## goodland. The Star-News / Friday, January 8, 2010 3City signs engineering contract for project

#### By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com At the last meeting of the year the commissioners approved the water project loan agreement with the state and addressed the engineering design and inspection contract with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates.

EBH had been selected by the commission in March to be the engineering firm for the water project and has been working through the options over the past nine months. The project is moving into the bidding portion with construction expected to begin in the spring.

Mayor Josh Dechant joined the meeting by phone.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the cost is probably the big issue with the EBH agreement, saying the total cost is not to exceed \$747,000 for engineering and inspection cost.

for contractors, he said this would be the worst cost scenario.

"If we do not use this you will not get billed," he said. "We are trying to give you a fair price and know what the not to exceed figure.

"I don't know what else to tell you at this time.'

the numbers have changed over the time of the project.

"Yes they have," Hollar said. "We put project numbers together and we would hope to do the project for less than what we are saying, but the city.'

Darin Neufeld of the EBH office in Goodland, said the firm was using a percentage to estimate things in have changed. the early stages through August, but now are trying to be more exact on Don Hollar of EBH, said this was the costs. He said this would be the

knowing who the city is going to get contractors and be there for every but if he is not doing the proper work step that would raise the cost to the maximum.

> Hollar said the firm has given the city a break of more than \$100,000 on the design part of the project, and the higher cost is for the inspection part.

Commissioner John Garcia Gerber said the question is that asked if the total cost is going to be \$747,000

Hollar said that is the not to exceed cost, and hopes the inspection costs are much lower than the \$365,000 maximum figure.

Commissioner Rick Billinger we don't want to suffer a big loss said he felt they had agreed on in trying to do a good project for everything before, and now when they get the contract the cost is up to \$747,000. He said he felt the design and construction figures should not

> He asked if the city can control how the contractors work.

their best guess, and said without worst case if they had to watch the contractor he cannot use two crews, they can tell him he cannot do five crews

> "Good contractors will come to us and ask where they want to start," he said.

> Gerber said they will have weekly discussions about the project. He said if the city gets on a contractor too much they will whine and it will be more of a problem in the end.

> Garcia said he was concerned with the change in figures that had been \$432,000 in March and went to \$465,000 in June.

"Now in December it is escalating," he said. "I understand there are changes in cost. We are trying to be good stewards of the taxpayers money. One of my concerns is how we get the best job. We want to ensue the work is done as good as possible."

figures were coming from.

Neufeld said in March they were not talking about treatment, and not a central collection facility. He said they were using percentages of 6 not change. percent for design and 8 percent for inspection.

In May they added the central collection facility, and after June he finalized using 5 percent for design costs and 5 percent for inspection. He said the contract is 5.4 percent for design and 7.7 percent for inspection.

Dechant asked about the other percentages.

Hollar said the miscellaneous percentage is 1.1 percent and that has not changed.

He said one of the things that changed the design cost was the requirement of the stimulus program to buy American.

'We have to have certificates CommissionerDaveDanielssaid that the products have been made Fairbanks seconded the motion, Neufeld said they cannot tell the he did not understand where the in the U.S.," he said. "The design which passed unanimously.

was \$232,000 and now we are at \$255,000.'

Billinger said he felt the design cost was the basic cost and would

Gerber said the only change was the design cost going from \$232,000 to \$255,000. He said the \$365,000 inspection cost is a not to exceed figure.

Billinger asked if the inspection cost could come back down to the earlier figure.

"Yes, it depends on the contractors," Neufeld said. "We give them 365 days to do the project. In the worst case it is going to cost us over \$400,000 and we are both going to lose.'

Dechant said he felt it was a standard contract, and that EBH has done good work for the city, and made the motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Annette



# No-till conference planned in Salina

Plains Winter Conference is planned crowd. for Jan 26-27 at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

The conference has evolved into the most respected "continuous" no-till" conference and trade show of its type in North America, said Brian Lindley, executive director of No-till on the Plains.

(\$200 after Jan. 15) to reserve a spot at the Winter Conference, he said.

