

# City reacts to higher monthly electric utility bills

**BILLS, from Page 1**

Billinger asked what else happened to cause the August bills to be so high.

Blake said there was time when the transformer tie with Sunflower was down and the city had to run the power plant, which is more costly than what the city buys from Sunflower.

Volk said the new unit will allow the city to read all the radio equipped electric meters in about one day, and that will cut the gap down to about one to two days. She said the cost of the equipment is about \$10,000.

"I was faced with a month when we sold less kilowatts than we had to spread the costs over," Blake said. "We were down by 1.3 million kilowatts."

"Won't that show up next month," Commissioner Dave Daniels said. "Yes, it will," Blake said, "but the people don't see that. They are looking at the large numbers on the bills they received last week."

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked how long it will take to get the new unit.

Volk said it was in the budget and was ordered last week. She said the man who will help with the software will be in Goodland next week, but it will take four to six weeks to get it all working.

Blake said the new meter reading unit will not eliminate the operating cost adjustment, but it will help it be more even.

Billinger said that based on what Daniels had said the September bill that people get in October will reflect the lower rate and the city

may not have an operating cost adjustment when we had such a high one in August.

"We are selling less electricity," Blake said.

"This was our highest Sunflower bill we have ever paid," Volk said, "and we had to generate, which raises costs plus the hot days in July that increased the usage."

"I think we need to have some sort of cap on the operating cost adjustment," Billinger said.

"If you get the rest of the world to cap their charges we can do that," Blake said.

Blake said the city had to produce for about 22 hours when the transformer was down, and he had high overtime because he had to have men on line for about two weeks to monitor the system until the transformer could be repaired.

"The transformer was installed in 1981," Blake said, "and that is the key like to the outside electrical grid. I found parts from an 89-year old man in Milwaukee, Wis., to fix it."

"I invited him to come out, but he said he was going to celebrate his birthday and would not come."

He said without the parts from this man the city would have had to purchase a new transformer at a cost of about \$750,000 and would have cost another \$200,000 to get it installed.

"It looks like we have a large surplus," Blake said, "but we could blow through that in a heartbeat with something that could go wrong. Our newest engine is a 1978, and Sunflower is calling on us to operate, and that is why we will spend

\$30,000 for bearings this year."

"I think in the case of having to get the transformer we should have taken part of that out of the reserve," Billinger said.

Blake said under the current operating cost adjustment program anything that costs over \$40,000 would come out of the reserve and be amortized.

Daniels said when the problem at the power plant came up the city should have called the newspaper,

radio station, and cable television outlets to tell people there was a problem and ask them to conserve.

"I think that might have helped," Volk said.

"I am not particularly in agreement with a cap," Commissioner Josh Dechant said. "If we have repairs we need to do I don't think it is fair to our future to pull all that out of the reserves."

"You are not really saying cap it," Daniels said.

"I think we should have created a situation where we would do more of an even pay and shift some of the costs to the next month," Billinger said.

Commissioner John Garcia said he was looking at the financial condition report and said it appeared the city was in good shape.

"We need to look at how we approach the financial problem," he said. "I think the job of this commission is to evaluate the different

avenues and see where we can adjust these. We cannot control the cost from Sunflower, but we ought to be able to find some ways to help our people. We have to find answers to turn the situation around."

Blake said the city doesn't want to get to the situation where you are acting out of desperation.

"We are not in that situation," Daniels said, "but we want the people to know we are trying to do something."

## Plans coming together for Flatlander Festival

**FESTIVAL, from Page 1**

Wood said it was his understanding the Flatlander committee would pay the city \$250 for the electricity used on Main. He said it was his understanding the committee would pay this amount for the next 9 years to help cover the electrical costs and the additional circuits established along Main.

The Flatlander Fall Festival will kick off on Friday, Sept. 26 with an 18-hole golf tournament at 10 a.m. at Sugar Hills Golf Club and at 6:30 p.m. the Sherman County Speedway will hold the first night of stock car races. Brick Top Cruisers will be opening registration on Friday evening at Central Elementary School.

The Main Street Mile on Saturday will close Main from Eighth Street to 17th Street, and Wood said he has been jockeying things to fill the street without leaving huge gaps.

