

Water plan would save city millions in interest

WATER, from Page 1

in trying to stretch this out. "The water lines on main are not addressed in this project. I agree we need to make an adjustment in water rates. "Loaning ourselves the money is the right way to go, and looking at paying the other loan off would give us more options." Gerber said the commissioners could sort of back into the rates, and asked what the members felt people would be able to pay monthly. He included several options including a base water meter increase and an option of increasing the water meter rate plus an increase in the usage cost. He said a conference call he and

Volk had with Ransom, a company doing water rate surveys for the state, had recommended water rates about \$40 a month. He said the state recommendation for figuring water bills is based on 2 percent of the median income of a person in the town. He said based on the current median income in Goodland that would be \$60 a month. Currently residents pay \$7.60 a month as a base for a water meter and \$1.07 for consumption of 100 cubic feet. "I think we need some sort of rate adjustment," Gerber said. "We need to be fair to the people and we need to keep improving the system." Billinger said he likes the base rate increase because that takes care

of everybody. Daniels said he likes the base better than trying to raise money through consumption especially when the usage has gone down in the past few years. Dechant suggested a bump both on the base rate and one on consumption. Commissioner John Garcia said he felt people are being conscientious and looking at where they can cut back, and increasing the base easier to plug into your budget — everyone pays — think from a financial standpoint it is better. Dechant suggested starting with an increase of the base to \$12 a month. Volk checked and the city owes

\$1.457 million on the other water loan. The interest is 3.74 percent plus the service fee of .35 percent makes the total 4.09 percent. The city could save about 3 percent. Billinger said if the city pays the first loan off as well as the new water project it would take less to service the total and the city could put more in for maintenance. Gerbers said the two loans together would be about \$6.3 million, but the total would depend on the final cost of the new water project. Garcia said he could agree with raising the base to \$11 or \$12 a month, which would be about a \$4 to \$5 increase. Gerber said a raise of \$5 would bring in about \$126,000 a year.

Daniels said he did not have a problem with raising the base to \$14.50 to give them more for improvements. "I would like to keep it a bit lower," Billinger said. Garcia said he felt it would be easy to explain and beneficial to the customers to keep it down to the \$5. Billinger said paying off the first loan would give the city \$185,000 to put toward the repayment, and with the \$5 increase the city could repay the reserves and have about \$50,000 to put into further improvements and maintenance. Dechant agreed it would give the city something to work with and be able to tackle other water issues such as Main Ave.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she was fine with raising the base to \$12 and keeping the usage rate as it is. "If the city was not financially able we would have to pay another \$1.3 million in interest," Dechant said. "I am glad we are having this conversation," Gerber said. "We are furnishing a legitimate product and should not be afraid to tell the people we are doing a good job." "I think the public will be behind this," Daniels said, "as it will much lower than what we originally talked about." Gerber said he would run the numbers and bring back a recommendation.

City employee health insurance costs drop slightly for third year

CITY, from Page 1

about what else might be out there for the future. He said most of the programs are optional and are nothing mandatory. The total cost for the city for the year is \$551,021, Krull said, and told the commissioners to expect a refund from the prior year of about \$100,000 because of the lower than expected usage. "I plan to be proactive with insurance," Gerber said. "I feel we owe it to the taxpayers to be reasonable and to do as much as possible to keep our employees healthy. "We have been somewhat lucky, but Mary Volk, city clerk, has worked to stay on top of this program." Krull said the city will always have some usage and cannot help it when a person is injured, but it is better to keep on top of the program. He said the city employees can use several on-line program for things like a wellness plan or stop smoking help plus others.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he had to ask again about any possible insurance program for the commissioners. Krull said the to get insurance the commissioners would have to work 30 hours a week. Commissioner John Garcia made the motion to approve the insurance renewal. Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with Mayor Josh Dechant and Commissioners Rick Billinger and Daniels voting in favor. In other business the commissioners: • Approved a bid from Midwest Mailing Systems of Kearney, Neb. for \$11,228 for a folder and inserter machine. Gerber had recommended the middle bid of the three received and said the city had budgeted \$11,000 for the machine and was confident the small additional could be found in another budget item. Gerber said the machine would help the city transition from the current monthly billing cards to a full sheet bill, and it would allow

the city to add in things like the newsletter. He said he was not recommending the low bid from Pitney bowes because the city had recently switched away from that company's postage machine and had some negative reports on the company's folder and inserter machine. Volk said she had more than one person tell her about problems with the machine. Billinger asked if there was anyone local who could provide the same machine. Volk said she had checked locally and no one was able to furnish a similar machine. Dechant said he was in the market for a similar machine for where he works, and was finding it hard to find one. Gerber said it looks like a lot of money, but it will be more efficient

than having a person sit and fold all the bills and newsletters. Daniels made the motion to accept the staff recommendation. The motion passed 5-0. • Approved a bid from Ninemier Fence Construction of Hoisington for \$8,800 for replacement fencing around the airport marker damaged by the hail storm in July. Gerber said the city got back one bid, and the city will be reimbursed \$7,800 from insurance. Billinger asked if the bid was sent out locally. Volk said it was sent to everyone on the local list. Billinger said he was surprised because he did not get one in the

mail as he usually gets all of the city bids. Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said they were having trouble getting a local person to bid when the city was doing the project for the FAA. Daniels asked why they were

bidding on vinyl fencing rather than chain link. Neufeld said the area cannot have a metal fence, and looked at wood and vinyl. He said the city had wood out there at one time and felt the vinyl would last longer.

