

Someone needed to care for building lawn, garden

GARDEN, from Page 1

garden on the corner and who was going to take care of it. He said it was put in as a Boy Scout Eagle Project, and now it is up to someone to take care of it.

"Guess we can find someone to take care of it or take it out and put in rocks," Strnad said.

McKnight suggested asking the Mater Gardeners.

Strnad said there might be a 4-H group who would take it on, and that the Economic Development Council could make a donation to the club.

Strand said she did not have a problem renting more space to Boles.

Thomas told McKnight to find out what she needs, and bring it back to the commissioners.

Strnad said she did not want to repair the garage leak at this time. The other two commissioners agreed.

Thomas asked McKnight if he could take care of the lawn this time and find someone to do the mowing. He suggested asking Helen Dobbs, economic development office manager what they did last year.

McKnight said he thought the person was paid about \$15 a time for the mowing.

On the repairs for the telephone building Thomas asked about checking with Northwest Planning and Development in Hill City about any historical grant that might be available.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she did not think the building was on the historic register, and that when it was suggested several years ago the commissioners had decided against listing it because of the restrictions put on the what can be done.

Strand said she was surprised it was not on the historic register.

Selby said she was going to contact the other departments who have

material stored in the building and have them go through it to see what might be eliminated.

McKnight said he has been trying to put dates on the boxes saying when they can be destroyed.

Strnad asked how long some of the records have to be kept.

Rumpel said it depends on the type of record. Some can be destroyed after five years, but some have to be kept forever. She said the historical society suggested keeping the election pool books from the presidential years.

Strnad suggested giving those to the historical society and they could create a research room in the Handy House.

The commissioners held a closed door session on personnel with Selby, the three commissioners and Rumpel for 10 minutes.

The commissioners will meet at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, April 30.

Eye health topic for Doctors on Call program

Eye health is the topic for this week's Doctors on Call program on Smoky Hills Public Television.

The hour-long program will air today at 6 p.m. with an encore performance scheduled for Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The program will feature a video segment on Lasik eye surgery

at Fry Eye.

Dr. William Clifford of Fry Eye and Associates in Garden City, and Dr. Thomas McDonald of Eye Specialists in Hays will answer questions in this live viewer call-in program.

Smoky Hills Public Television is

a non-profit organization that provides programming and services for 71 counties in central and western Kansas. For more information, visit www.smokyhillstv.org.

Bonds best option to pay for chip sealing old U.S. 24

COUNTY, from Page 1

guess when the interest rates are going to go back up, but it could be later this year.

He said another option was to pledge income from the original one percent sales tax the county shares with the city, but said he does not expect the county can do that, and the other quarter-percent is for health care.

Thomas said he did not see the county being able to do that with the sales tax.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she felt the county would have to increase property taxes to cover interest and principle for the current project. She said that would be about \$600,000.

Strnad suggested stretching out the payment as much as possible, but that the county would have to have about \$1 million to do the chip seal again in five years and again five years after that.

Thomas said if they can figure out a way to extend the sales tax, and might not need the whole one percent. He agreed it would be good to stretch it out and use general obligation bonds for the current project.

Cowan said the county could do a ballot issue for the future, and could decide not to go for the full one percent.

Commissioner Max Linin asked what do they do now, and what interest rate the county could pay.

Cowan said if it paid off in 20 years the interest rate would be in the mid-4 percent range.

He said the annual payment would be about \$70,000.

Linin said that is about one mill of property tax. Rumpel said she was looking at possibly three mills to allow for \$50,000 for reserve, and pay the interest this year.

Cowan said the bonds could be issued in the next few months so the county would have the money available when the project was done this summer.

He said he could have a resolution ready for the next meeting for the bonds.

Rumpel said the cost of the project has gone up as the cost of the oil is \$30,000 higher than expected. She said Curt Way, public works manager, gave her the new cost. It is \$591,000 plus the \$30,000 for the oil.

She asked if the cost for the bonds would be included in the total.

Cowan said it would be included and the total would be about \$630,000.

He said a decision the commissioners will have to make is about how the bonds are sold and if they have someone to underwrite the issue.

Rumpel said a man would be at the next meeting to talk to the commissioners about that part of the project.

One thing the commissioners will be looking at is if the local banks might be interested in purchasing part or all of the bonds.

Strnad said it seemed the local banks are interested.

Cowan said he thought some of that is the banks want the short-term parts of the issue.

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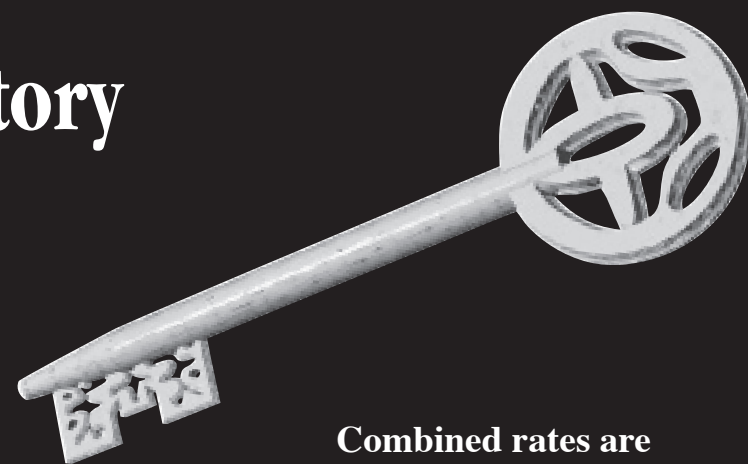
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