The street festival will begin at 10 a.m. and will include vendors, food booths and games for both adults and kids.

The Brick Top Cruisers Cars Club Show begins at 10 a.m. with registration opening earlier at Central Elementary School at 13th and Main. The car show will run through 4 p.m. The car show will have a Shine and Show on Sunday morning with the

awarding of prizes by noon.

The Northwest Kansas Bike Show will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday between Eighth and 10th with registration in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Flatlander Fall Festival beer garden will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. in the building at 1006.5 Main Wood said.

KLOE and the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter at 11 a.m. will present the annual Scruffy Dog Contest at the grandstand on West 11th.

From noon to 4 p.m. the grandstand will be the scene for the Flatlander Talent Contest with live music and entertainment.

The second night of stock car races begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Sherman County Speedway.

Depending on the weather on Saturday, about 8 p.m. the bikers and car show people will hold a parade on Main from Ninth Ave. to 17th and back to Ninth Ave.

Sunday the Brick Top Cruisers will begin the Shine and Show about 9 a.m.

The Northwest Kansas Bike Show will host a poker run beginning about 8 a.m.

At 11 a.m. the Picnic in the Park begins at Chambers Park, and live music and vendors will be open from noon to 4 p.m.

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following fines have been paid to the Sherman County District Court. All ages are at the time of the ticket.

**July 26:** George Carl D Annunzio, 40, Goodland, \$260 for transporting an open container.

**July 27:** Daniel K. Bray Jr., 29, Cleveland, Ohio, \$134 for speeding, 85/70.

**July 28:** Jullian Davis, 25, Newport, Ky., \$135 for operating a motor vehicle without a license.

Michael Stuart Gregory, 61, Stratton, Colo., \$140 for being over weight limits on wheels and axles.

**July 29:** Clinton C. Daniels, 32, Olathe, \$135 for improper parking.

**July 30:** Jesse K. Clark, 32, Keenesburg, Colo., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not registering with United Carrier.

Charles A. Garrett, 62, Lincoln, Neb., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

### Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County register of deeds.

Juanita A. Whelan quit claims to Audrey Engel, a single person, and Keith Engel and Jody Engel, husband and wife, Lots 16, 17 and 18, Block 23, Second Addition to Goodland.

Orscheln Farm and Home Holding Co., a Delaware corporation, quit claim to Orscheln Farm and Home, a Missouri limited liability company, the E 250' of a tract in the NW 1/4 of Sec. 29, T8S, R39W.

Jack F. Riley and Julieann L. Riley of Wichita County to Edward E. Woods and Linda S. Woods of Sherman County Lot 3 and the N 14' of Lot 4, Block 23, Third Addition to Goodland.

John H. Golden and Marcia L. Golden, trustees of the John Hollister Golden Trust, to NE Colorado Cellular interest in 75 ft. x 280 ft. in the SW 1/4 of Sec. 19, T8S, R39W.

Justin D. Bentzinger, in consideration of a lien filed in the Sherman County Courthouse, quit claim to Maria Medrano all interest in Lot 10, Block 1, Sharp's Addition to Goodland, 524 W. 16th.

Mark H. Fairchild and Jana L. Fairchild of Adams County, Neb., to Adam R. Taylor and Lindsay S. Ohlemeier Lot 14 in Block 4 in Rosewood Addition to Goodland.

Vincent Carroll, trustee of the Gertrude R. Carroll Revocable Trust, to Aaron Thompson and Amy Thompson Lots 20, 21 and 22, Block 15, Third or College Addition to Goodland.

Merlin C. Hussey and Susan G. Hussey, husband and wife, and Lois C. Hussey, a single person, convey and warrant to Jeanine A. Rudman and Daniele C. Rudman Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 and the N 14' of Lot 9, Block 24, Third Addition to Goodland.

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<b>Kansasland Tire Co., Inc.</b>	<b>Norton</b>	<b>Shay Realty of Atwood</b>	<b>Atwood</b>
<b>McMullen &amp; Wyatt Auctions</b>	<b>Norton</b>	<b>Western Auction &amp; Real Estate</b>	<b>St. Francis</b>

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