

County to cut fire board to five

By Tom Betz
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The Sherman County commissioners agreed Friday to cut the rural fire board to five members instead of filling a vacancy.

Member Ken Palmgren, who farms near Edson, said that the board would suggest cutting the number to five to make it easier to get a quorum.

He said the board had looked at the list of possible people to fill the vacancy created with the resignation of Marvin Duell, he said, but had a question about a suggestion of putting a fire fighter on the board.

"We had a question about why to have a fire fighter on the board," Palmgren said. "No one on the board had a problem with having a fire fighter on the board, but felt there might be a conflict of interest once in a while . . ."

Palmgren said the board gets its information from the chiefs and assistant chiefs, who have the attention of the fire board for the first

half-hour of the meetings.

He said they did ask the Goodland assistant chief, Chris Bauman, and Larry Wilkerson, chief in Kanorado, about recommendations for filling the vacancy.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the fire board did have two recommendations if the commissioners decided to fill the vacancy. Palmgren said they had agreed to send two names.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if the board often had to wait for a member to show up at the meeting to have a quorum.

Palmgren said he thought they could have gone on with the ones they had, but Commissioner Kevin Rasure said with the vacancy they would not have had a quorum without the other person coming to the meeting.

Rasure said the fire board resolution allows the board to be a minimum of three members to a maximum of nine.

"It has to stay at six until we ac-

cept Duell's resignation," Rasure pointed out.

Tiede suggested to try cutting the board to five.

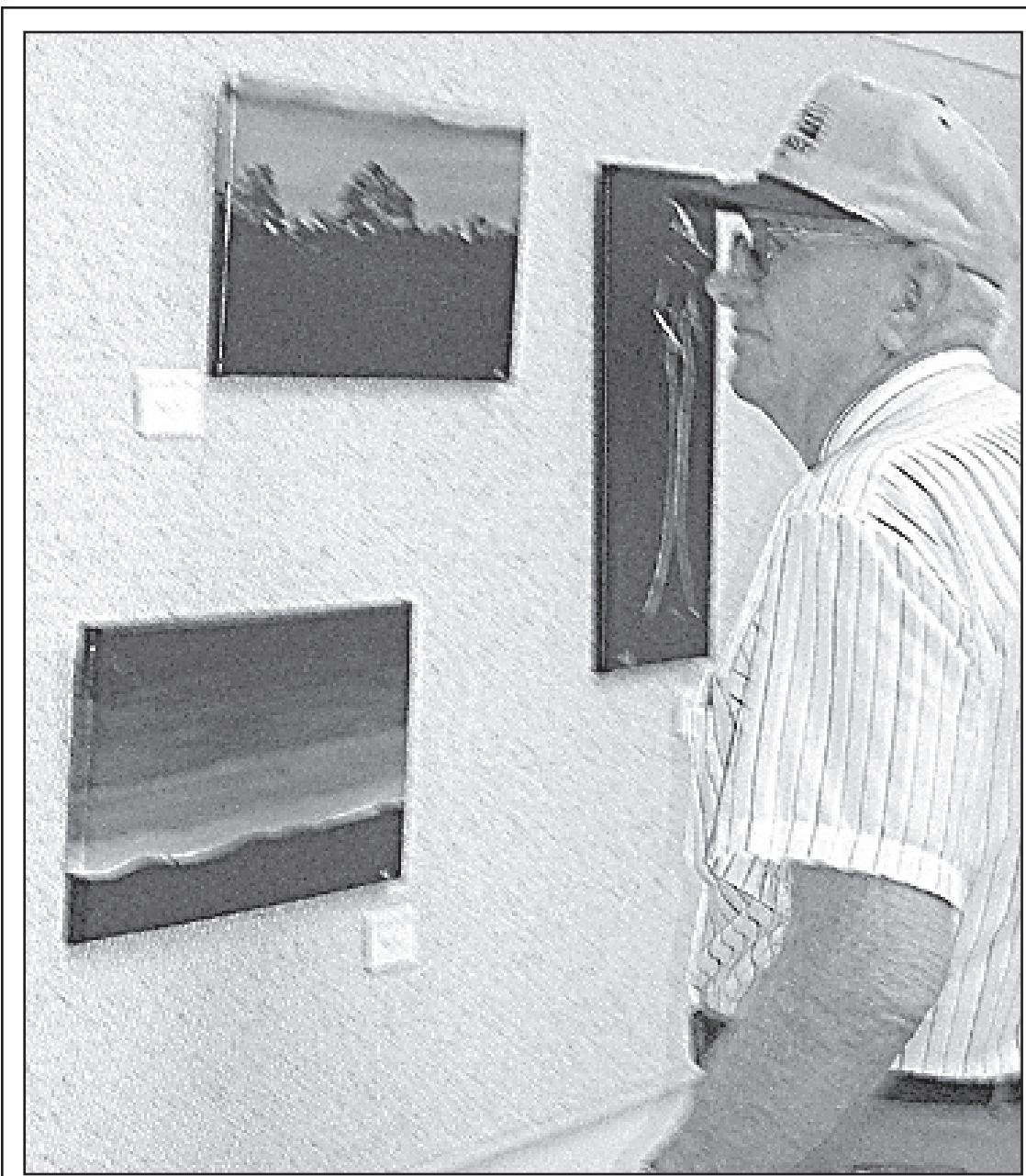
Palmgren said even with five, the board would be well represented across the county with a member from Kanorado (Darrell Cloyd), one from Goodland (Tom Rohr), one from Edson (Palmgren), one who lives northwest of town (Dick Allaman) and the fifth who lives northeast of town (Melvin Sieck).

