Golf Club board has been delivered, Price said; if it's not up already, it soon will be. She had a model of the billboard to show to board members.

The club is subleasing an entire board near the Colorado line, advertising the course as the "Gem of the Prairie." Several board members said they like the design, which they said would be a great improvement over what has been on the billboard.

That board cost \$750 for vinyl and installation, she said, and the club will sublease it from the bureau. They have already paid for the vinyl and installation, she said, and that will be reflected on December's financial report. The club will pay the \$197 per month lease for the board.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby is

working on a contract between the bureau and the club, Price said.

The board's committee on billboards had met to decide on wording for the bureau's four other billboards. David Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre and a member of the committee, said his understanding was the group decided the billboards farther from Goodland would have more general messages regarding the town's attractions and they would become more specific as the boards get closer to town.

He made a motion to approve that plan for the designs, and Brenda McCants, another member of the committee, seconded. It was approved unanimously.

The board also voted to spend \$150 for its share of a regional tent at Sampler Fest the first weekend of May in Concordia. There will be Kansas products and entertainment on display, Price said, adding that any local people who want to entertain or have their products at the show should let her know.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from Our Family to Your Family

To all our patients and friends -
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Dr. Mark Wahlmeier, Amanda & Family

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