

Road and bridge budget increases to help control weeds

By Tom Betz
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Sherman County commissioners feel spraying the county roads is important, and Tuesday discussed raising the road and bridge chemicals to \$80,000 to help with the road maintenance for next year.

Earlier the commissioners had talked to Darrel Schrader, mowing contractor, about the problems he is running into and decided to delay the second round of mowing. The commissioners told Schrader to concentrate on mowing the intersections before school starts for school bus safety.

When Curt Way, public works manager arrived the commissioners told him about the changes in the mowing plans and he agreed delaying the second round of mowing made sense.

Looking at the road and bridge budget Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked if \$40,000 for weed control chemicals is enough.

Way said he did not think it was enough. He said Doug Hall, county

noxious weed director, has spent about half of that through July.

He said Hall could spray some of the weeds now and that might help, but it was like spending the money twice to spray and then mow.

Strnad said seeding is a good option, but we are not going to see anything for a time. She said it takes time and the people won't see it happen in one year.

Way said one problem with the road and bridge budget is you have to work on two winters, the one before the new budget starts and then what you have until spring.

Strnad suggested raising the chemical amount to \$80,000 to \$100,000 and hit it hard.

"It will put Hall in the position to make it better and it is good to step up to the plate," Way said.

Commissioner Max Linin said he felt \$80,000 was about right for next year.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if raising the amount by \$40,000 would cover half the county.

Way said it would cover about

one-third. I am not sure how you are going to get over all the roads in the time frame. It might be enough money, but there is not enough time to get it sprayed.

Strnad said if the money is in the budget and they don't use it all it will carry over to the next year.

Linin said if they put \$80,000 in for chemicals and the \$200,000 for mowing it could be a combined line for roadside maintenance.

Way suggested making it two lines so Hall knows where he is with \$200,000 for roadside maintenance and \$80,000 for chemicals.

Way said the chip seal project will start on Monday, but he was not sure on what part. He said with the better chemicals and rock it is possible the chip seal could last more than five years and the county may be able to stretch it to six or seven years.

Strnad said it appears the road and bridge budget showed an increase of about \$20,000 before the chemicals were increased. She asked about the contractual services figure.

Way said he had it higher, but

the county used the tax money for striping. He said some of the cost is for rental and engineering for a bridge project. He said Penco paid a \$2,000 bill for bridge removal down south and will bill the county for that cost.

He said he had checked out a bridge down south where the planks came off. He said of the 34 wooden stringers 23 were broken by overloads. He said the road is closed at this time, and thinks the stretch of road is a candidate for minimum maintenance. He said he was not sure if there might be a penalty about taking the bridge out. He said the plan would make it a low water crossing on Road 26 south of Road 24 about five miles south. He said there is alternate access to the area.

Strnad asked about the repairs for the department as the budget is for \$180,000 and the department has used about \$90,000 this year.

Way said there are some items that will need to be done if we don't do something on a motor grader. He said they usually use that up before

the first of the year.

Strnad asked about an incident with a truck and losing an engine.

When asked Strnad said a new road and bridge employee was changing the oil in the truck he drove, and apparently forgot to put the new oil in and drove off without it causing the engine to seize.

Way said Steve Goodman, shop foreman, had dealt with the situation, and that it would probably cost \$30,000 or more to replace the engine.

On the other repairs Way said he needs to sit down with Goodman and talk about that. He said there are some things that the department could do repair work on.

Strnad asked why the truck drivers and grader operators do their own oil changes.

"I like to have them help as it is their responsibility and they know more about their equipment," Way said.

Strnad said the department is paying about \$145,000 for three mechanics as a package and wonders

why they are not doing more of the oil changes.

"I understand what you are saying," Way said. "I think it is good for the driver to help with the servicing. The mechanics do help."

"Most of the operators are mechanically inclined and know what is going on. The mechanics do help especially when they are doing a major service like at the 500 hours point."

"I like to be sure we have a nice checks and balances there," Strnad said.

"I think we have a good system," Way said, "and is doing well, in most cases."

Way said he always prepares for the worst possible situation for repairs, and always keeps it a bit high.

He said the budget does not include equipment, and he wanted to wait until after this review to check that out.

Homeowners given 90 days to clean up empty foundations

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James Clift, lives in Canon City, Colo., and he has not had any contact with him. He said he knows Clift received the hearing notice.

He said the fire department did some training in the house a couple of years back, and the last time he talked to Clift he was planning to get it torn out. Right now it is for sale, but it looks like a trash pile. His recommendation was to give Clift 90 days to clean it up or tear it out.

Rick and Mary Mills, who own the foundation at 419 Harrison, were present and told the commissioners they had planned to build a two-story house on the foundation, but had run into problems over the years and were never able to complete the project.

"It sits waiting to be developed," Rick Mills said. "We have been trying to sell it. Have had one offer, but it was not a fourth of what we were asking. The preference is to sell it. The foundation is sound and no sense to tear it out and start from scratch."

"We have done some additional work on the foundation, but our situation has changed. We no longer have family and do not need a two-story house."

Mayor Josh Dechant asked about the snow fence around the foundation.

Mills said he was told to do that by the building inspector.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks asked if there was a lot of trash in the basement, and how long has it been sitting there without a house.

Rick Mills said there was not much in the basement, but may be some things down there. Mary Mills said they were trying to keep the yard around the foundation mowed and cleaned up.