"I feel like the main thing was we felt we could have a quorum if we kept it at five," he said.

Tiede asked the other commissioners what they felt about trying the board at five. Rasure said he felt they ought to try it, and made a motion to accept the resignation, but to cut the board to five members. Tiede seconded.

Thomas asked what the terms are for fire board members. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said three years.

The vote was unanimous with Thomas reluctantly voting in favor.



Reception held Sunday at arts center

Ralph Duell (above), a Sherman County farmer, looked at paintings by Brian Freeman at the opening reception at the Carnegie Arts Center Sunday afternoon. Dr. David Younger (right) played his viola as part of the reception. Dr. Younger has been playing the viola since he was a young man. Freeman has lived in Goodland for four years and is a carpentry instructor at the Northwest Kansas Technical College. The art work includes paintings, three-dimensional wood work and a metal bell. Freeman said proceeds from the sale of any of the art work will go to the Word of Life Church.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



Truck lease approved

By Tom Betz
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The cab and chassis for the new rural fire rescue truck arrived last week, and Friday county commissioners approved a lease agreement and first payment with First National Bank.

The county needed to pay Dan Brenner Ford for the truck, and Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it seemed best to go ahead and activate the lease to get that bill paid.

The chassis was taken to Hays Fire Equipment, which will build the box over the next few months.

The commissioners called Bill Mehling, senior vice president at First National, and talked to him about the lease.

Mehling said he had made the checks out for Dan Brenner and for Hays Fire Equipment, but was waiting for word from the commissioners as what to do.

Rasure said he felt it would be good to go ahead and execute the lease and get the payment sent to Brenner.

Mehling said he could either hold the check for Hays Fire or send it to the County Clerk and she could keep it until the truck was completed.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it might be better if Mehling held the second check and the county would let him know when the truck had been accepted, then he could send the second check.

He asked about insurance, and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the truck is covered through the Kansas County Association Pool that covers all county property. Mehling noted that the payment for the truck came out a few hundred dollars lower than was originally quoted.

"I assume you have the first payment up front," he said. "I can come up later and pick up the lease and the check."

Rasure said they would have it ready.

Rasure made a motion to approve the lease and make the first payment of \$28,644. It was approved unanimously with Commissioner Chuck Thomas voting in favor.

Weed control focus is north

By Tom Betz
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County commissioners heard a plan on Friday to concentrate weed spraying and mowing this year in the top third of the county where, they heard, the amaranth has gotten worse.

Curt Way, public works manager; Daryl West, weed control director; and Darrell Schrader, the county's weed mowing contractor, met with the commissioners to explain the plan.

Way said the amaranth has gotten bad in the north third of the county, and the three recommended the county concentrate mowing and spraying to try to slow this down.