SUNFLOWER HARVEST SYSTEMS
































































































 CALL FOR LITERATURE 

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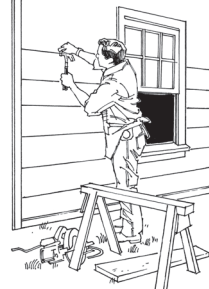
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SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Saturday	
10:00 a.m.   ESPN College Basketball	Connecticut at Georgetown. (Live)
  ESPN2 College Basketball	Florida at Vanderbilt. (Live)
  FXSKS  FXSRM Women's College Basketball	Kansas at Kansas State. (Live)
11:00 a.m.   NBC  NBC High School Football	U.S. Army All-American Bowl. From the Alamodome in San Antonio. (Live)
12:00 p.m.   CBS Women's College Basketball	Ohio State at Michigan State. (Live)
  ESPN College Basketball	Duke at Georgia Tech. (Live)
  ESPN2 College Basketball	Kansas State at Missouri. (Live)
  FXSKS  FXSRM Women's College Basketball	Missouri at Colorado. (Live)
2:00 p.m.   CBS Women's College Basketball	North Carolina at Connecticut. (Live)
  ESPN2 College Basketball	Northern Iowa at Illinois State. (Live)
  FXSRM Women's College Basketball	Oregon at Oregon State. (Live)
2:30 p.m.   NBC  NBC NFL Football	AFC Wild-Card — New York Jets at Cincinnati Bengals. The Jets travel to Cincinnati to take on the Bengals. (Live)
3:00 p.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	Richmond at St. Louis. (Live)
4:00 p.m.   ESPN2 College Basketball	Murray State at Austin Peay State. (Live)
5:30 p.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	Drake at Southern Illinois. (Live)
6:00 p.m.   NBC  NBC NFL Football	NFC Wild-Card — Philadelphia Eagles at Dallas Cowboys. Tony Romo and the NFC East Division champion Cowboys host Donovan McNabb and the Eagles. From Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas. (Live)
  WGN NBA Basketball	Minnesota Timberwolves at Chicago Bulls. From the United Center in Chicago. (Live)
7:00 p.m.   FXSRM College Hockey	Alaska-Anchorage at Denver. (Live)
8:30 p.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	USC at California. (Live)
9:30 p.m.   FXSRM College Basketball	USC at California. (Joined in Progress) (Live)
10:30 p.m.   FXSKS NHL Hockey	St. Louis Blues at Los Angeles Kings. (Joined in Progress) From Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)
Sunday	
11:00 a.m.   CBS NFL Football	AFC Wild-Card — Baltimore Ravens at New England Patriots. John Harbaugh and the Ravens, who finished 9-7, travel to Foxboro to take on Bill Belichick's Patriots (10-6). From Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass. (Live)
11:30 a.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	Evansville at Indiana State. (Live)
1:00 p.m.   ESPN2 Women's College Basketball	Temple at Xavier. (Live)
  FXSRM College Basketball	Western Kentucky at Denver. (Live)
1:30 p.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	Washington State at Arizona State. (Live)
2:30 p.m.   CBS College Basketball	Kansas at Tennessee. (Live)
3:00 p.m.   ESPN2 Women's College Basketball	Southern Mississippi at Marshall. (Live)
  FXSRM College Basketball	Washington State at Arizona State. (Live)
3:30 p.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	Florida State at Maryland. (Live)
5:30 p.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	Virginia Tech at North Carolina. (Live)
7:00 p.m.   ESPN2 NBA Basketball	Cleveland Cavaliers at Portland Trail Blazers. From the Rose Garden in Portland, Ore. (Live)
8:30 p.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	Oregon State at Oregon. (Live)
Monday	
4:00 p.m.   FXSKS College Football	FedEx Orange Bowl — Georgia Tech vs. Iowa. From Miami.
5:00 p.m.   ESPN College Basketball	Villanova at Louisville. (Live)
Tuesday	
5:30 p.m.   ESPN2 Women's College Basketball	Maryland at Virginia. (Live)
6:00 p.m.   FXSKS NBA Basketball	New York Knicks at Oklahoma City Thunder. From the Ford Center in Oklahoma City. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)
7:00 p.m.   ESPN College Basketball	Oklahoma State at Oklahoma. (Live)
8:30 p.m.   FXSKS College Basketball	St. Louis at Richmond. (Joined in Progress)
Wednesday	
5:00 p.m.   ESPN2 College Basketball	Boston College at Duke. (Live)
  ESPN2 College Basketball	Pittsburgh at Connecticut. (Live)
  FXSKS Women's College Basketball	Kansas State at Missouri. (Live)
7:00 p.m.   ESPN2 College Basketball	North Carolina at Clemson. (Live)
  ESPN2 College Basketball	Kansas at Nebraska. (Live)
  FXSKS College Basketball	Southern Illinois at Creighton. (Live)
FXSRM College Football	AT&T Cotton Bowl — Mississippi vs. Oklahoma State. From Dallas.
9:00 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball	Utah State at Nevada. (Live)
FXSRM College Football	Allstate Sugar Bowl — Cincinnati vs. Florida. From New Orleans.
10:30 p.m. FXSKS Women's College Basketball	Kansas State at Missouri.
Thursday	
5:00 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball	Teams TBA. (Live)
6:00 p.m. FXSKS NHL Hockey	Minnesota Wild at St. Louis Blues. From Scottrade Center in St. Louis. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)
FXSRM Women's College Basketball	Georgia at Vanderbilt. (Live)
TNT NBA Basketball	Chicago Bulls at Boston Celtics. From TD Garden in Boston. (Live)
7:00 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball	Teams TBA. (Live)
8:30 p.m. FXSRM College Basketball	Stanford at Washington. (Live)
TNT NBA Basketball	Cleveland Cavaliers at Utah Jazz. From EnergySolutions Arena in Salt Lake City. (Live)
8:45 p.m. FXSKS College Basketball	Stanford at Washington. (Joined in Progress) (Live)
9:00 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball	Gonzaga at St. Mary's. (Live)
Friday	
6:00 p.m. ESPN NBA Basketball	Phoenix Suns at Atlanta Hawks. From Philips Arena in Atlanta. (Live)
6:30 p.m. FXSKS NBA Basketball	Oklahoma City Thunder at Dallas Mavericks. From American Airlines Center in Dallas. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)
7:00 p.m. FXSRM College Football	FedEx Orange Bowl — Georgia Tech vs. Iowa. From Miami.
8:30 p.m. ESPN NBA Basketball	Orlando Magic at Portland Trail Blazers. From the Rose Garden in Portland, Ore. (Live)
9:00 p.m. FXSRM College Football	Tostitos Fiesta Bowl — Boise State vs. Texas Christian. From Glendale, Ariz. (Taped)

