Road 14 project goes to bid in August county hears

ntbetz@nwkansas.com County commissioners talked Tuesday about about the timing and payment for the County Road 14 project that will run from old U.S.24 north past the ADM sunflower plant and the Goodland Energy Center, which should start in the spring.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for the project from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, met with the commissioner to talk about the construction engineering contract and make sure the total of the citycounty joint projects will be paid on schedule to allow the county to keep the interest on the \$12 million bond issue.

One commissioner questioned the way the engineering is being handled, and the cost.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said Curt Way, county public works manager, had told him the county could use the state selection process for the construction engineering. He said that the state will pay for the engineering services through an \$800,000 economic development grant the county won to help pay for the project.

Neufeld said it doesn't matter how the engineering is paid for, because the \$800,000 will not cover the total contract and the county is already putting \$1 million into the job.

"With the costs we have seen, I don't think the estimate will hold and it will go over the \$1.8 million we estimated," he said. "We will re-estimate the project a couple of weeks before the state sends it out

engineer on a job do an estimate added.

to see what the figures in the field are, adding that the estimate is \$1.9 million plus engineering services of \$150,000.

"The sales tax money will not change," Neufeld said, "and the \$800,000 from the state will not change."

Neufeld said if the county goes with a straight contract with his firm, it would be a two-party contract rather than going through the state, which makes it a three-party contract. He said the two-party contract would simplify some of the process.

"We will follow all their guidelines," he said, "and use their computer system. We have to be certified and follow all their rules. With a contract between the county and our firm, the state would not be the controlling entity."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if the state would review the firm's cost estimates. Neufeld said if the estimate is within 15 percent of the bid, there is no review.

"We are estimating not to exceed 10 percent," he added.

He said in looking at all the contracts for the past two years, his firm has been within 5.6 percent of the total project estimates.

Thomas said he was surprised by the figure for the engineering contract.

Neufeld said that is a not-toexceed maximum set by the state. He said the actual work is done on a hourly basis, but it cannot go over the maximum amount without a supplemental agreement with the commissioners.

"Since we have had an office in Goodland, our average per proj-Neufeld said the state has the ect has been under 5 percent," he

Closed sessions upset manager

MANAGER, from Page 1

a statement.

"After further discussion and conversation with the commissioners, I will continue with my contract," Hill said.

Hill's contract runs through August next year.

Billinger said he was surprised commissioners were pleased to about 90 minutes.

have someone with his technical expertise working for the city as they face challenges with the water and sewer systems.

Hill said he felt better after talking with the commissioners and that none of them indicated anything but support for the job he is doing.

The three extra closed-door sessions threw the commission's budby Hill's resignation, and said the get workshop schedule behind by

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Concrete testing adds mileage to road costs the concrete the beam

ntbetz@nwkansas.com County commissioners questioned a travel expense in a construction inspection contract for beam testing at their meeting on Tuesday.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas questioned a travel expense figure of 15,000 miles included in the inspection contract.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said most of that is included because there is no concrete test beam breaker in the area, and the cost is if they have to haul the beams to a place that handles the test breaks.

He said depending on the size of a pour the engineers have to pour three test beams per section and that could mean as many as 48 or as few as 16

Depending on the cure time for

to a place to have them tested by breaking to be sure the concrete has cured he said. The tests are required on concrete projects Neufeld said. He said for the concrete railroad crossing on Road 16 that was done on a three-day cure so the test beams were broken after three days to be sure the concrete had cured. He expects County Road 14 to be done on a seven-day cure rate.

He said the state has a concrete test breaker in Norton, and when work was being done on K-27, it was moved to Goodland. He said if it is available, it would be worth the cost to have it recertified to bring it out to Goodland, and that would save a lot of mileage.

"Again this mileage is an estimated figure if we have to haul all of them to Garden City," he

Thomas asked if Neufeld had any the bond consultant, 95 percent of idea of a starting date for the project. The engineer said he expects the work to start in the spring. He said the contractor could do some prelimiplant out over the winter. He said it depends on who gets the contract as plant or bring out their own.

Thomas asked how many days Neufeld thought the project will take. Neufeld said with the phasing of the project to keep the road open for the sunflower plant, he believes it will take about 90 days, but that the state has not estimated the contract days yet. Tiede suggesting delaying a mo-

tion on the contract until the next meeting on Tuesday to give County Attorney Bonnie Selby a chance to look at it. him. He had been looking at the

final numbers for the city-county sales tax projects. He said with all the city projects done, they are about \$84,000 below budget.

He said talking to Kevin Cowan, Revenue Service.

all the projects have to be paid down by Sept. 22. He said that will mean there is less than \$600,000 left.

The county has prepaid part of the nary dirt work in the fall, but doesn't Road 14 project to the state to meet think they would bring a concrete bond requirements under federal tax law, he said.

"The idea is get the money spent," to whether they use the local concrete Neufeld said, "and by state law we cannot keep any money for extended maintenance. The last 5 percent has to be spent in the next year."

Thomas asked if that means the county cannot save any of the money to help pay for chip sealing old U.S. 24 three to five years from now. Neufeld said that is correct, but he

had talked to the state, and if there is money left after the Road 14 project is paid for, the county could extend the Road 14 project south of old U.S. 24 as the money would go. He said that would knock a part off a project Neufeld said that was OK with the county has on the schedule with the state.

The idea, Neufeld said, is to make sure the county gets to keep all the interest under the bond program and not have to pay any to the Internal

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Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.

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Minister: Sheryl Johnson Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

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Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship **Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

Kanorado **United Methodist** Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:50 a.m. Evening Service: 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Travis Blake Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th 890-3450 **Sunday:** Sunday School for all ages:

9:30 a.m. (Child care provided) Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m. **Thursday:** Bible study 9:30 a.m. Wheatridge Center

First United Methodist Church 1116 Sherman 899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Kasey Crosby Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m. **Sunday**: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m. **Wednesday**: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering Goodland Bible Church 109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor: Chad DeJong

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m.

Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

Harvest Evangelical

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

13th & Center

Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969 **Priest:** Father Hal Lycett Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer: Daily, 8 a.m. Thursday and

Sunday For emergencies 890-6969

104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918

Pastor: Brian Fugleberg Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday: Junior high 6:30 p.m.

at Fugleberg's, 708 Washington Senior high 6:30 p.m. at church

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Mike Larson

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161 **Sunday:** Christian eduction/fellowship: 10:15 a.m.

Worship Service: 9 a.m. Vacation Bible School July 14-18 Light Supper at 5:30. Program for all ages 6

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell 890-6185

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