

# Commissioners ask for more details on bid

**By Tom Betz**  
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 County commissioners Tuesday reviewed three bids for carpeting five courthouse offices, and asked to have representatives from two of the companies come to the next meeting to answer some more questions.

Without revealing the prices the commissioners reviewed carpet bids from Elliott's, Wane's Carpet and Miller's Home Center as presented by William McKnight, building maintenance supervisor.

He told the commissioners the

three were to bid the same type of carpet, and to include removal and installation plus any cost if the carpet installers have to move the furniture.

The offices being considered are deeds, clerk, treasurer, district court and county attorney.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said if the attorney's office is going to be remodeled; it was not worth putting in carpet until that is done.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede agreed they may delay the attorney's office carpeting, and wondered if

there was another office that might be done.

McKnight said he had people from all three carpet firms come to the courthouse to see what they were bidding on and what the offices looked like.

He said the three felt the existing carpet had been installed 20 to 25 years ago.

Tiede said it appeared the carpet had held up pretty well, and said he hopes the new carpet will last as long.

McKnight said he would rather

have all the offices do the same color of carpet as it would help lower the price, and make it more expensive if they take different colors.

"You would like to do them all the same," Commissioner Chuck Thomas said.

He said it would be easier to be able to patch with one color rather than having a different color in each office.

McKnight said all three were asked to bid on 28 ounce carpet.

Tiede said Miller's had two different bids.

McKnight said he had them bid it with them moving the furniture or him moving the furniture.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said they put in an hourly rate if they moved the furniture.

He said he would like to hear from Miller's and Wane's about the type of carpet and who would be doing the installation.

Tiede said he would like to hear from Miller's because they had two kinds of carpet.

The commissioners said they felt the bids from Miller's and Wane's were

pretty close, and asked McKnight to have representatives from the two companies come to the next meeting to explain some of the details of their bids.

Tiede asked that they bring samples, and Thomas said it would be good to have the department people look at colors.

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, and the carpet bids are to be reviewed at 8:15 a.m.

## Common sense about forwarding e-mail



**tom betz**  
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If you already do these things, thanks. If not, this is some good common sense advice for handling e-mail.

A friend recently forwarded this to me, and as an Internet system administrator I agree it is excellent information about handling those e-mails we think are neat and want to share with our colleagues, family and friends.

Do you know how to forward e-mails? Most of us do not.

Every time you forward an e-mail, there is information left over from the people who got the message before you — their e-mail addresses and names.

As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses builds, and builds, and builds, and all it takes is for some poor sap to get a virus, and his or her computer can send that virus to every email address that has come across his computer.

Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell them or send junk mail to them in the hopes you will go to the site and he will make five cents for each hit. That's right, all of that inconvenience over a nickel!

How do you stop it? Well, there are several easy steps:

(1) When you forward an e-mail, delete all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, delete them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever you know how to. It only takes a second. You click the "Forward" button and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't hit the forward button first you won't have full editing functions.

Leaving the headings on adds to the security risk and the person you wanted to read the email may not get to it because they dislike having to scroll through 200 Email addresses before getting to the email.

(2) Go to the bottom and delete all of the junk, including signatures from other senders, and all the ad links.

(3) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do not use the To: or Cc: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. This way the people you send to will only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say Undisclosed Recipients in the TO: field of the people who receive it. That way you aren't sharing all those addresses with every Tom, Dick or Harry.

(4) Remove any FW: in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(5) This one is very important — please read and heed. Always hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you are reading. Ever get those e-mails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By Forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many e-mails just to see what you sent. These are the ones that often end up having picked up a virus from somebody.

(6) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses.

The completed petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of

the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein.

If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient.

Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition.

If you think about it, who's supposed to send the petition in to whatever cause it supports? And don't believe the ones that say that the email is being traced, it just ain't so!

(7) One of the main ones not to forward is the ones that say that something like, "Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen." Or, sometimes they'll just tease you by saying something really cute will happen. I don't let the bad luck ones scare me either, they get trashed.

(8) Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out. Most of them are junk mail that's been circling the net for years! Just about everything you receive in an email that is a question can be checked out at Snopes. Go to <http://www.snopes.com/>

It's really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, please don't pass it on. Please let's stop the junk mail and the viruses.

## Goodland hospital benefits from being critical access hospital

Goodland's hospital has benefitted from being designated a "critical access hospital" with a hospital-based "rural health clinic" for Medicare reimbursement, but the administrator is concerned that a change in laws could cost the clinic some benefits.

The Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has proposed changes to the definition of "underserved areas," said Goodland Regional Medical Center Administrator Jay Jolly.

With the current designation, he said, the clinic is paid the estimated cost of providing services to Medicare patients, rather than 80 percent of cost. If the clinic lost the federal designation and is no longer paid at cost, he said, it would lose money on each Medicare patient. He said the agency proposed a rule that would change reimbursement to a formula that factors in the population of the area, incomes and how many "mid-level" providers (such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants) the clinic has. A computer would analyze the information and decide whether the clinic qualifies.

Health care providers were given until May 31 to comment on the proposal, he said, and most suggested the rule be suspended until the impact could be studied.

"Some clinics may qualify with

the changes who didn't before," Jolly said. "It's a very important issue to us if the changes could mean Goodland wouldn't qualify."

"The changes may turn out to be of no big consequence to us or may be an important issue, and there is not much information out there to tell us which is likely."

Current requirements are that the clinic be in a rural area designated as having a shortage of doctors.

The doctor who provides medical direction for the clinic must be a member of its staff or under agreement with the clinic, and the clinic must have a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or certified nurse midwife available to furnish services at least half the time.

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**POSITION OPENING**

The City of Beloit, Kansas, population 4,019, a progressive, full-service North Central Kansas community with a high quality of life, is accepting applications for the position of **Director of Finance/City Clerk**. The position works under the direct supervision of the City Administrator and contributes to the overall mission of the City by maintaining efficient and effective financial systems and procedures, administrative and professional work in organizing and maintaining a records management system for the entire City, and preparing a variety of reports for decision-making purposes. Prefer bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or related field. Must have excellent communication skills and be a proactive problem-solver. Certified Municipal Clerk is desirable. Hiring range is \$16.92/hour - \$19.03/hour plus excellent benefits. An application is available at 119 N. Hersey or at [www.beloits.org](http://www.beloits.org). For more information, contact Doug Gerber, City Administrator, at 785-738-3551 or [dgerber@beloits.org](mailto:dgerber@beloits.org). **Application deadline is Monday, June 23, 2008.**

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