

# City accepts offer to purchase school property

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners approved a motion on Tuesday to formally accept the school district offer to sell the city land on Kansas Ave. to be used for the water treatment evaporation ponds.

The school board had approved a motion at their meeting to sell the land — about 27 acres — to the city for \$100,000. The city commission met in special session with the school district and said that was the best offer for the land as it would save the city about \$100,000 to locate the evaporation ponds next to the water collection and treatment plant already planned for Kansas Ave.

Mayor Pro Tem Rick Billinger, handling the meeting in the absence of Mayor Josh Dechant, said he has seen water project materials arriving and the city needs to meet with the farmer who has a wheat crop on the school land. He said the city manager needs to talk to the farmer about the project and

what sort of damages may occur to the farm ground before harvest time.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved the economic development incentives policy discussed at the previous meeting.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the changes suggested by the commissioners had been made. He said it is a good beginning for the city.

Commissioner John Garcia said the major changes were splitting the clause about partial gifting of city property and eliminating an application fee.

Gerber said those were the major changes.

Garcia said he felt the city administration had done an extensive job of developing the policy.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she agreed the city staff had done a good job of putting the policy together and made the motion to approve.

Commissioner Dave Daniels seconded

the motion saying it was a good start, and the policy was approved 4-0.

Gerber said the policy is not any kind of silver bullet, but it does provide the commission, potential business and citizens with an idea of the types of incentives the city can offer and will consider.

- Reviewed a draft of city fees to see where they might be changed or left alone. The fee schedule for equipment use will clear up a lot of questions Gerber said.

The commissioners asked if the city equipment is rented very often. Gerber said it is a rare thing, but this way everyone knows what the cost is and what the rules are.

On the building fees, Daniels asked about a fee based on the project cost.

Gerber said the figure was an error and would correct it to say \$25 plus .25 percent of the project cost for the building permit fee.

The electrical and plumbing fees have been simplified, Gerber said, and the permit

fee is similar to the building permit fee.

On the police department fees, Gerber said these were being cleaned up and standardized with elimination of a storage fee on bicycles, and removing any license fee for bicycles. He said the city wants to encourage people to license their bicycles, but does not see it as necessary to charge for those.

The alcohol license fees will go up under the recommendation by \$25 for the permit licenses and for a temporary beer license will go up to \$50. Gerber said the fees include \$25 the city has to send to the state.

The annual license fees remain the same.

The cemetery fees brought some questions from the commissioners.

The recommendation is to raise the burial plot fee to \$200 per plot from the \$50 currently and to raise the administrative cost for a disinterment to \$500 from the \$50 currently.

Gerber said the city does not have to do

too many disinterments, but City Clerk Mary Volk said it comes up more than she expected, and is a complicated process.

No changes are included in the city utility rates for electric, water or sewer.

Gerber said on Steever Water Park the fees were being simplified so all children over 6 are charged the same rate.

Daniels suggested the city try doing a program of giving the motels special free passes for the water park.

The commissioners agreed to review for formal approval the city fee schedule at the meeting on Monday, March 1.

- Gerber mentioned there is a new historical mural in the front office at the administration building and said the credit goes to Leon Volk.

- Gerber said the airport approach situation may have been resolved, but it was not formal yet. He said Darin Neufeld gets a lot of credit for getting it solved.



## Goodland Scouts attend Klondike competition

Goodland Boy Scouts Jonah McClung, Seth Stramel and Kyler Amthor (left) spliced poles together to make it long enough to reach across a specified distance to recover a mouse trap (above) as part of one of the tests at the Klondike Scout event held at Atwood on Feb. 13.

Scoutmaster Gary McClung took the three scouts — members of Goodland Scout Troop 142 — to the event where each competed in several different events. The events included hatchet throwing, pancake frying and tossing, the retrieving event and a couple others, McClung said.

He said the plan had been to spend the night, but most of the other troops had other things to do, and everyone ended up going home.

The Goodland Scouts plan to hold their annual Chili Feed from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Photos by Gary McClung  
Goodland Scout Troop 142



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like not advertising your  
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Only You know what you are  
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## "Early Bird" Town Hall Meeting

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and Representative Jim Morrison will be in Goodland on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 7-8 a.m. at the Goodland High School Auditorium

The State of Kansas' \$400,000,000 budget deficit will be the focus of the town hall meeting. Questions will be generated from the health care, education, transportation and agriculture sectors of Sherman County.

PLAN ON ATTENDING TO VOICE YOUR CONCERN

Hosted by Sherman County Farm Bureau

## Benefit Soup Supper and Dance for Blayze Bahe

March 6, 2010 at Goodland Elks Lodge

*Dinner & Dancing*

Soup Supper 4-7 p.m.  
\$7/adult 10 and under \$3.00  
Dance from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.  
Free will offering



**Silent Auction**  
7-9 p.m.

**BAKE SALE**

4 p.m. until gone (free will offering)