Rick Mills said he was not sure how long it has been without a house. He said he and his wife bought it in 1981 and moved out in 1990. It was torn down sometime after that.

Dechant said the city was trying to get the foundations cleaned up. He said if there are plans to do something they are all for that, but the city does want to get these cleaned up.

Rick Mills said they still owe some on the house, and did not want to tear the foundation out.

City Commissioner John Garcia asked James what he could recommend.

James said he recommendation was to give them 90 days.

City Commissioner Rick Billinger agreed there is a value to the foundation. He suggested that since it has not sold in a long time Mills might drop the price to get someone to buy it.

Mill said it was listed with a realtor. He said if they could get a reasonable offer they would sell it.

"It is a liability for the city and you," Billinger said. "If a kid were to get in there and get injured it would not be a good thing for either you or the city."

He suggested Mills might call a couple of contractors and see if they want to do something with the foundation. He said Mills might call the Tech College and ask them about doing a project using the foundation.

Dechant said the commission would grant 90 days to get a game plan in place, and encouraged the Mills' to stay in contract with James and City Manager Doug Gerber.

On the foundation at 1319 College Ave., James said no one was present and the owner lives out of town. He said this is a blight on the community, and recommended giving 90 days to clean it up.

Judy Haas was present to talk to the commissioners about the two old mobile homes she has on the lots at 714 and 718 Eustis Ave.

She said she had tried to get the trailers pulled out. She said she had one guy who was going to pull them out, but she told him they had to be pulled out the east. He tried to put one out to the west and found he could not do that, and bent the frame.

"He said he was done," Haas said. "I have tried for over two years and not found anyone to pull them out. I do not know who to talk to about it."

Dechant asked if the plan was to have the guys haul them off and they could have the trailer.

Haas said that was the deal, but once the frame was bent he said he was done.

Billinger said he would try to find someone who could pull the trailers out.

Haas said that would be good as she has run out of options.

Dechant said he appreciated that she had tried to get rid of the trailers.

The recommendation was to give her 90 days to get the trailers removed.

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Evening and Online Class Schedule August 2010

Class Title	Credits	Start Date & Time	Days
PE 120-1 Aerobics	1	August 24th 5:45-6:45am	T/TH
PE 105-1 Weight Lifting	1	August 26th 6:00-7:30pm	TH
HUM 110-1 Stained Glass	3	August 25th 6:00-9:00	W
AL 150-1 Certified Nurses Aid	6	Sept 8th 6:00-10:00pm	M/W
BA 100-1 Intro to Business	3	August 12th 8:00-9:00am	M/W/F
CF 101- Computer Fundamentals	3	August 23rd 7:05-825am or 9:05-10:25am or 10:35-11:55am	M/W
ENGL 105- Technical Writing	3	August 23rd 7:05-8:25am or 1:05-2:25pm	M/W
MATH 105- Tech Math	3	August 24th 9:05-10:25am or 10:35-11:55am	T/Th
PSY 176-1 Psychology	3	August 25th 12:00-3:00pm	W
HUM 105- Ethics	3	August 24th 9:05-10:25am or 1:05-2:25pm	T/Th
MATH 70-4 Prep Math	3	August 24th 9:05-10:25am	T/Th
BEH 105-1 Human Relations	3	August 24th 7:05-8:25am	T/Th
BA 120-1 Accounting I	3	10:00-11:30am	T/Th
BA 130-1 Leadership	3	8:00-9:30am	T/Th
MATH 100-1 Beginning Algebra	3	2:30-4:00pm	M/W
MATH 100-2 Beginning Algebra	3	1:05-2:25pm	M/W
BA 110-1 PC Software	3	11:00-12:00pm	M/W/F
ENGL 110-2 English Comp I	3	9:05-10:25am	M/W
COMM 140-1 Social Networking	1		T/Th
AL 212-1 & 213-1 Emergency Medical Technician	12	Oct 18th 6-10 pm	M/W
ENGL 110-1 English Comp I	3	Aug 26th 5-8 pm	Th
SCI 150-1 Earth Science	5	August 23rd 6:00-9:00pm	M/W
COMM 130-1 American Sign Language	3	August 23rd 4:00-5:00pm	M/W/F
MATH 115-10 College Algebra	3	August 23rd	Online
PSY 150-1 Psychology	3	August 23rd	Online
COMM 135-1 Conversational Spanish	3	August 23rd	Online
CF 101-10 Computer Fundamentals	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 106B-3 Intro to Transmissions in Telecommunications	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 156-3 Data Communications & LANs	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 232-3 Voice Communiations, A Technical Introduction	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 162B-3 VoIP	4	August 23rd	Online
TNA 216B-3 SONET	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 226-3 Code Division Multiple Access 2nd Generation	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 260-3 IP Networking & VPN's	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 265-3 CDMA 2000 & High Speed Mobile Internet 3rd Generation	4	August 23rd	Online
TNA 222B-3 Basics of Wireless Communication	4	August 23rd	Online
TNA 235-3 Fundamentals of Network Security	5	August 23rd	Online
TNA 220-4 Cisco Networking Academy I & II	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 270-3 Cisco Networking Academy III & IV	3	August 23rd	Online
CNT 147B-3 Basics of Telecommunications	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 280-3 Wireless LAN's	3	August 23rd	Online
CNT 131B-3 Digital Carrier, DSL, ADSL	3	August 23rd	Online
TNA 263-3 GSM	3	August 23rd	Online

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