He said Schrader has started by mowing old U.S. 24, and then will work up in the northwest part of the county, doing a quadrant going clockwise above County Road 70.

West said he would spray the amaranth after it has been mowed, but probably will have to wait about a week after mowing to get the plant growing again so the chemical will be effective.

Way said they plan to move to the west, and when West is done spray-

ing, they would move south.

"If we can get in a three-year rotation," Way said, "we can hit a third each year. If there is any money left in the budget for chemicals, we can do other places."

Way said the plan would be about 400 miles of roads each year.

West said he had asked Way to have the grader operators look for bindweed, and Way handed West a list of what the drivers have found so far.

West said the weed chemicals cost about \$10 to \$12 an acre. Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked how many miles that would be. West said it is about five running acres per mile, so it would cost about \$50 a mile in chemicals.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it was worth the cost if it does some good and at least thins out the amaranth.

Thomas asked West when he would spray the mowed areas.

Way asked the commissioners if they felt the plan was reasonable. Tiede said he thought it looked good.

Thomas asked if there was enough

money to buy the chemicals. West said he has purchased about enough to do the 400 miles.

Tiede asked if part of the plan was to spray some of the edges of the roads.

Way said they did not do that last year, but could do some if there is enough time.

Schrader said he felt the spraying would help, but his crew had trouble dealing with phone pedestals that are covered up in the ditches.

"We have to walk the ditch to find the things before we can mow," he said.

Thomas asked about other noxious weeds and what West was going to do.

West said the bind weed is worse in the northeast, and he has found musk thistle south of Edson. He said he was working with the farmers and getting ahead on some where he has been spraying every year.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said they just have to keep attacking the weeds and to let the commissioners know how it is going.

"Sounds like a plan, and we hope it works," Tiede said.

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 believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) Nightly 7:00 • Sun. Matinee 1:30



The Goodland Star-News, The Greater Goodland area Chamber of Commerce and The Goodland Ambassadors would like to celebrate Orscheln's Farm & Home new location!

Welcome to the new and improved Orscheln Farm & Home! Orscheln's previous location only provided 9,000 square feet to the popular farm and home supply store. Their new location boasts more than 29,000 square feet, which allowed each department to double the products and choices offered. Orscheln's also added a tire department that offers a variety of tires fitting trailers, mowers and motor vehicles. With the added space available, they were able to display and carry truck toolboxes such as Montezuma and Delta and they also offer ATV accessories that they didn't have room to stock in the previous location. Manager Jerry Freeman also mentioned they are now carrying parts for older tractors. Their furniture department has grown by leaps and bounds as well. Orscheln's now carries a selection of wicker chairs and couches along with rustic home décor as well.

There is something here for everyone. Outside of the building, the store is now able to offer a wide variety of plants and trees, implements, water containers, fencing, corrals, posts and everything a farm owner might need. In addition to adding several of the larger pieces of equipment, Orscheln's now offers a key machine that will duplicate keys of all kinds; both cars, trucks and homes.

When asked how business is going, store manager Jerry Freeman says "Great!" with a smile on his face. When asked about moving into the new location, Freeman said that the storeowners started talking about a larger store in the fall of 2006. After they asked him how he thought a larger store would do in Goodland he didn't hear from them again until last fall. That's when he learned that they were trying to work out leasing the north end of the old Gibson's building that Herl's Chevrolet shares and Chuck Wilkens owns.

Freeman was born and raised in Lawrence, Kansas. He moved to Goodland in September 2005 two months prior to moving his family from Lawrence to Goodland. He worked for the Earl May Garden Center for 20 years prior to being hired on with Orscheln's. Orscheln's then sent him to Manhattan, Kansas for two months where they have a managerial training school. Freeman's assistant managers are Chris Stegeman and Angela Allsup (currently on maternity leave) and there are several department heads and cashiers that help him run the new store.

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We are starting our celebration of being open for one year. We would like everyone to stop in and celebrate with us at our open house in the afternoon on **June 30, 2008.**

We now have punch cards for teens 13 to 18 years of age. New members that sign up with a one year contract we are waiving the sign-up fee. If you sign up for six months we will waive one half of the sign-up fee. For current members who renew for one year, we are offering a \$36.00 discount.

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