

# Motel gets permission to pay property taxes under protest

**By Tom Betz**  
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 A mix up in figuring the property taxes on the Holiday Inn Express brought owner Doug Irvin to the city commissioners on Monday to get permission from them to pay the taxes under protest because of the industrial revenue bonds involved in the hotel project.

Irvin said it was not that he did not want to pay the property taxes, but he thought he had paid all he was supposed to pay, but he received another sheet from the county in the mail indicating there were other additions he had not received.

"I want to pay what is right," he said, "but I do want time to check this out, and do not feel that a week is enough time with the taxes needing to be paid the Dec. 20."

Irvin said he was told at the county courthouse that it appears to be an error from them, and it was recommended that he pay the taxes under protest.

"To pay the taxes under protest I have to get permission from the city commission because of the

industrial revenue bonds," he said. "I need time to study it and need to have permission to pay under protest to study the new valuations I received."

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks asked if the county would need something in writing. Irvin said he was not sure.

## Businesses close for holiday

**BUSINESSES, from Page 1**

Fairbanks said Goodland Energy Resources continues working with about four companies who are looking at taking over or being a partner in the power plant.

He said they were close to having a deal before the financial collapse in September.

"We do not know exactly what is going to happen," he said.

He said the basic power plant has been built with the boiler, generator, condenser and cooling systems in place. What has not been completed are the delivery system for the coal

City Clerk Mary Volk said if the city commissioners agreed she and city attorney Jeff Mason would draft something for the county.

"It is not that you don't want to pay," Commissioner Josh Dechants said, "but you want time to look at it."

"It is protection for you to give you time to study the situation,"

Commissioner John Garcia said.

"I want more than a week," Irvin said. "The county admitted they did not have all the papers. They recommended doing this."

Garcia said it was following legal

## Closure decisions reviewed

**ROADS, from Page 1**

Wilson asked.

Oelschlager said he thought that would be fine. Brands said she didn't think the department could use the signs to specify where motel rooms are available and where they are not but said it might be possible to tell travelers to call "511" for further information and include where rooms are available on the message there.

"We have to think of the traveling public," she said, "and their safety."

Board members asked about issues with water standing along the interstate and cosmetic issues with grass and fencing. Irvin wondered if

procedure.

A motion was passed unanimously allowing Volk and Mason to draft a document to the county to allow Irvin to pay the Holiday Inn Express property taxes under protest.

it would be possible to put up a fence bordering the property the Holiday Inn is on and what it would take for grass to be planted and maintained. Board members cited the improvements made in Colby and wondered if the same could be done here.

Oelschlager said landowners in Colby had chosen to get permits from the state to plant grass and maintain it themselves. He said the same could be done here if someone wants to be responsible for that.

He told Irvin if landowners bordering the state right-of-ways agree to having a fence, the state can provide one at no charge.

"If the other landowner bordering the property agrees to the fence," he added, "I can get you one."

## North bands present concert

**BANDS, from Page 1**

**Percussion** — Alexis Bergquist, Danielle McElhane, Mario Lazo and Tristan Cooper.

**Sixth Grade band**  
**Flutes** — Selena Acosta, Nicole Sederstrom, Jessica Johnson and Telanie Reicks.

**Clarinets** — Laramie Farris, Danielle Doyle, Makala Fogg and Xavier Colby.

**Alto Saxes** — Sophia Thompson, Kegan Nothdurft, Tyler Neufeld and Elisa Santana.

**Bass Clarinet** — Keegan Bowring.

**Trumpets** — Makayla Kennedy, Aaron Avelar, Tanner Schmidt and Felix Perez.

**French Horn** — Kristina Stasser.

**Trombones** — Jeremy Brown and Jake Anderson.

**Baritone** — Chase Eggert.

**Tuba** — Matthew House.

**Percussion** — Kate-Lynn King.

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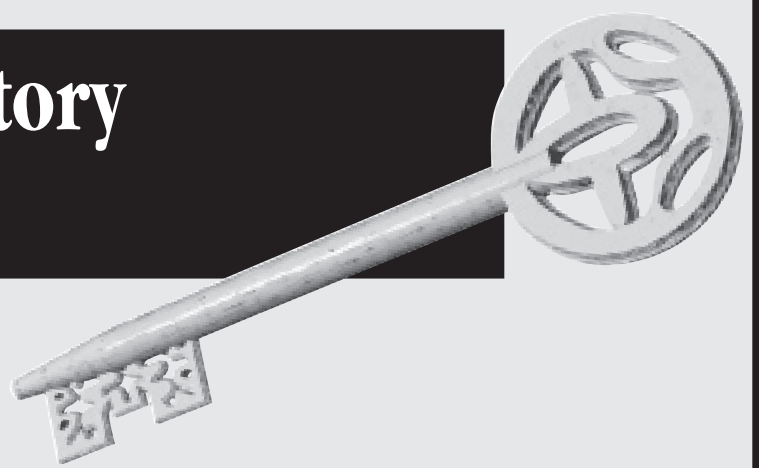
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