

Great day to go fly a kite



Students from North Elementary School got to fly kites in the afternoon on Friday during recess. The day was beautiful.

Photo by Josh Harenberg
The Goodland Star-News

City waterline project having ‘cone’ problems

By Tom Betz

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The water improvement projects are moving ahead with the main water line on 10th Street being installed and the city commissioners approved a change order on Monday for the roof of the water collection and treatment building.

Public Works Director Rich Simon said he wants people to know the cones they are seeing in the streets are places where the city is cutting the asphalt and opening holes for the water line project.

“We are having people move those cones,” he said, “and making it dangerous for people driving into the holes.”

City Manager Doug Gerber said the crews are running into places where putting in the line should be an open cut, but having to make a case by case decision to bore if they are going to save a tree. He said some of this may raise the project cost as it is about \$1,200 to get around a tree. He said the trees are in the right of way.

“We are running into those kinds

of issues,” Gerber said. “We are trying to be smart about these.”

Acting Mayor Rick Billinger said he felt that was a god way to handle the issues, but that if the staff runs into a tough one to call the commissioners to help make the decision.

Gerber said the staff is having weekly meetings with the representatives of Van Kirk Brothers of Nebraska who are doing the water lines, and they said the Goodland people have been the best city they have worked with.

Gerber said Mike Miller, con-

tractor for the water collection and treatment building was at the meeting to ask about a change for the building roof.

Miller said he was suggesting a different roof panel for the building and was willing to bear some of the cost.

He said he wants to change because the one he was suggesting is more hail resistant.

He said it is up to the commissioners as the roof panel in the contract was a painted type 24-inch wide panel. He said the panel he was

recommending was gavaluminum and 18-inch with a higher resistance to hail damage.

Gerber said Miller is willing to absorb the cost of the different roof, but it depends on what the commissioners want.

Commissioner John Garcia said it sounded like a stronger roof panel.

Billinger said he did not feel the painted part was important.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said the roof Miller was suggesting was really the better roof.

The commissioners approved

the change order to allow Miller to order the 18-inch roof panels on a 4-0 vote.

In other action the commissioners approved a payment to Van Kirk Brothers for \$572,211 for the waterline work completed. The total cost of the waterline portion is estimated to be \$2,484,566.

Approved payment to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for \$38,435 for inspection of the waterline project, \$5,940 for work involving the treatment facility and \$17,933 for water project planning and design.

Lease for Derrick Lutters building approved by city

By Tom Betz

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The city commission approved a five-year lease of the Derrick Lutters (armory) building to Northwest Tech on Monday.

City Manager Doug Gerber said in doing research, Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who works with the city airport projects, determined the city needs to own the building in order to use Federal Aviation Administration money to extend a taxiway to the north side of the building.

Acting Mayor Rick Billinger asked if Dr. Ed Mills, president of Northwest Tech had seen the lease. Gerber said he had talked to Dr.

Mills and he was OK with the lease. He said Mills understood the importance of being able to use federal money to extend the taxiway to the building.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked about the option to buy clause in the lease agreement that would allow the college to purchase the building in the future.

Gerber said it was in there that after the taxiway was extended the city might give the building to the college.

Neufeld said there might be a problem about maintenance in the future if the building is given to the college, but he said this would be a minimal problem as the taxiway would be concrete.

Billinger felt any future sale to the college ought to have to come back to the commission for approval.

“I think we are all in agreement we want the tech college to use the building,” Billinger said. “I would like to have a purchase at least come back to the commission.”

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she could see it might be important for the college to show they have an option to buy as they work with the universities to expand into aircraft related classes.

Commissioner John Garcia said it would be good for Gerber to talk to Mills about this.

“If all goes through with K-State,” Daniels said. “How much can we expect in dealing with the FAA.”

Neufeld said the city is locked in one year at a time with the FAA, and the plan is reviewed each year and changes can be made.

He said the plan would add a taxiway of about 1,000 feet, and that was similar to the section recently finished under the Federal Stimulus program for a cost of about \$400,000. He said the plan would be not to light the taxiway, but it was something the city could ask the FAA to pay 95 percent of the project.

Daniels asked if the FAA would pay for a ramp on the north side of the building.

Neufeld said that would be up to K-State and the college. He said there is some concrete parking be-

hind the armory, and what the city was looking at was using FAA dollars to get to the fence at the edge of the airport property. He said the last 70 to 80 feet might be up to the city and college getting off the airport ground.

Gerber said he would add some language about granting an option to buy, but have it come back to the commission for approval. He asked if the commission would approve the lease with those changes.

Daniels said it would satisfy him and made a motion to approve. The motion passed 4-0.

The commission approved the land purchase contract with the Goodland School District for the land on Kansas Ave. Gerber said the

city and school board attorneys put the agreement together. Jeff Mason is the city attorney and Ron Vignery is the school board attorney.

The contract is for \$100,000 to purchase approximately 27 acres of land.

The contract says the wheat growing on the land belongs to the school district and that Norman House, the tenant on the land shall receive his share of the wheat. The contract says the city will be responsible for crop loss caused by construction on the property, and the city will negotiate and settle this amount with House following wheat harvest.

Garcia made the motion to approve the contract and it passed 4-0.

Bids approved for new carpet in building, mowing

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners approved new carpet for the upper and main floors of the administration building at 204 W. 11th, and approved a contractor for the summer mowing of weeds.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the staff sent carpet bids to six businesses, but received one bid from Wane’s Carpet and Drapery.

City Clerk Mary Volk said she was surprised because at least two other businesses had come over and measured the carpets in the

building.

Gerber said the carpet was not a critical issue, but the city has been saving for this for a couple of years putting money in the budget.

“I feel we need to maintain the building,” he said. “It has been about 20 years since it was replaced.”

He said the main floor has some areas where the wear is serious and can cause people to trip. He said the staff recommendation was to do the main floor and the upstairs this year and put money in the budget for the basement for next year.

He said with the carpet replaced the lobby will have a complete make over.

Acting Mayor Rick Billinger said it was probably important to replace the worn carpet as a safety issue.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks made a motion to approve the bid from Wane’s Carpet for \$21,028 to do the upstairs (\$7,100) and the main floor (\$13,928). The motion passed 4-0 with Commissioners Fairbanks, Dave Daniels, John

Garcia and Billinger voting in favor. Mayor Josh Dechant was absent.

Gerber said the city received four bids for the mowing, but one of those arrived after the bidding deadline and was not considered.

The low bid of \$19.75 per hour was from Lyle Kimminau, and Gerber said that was about 11.5 percent higher than the \$17.50 per hour the city paid last year.

He said the staff has checked out to see if Kimminau is capable of

doing the job and recommended acceptance of his low bid.

“Although it is more expensive than last year,” Gerber said, “this appears to be a reasonable bid and is an important part of keeping a well-maintained city.”

The other bids included Brian Fugleburg for \$30 an hour and Rusty Fritz for \$43.50 an hour. The late bid was from Floyd McIlroy for \$50 per hour. Garcia made the motion to approve Kimminau.

corrections

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