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One Potato, Two Potato

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American Profile Hometown Content

1/3/2010

ACROSS

1. Element in Marx Brothers films

6. Live __ (break Commandments)

11. "What hath __ wrought"

14. Elephant type

15. Berry's "Johnny B. __"

16. Ipanema's locale

17. "My Three Sons" son

19. Tree with winged fruits

20. Tracy's Trueheart

21. Faux __ (blunder)

22. Pick on

24. Beginning driver, usually

26. Cobbler's supply

28. Cosmetic applied with a sponge

32. Grassy expanse

34. Paul's "Exodus" role

35. "The Simpsons" teacher __ Krabappel

36. Lend a hand to

37. Lutz performers

41. Barbecue spot

42. Former GM line

44. Jr.'s jr.

45. __ Richard of the Stones

47. Paul Newman product

51. Chip away at

52. Respire like a pooch

53. Cylindrical raisin cake

55. Mushy fare

56. Lose one's spark

60. "Without further __ .."

61. Bakery machine

65. "C'mon, __ sport!"

66. Joust's weapon

67. Cockamamie

68. Social bug

DOWN

1. Almanac tidbit

2. Queens stadium name

3. Danish-born reformer Jacob

4. Where nautical cable is wound

5. Gridiron position

6. Reptile that can be a pet

7. Eggy quaffs

8. Costa del __

9. Mrs. William McKinley

10. Iced drink brand

11. Hard-to-catch critter

12. Some paintings

13. Feature of some stadiums

18. Crude org.

23. Sommer of cinema

25. Space chimp of 1961

26. Roll-call call

27. Eastern dignitary

28. Lake rental, maybe

29. Holmes who married Tom Cruise

30. Meter or liter

31. Way through the woods

32. Vientiane's land

33. Oscar winner Kedrova

38. Legendary pirate captain

39. Leeds's river

40. DC gridder, for short

43. Cutty __ (historic ship)

46. Tangle up

48. Not out of the question

49. Dug, in a way

50. Drains, as of stamina

53. Cake with a kick

54. Yemeni port

55. 8 minutes per mile, e.g.

57. Words of confidence

58. Word with zoom or fisheye

59. Genealogy chart

62. "Way cool!"

63. Part of ESL: Abbr.

64. Coffee-to-go need

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

The

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