This year several "producer speakers" — each in a different stage of continuous no-till with a variety of unique conditions — will offer presentations, Lindley said. Several national and international have the opportunity to ask ques-

The 14th annual No-till on the no-tillage experts will engage the tions, share trade secrets and inter-

The speaking lineup features Dwayne Beck, S.D.; Dave Brandt, Ohio; Ademir Calegari, Brazil; João Carlos de Moraes Sá (JUCA), Brazil; Lyle Frees, Kan.; Gail Fuller, Kan.; Dan Gillespie, Neb.; Paul Jasa, Neb.; Dietrich Kastens, Kan.; Josh Lloyd, Kan.; Neonila Mar-Farmers may take advantage of an tyniuk, Ukraine; Jim Millar, S.D.; Mark Watson, Neb.; Jeff Wessels, plus many more. Neb.; and Nigel Wilhelm, Australia.

These experts are extremely

act with other attendees, participants and presenters, Lindley said.

Courses are available for all experience levels Lindley said. Topics include Producers' Real Life Experiences, Fertility and Soil Health, Cover Crops and Alternative Crops, Grazing Systems/ Livestock, Water Management and Utilizing No-till Under Irrigation, early registration discount of \$150 Charles Rice, Kan.; Moe Russell, How to Apply New Technologies, Iowa; Alan Schlegel, Kan.; Bruce Rainfall Simulator and Soil Dem-Vincent, Mont.; Ray Ward, Neb.; onstrations, Managing Residue,

"If you are a producer looking for an agronomic advantage and a way to improve your management, knowledgeable, and growers will then the No-till on the Plains Winter Conference is the place to be,"Lind-

ley said. "The motivation, vision, cus on cover crops and will feature and experience of the speakers is absolutely of the highest quality. Regardless of your experience with no-tillage, we have sessions you can utilize immediately. Additionally, the producer networking opportunity is unmatched. Come ready to learn!'

Along with the Winter Conference, No-till on the Plains is offering the exclusive Agriculture's Innovation Minds Symposium on Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Bicentennial Center. The symposium is held in conjunction with the Winter Conference but is a separate meeting.

The premise of the symposium is to challenge the innovators. The theme of this year's meeting will fo-

South American Ademir Calegari who started the cover crop excitement at our 2006 conference.

Several experienced producers from the area will share beneficial information about what has been tried and what is working.

For information or to register for the Winter Conference or the AIM Symposium, contact the office at (888) 330-5142 or visit the website at www.notill.org.

#### corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story.

Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors.

We believe that news should be fair and factual.

We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

LAND AUCTION 320± Acres Sherman County, Kansas Monday, January 25 at 10:00 a.m. MST Holiday Inn Express · Goodland, Kansas (south of I-70 Exit #17)

- 320± acres of above average dryland cropland with a gently rolling to level topography.
- Located nine miles south of the Interstate 70 Exit at Kanorado, Kansas.
- Buyer to receive landlord's one third share of growing wheat.
- Possession of wheat acres will be granted after wheat harvest. Possession of all remaining acres will be granted at closing on or about January 29, 2010.

For property details, contact:

Farmers **National Company** 

Monty Smith, Agent Hays, Kansas (785) 650-0599 or (785) 623-6701 cell msmith@farmersnational.com

A-18693 and A-18684

#### www.FarmersNational.com

Farm Management • Real Estate Sales • Appraisals Insurance Consultation • Oil and Gas Management Lake Management • National Hunting Leases

#### being formed City commissioners are looking at options for the Kansas National Guard Armory, which will be given to the city at the end of February.

**Special Armory Committee** 

Citizens who are interested in how the armory could be used may sign up to be part of a special committee being formed

to look at the matter. Call the City office at (785) 890-4500 to add your name.



## Classifieds work! 899-2338

### OPEN HOUSE

January 13, 2010 [3:00 - 6:00 P.M.



Farm Credit of Western Kansas 1190 South Rangel Collby, KS



You are invited to stop by and see the now Farm Credit Office Building, and visit with the Farm Credit Board of Directors and staff. Refreshments will be served and sign up for some great open house prizes.