

30-year-old transformer to be replaced

By Tom Betz
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Replacing the 30-year old 12000 KVA tie transformer will be expensive and take nearly a year city commissioners were told on Tuesday when they approved the purchase at a cost of \$648,200.

Rod Blake, power plant superintendent, and Charlie Bandel, distribution superintendent, were at the meeting to recommend purchase of a Waukesha transformer for \$576,950 and a fiber option wiring harness for \$71,250 for a total of \$648,200 from Mid-States Energy Works of Salina.

Blake said the 12000 KVA three-phase substation transformer is the one that ties the city to Sunflower.

City Manager Doug Gerber said it was the transformer that had problems a couple of years ago, and earlier this summer.

Bandel said the 30-year old transformer has done well, but agreed it needs to be replaced.

“When we had it open earlier the repair guy said he would believe it needs to be rebuilt in the next two to three years,” Blake said. “That is where we are at and why we are here.”

Commissioner Rick Billinger asked if the electrical department would keep the older one as a back-up.

“No,” Blake said. “Once you move it, it is mostly scrap and not good for anything else.

Commissioner John Garcia asked how long it would take to replace the existing transformer once the new one arrived.

Blake said it would take a week or two, and the city would be generating during that time. He said it is a 32 to 42 week lead time to get the transformer delivered. There are lots of details to be taken care of in that lead time, he said.

Gerber asked Blake to explain the SCADA system to be installed with

the transformer.

Blake said the SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system does away with lots of wires and runs through fiber optics. He said the system is a monitoring system connected to a computer.

“The new system will cut down on man hours of installation time,” he said, “and will make it easier to maintain.”

Gerber said the new system is much cheaper (\$71,250) than the old hard wire system that would be much more expensive.

Blake said the recommended transformer is a Waukesha, and it is state of the art in power transformers.

“The Waukesha is recommended by the experts in the industry,” Blake said. “The transformer has a good internal system to keep from having issues with wire shorts.”

Blake said the other two companies who submitted bids ABB, an international company with transformer plants in Missouri and Virginia (\$548,750), and General Electric, who was bidding a transformer built in Mexico (\$590,730), are both reputable, but for the price he said it is better to go with the Waukesha.

Garcia said from the specifications provided by Solomon Corporation of Solomon, Kan., the three look to be the same.

Blake said the specs are for the same type of transformer, and the differences are subtle.

“Hands down the Waukesha is the best to go with,” he said. “Actually the price is lower than I expected. Was told it was good timing and the guy said the transformer companies are not selling many of the big ones.”

Commissioner Dave Daniels made the motion seconded by Garcia and approved unanimously 5-0.



The transformer that would be replaced is located behind the city shop on Arcade Avenue. It allows the city to get their electricity from Sunflower Electric.

Photo by Josh Harenberg/The Goodland Star-News

Congressman accepting applications for academies

Congressman Jerry Moran announced that he is now accepting applications for nominations to the U. S. Service Academies. The academies include the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N. Y.; the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.; the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.; and the

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N. Y.

Those selected will enter the academies in June 2011.

Selections are based on SAT or ACT test scores, class rank, grade point average, school records, extracurricular activities, leadership potential, motivation, recommen-

dations and interview evaluations.

Applicants must be legal residents of the state of Kansas and the First District, at least 17 years of age but not past their 23rd birthday on July 1 of the year of admission, citizens of the United States, unmarried, not pregnant and without legal obligation to support children or other

dependents.

If nominated by Moran, the applicants then must meet the individual admission requirements of each academy.

The academies will make the final decision on who will receive an appointment of admission. Due to limited placement, Moran encour-

ages all interested candidates to also apply to the offices of U.S. Senators Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts.

Moran’s application deadline is Monday, Nov. 1. Interested applicants should send a letter requesting application materials to: Congressman Jerry Moran, Attn: Service Academy Selection, Box 1128,

Hutchinson, Kan. 67504-1128. Additional information is available by visiting the Services section on Moran’s Web site at www.jerrymoran.house.gov/.

Academy forum to be in Denver

U.S. Naval Academy Admissions officials invite all interested middle and high school students to attend an admissions information forum from 1 to 4 p.m. in Denver on Saturday, Sept. 25. The event will take place at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum located at 7711 E. Academy Blvd., Denver. Check-in begins at 12:30 p.m.

The program is an excellent opportunity to meet with the Naval Academy’s admissions staff and learn about the opportunities the Naval Academy has to offer. To register, please email your full name, number in party and email address to cgoevent@usna.edu and ensure that your subject line reads “Denver admissions forum registra-

tion.” Space is limited; attendees are encouraged to register early.

For more information about the event, contact the U.S. Naval Academy admissions office at (410) 293-1858.

For information about the U.S. Naval Academy admissions process, visit http://www.usna.edu/admissions.

Arts Center to hold kids’ class

A new feature at the Carnegie Arts Center will be monthly exhibits for elementary students in the basement.

Hannah Schlosser is in charge of the students’ exhibits as well as the two Saturday morning art classes to be offered each month. On Saturday

the first of the two classes on ancient art will be from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday. Kids will learn Egyptians hieroglyphics.

The second class for the month will be from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25. Kids will make a Mayan headdress.

The cost is \$3 for the classes.

The classes will have a common theme with the exhibit on display. Artwork from the main exhibit is taken to Wheat Ridge Acres for the residents to enjoy.

For information call (785) 890-6442.

Workshop being held for fund raising

The Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development is sponsoring a “Complete Fund-raising Workshop” from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Tuesday, October 12, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History Conference Room at Colby. The presenter will be Shannon Martin of Professional Grant Services.

Workshop topics include fund raising basics, long-range planning, special event planning, grant writing basics and publicity and marketing techniques. Those attending will leave with great ideas and an overview of each element in the fund raising

pyramid. At day’s end participants will have developed their own long-range fundraising and marketing plans.

Martin’s experience as a grant writer coupled with a background in marketing and fund-raising allows her to assist those from schools, non-profit organizations, government officials and others who need to raise funds and/or learn marketing techniques to help their organizations.

Registration fee will include helpful information, the cost of a resource packet and lunch. For registration information call (785) 462-7671 Extension 5.

corrections

In the cutline for the Main Avenue planters on Page 3 in the Tuesday edition of The Goodland Star-News the Shine on Sherman County Beautification Committee planted the planters and has been taking care of them instead of the Master Gardeners.

This was due to reporter error.

☆☆☆☆

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

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\$5,000 deposit due at sale, closing within 30 days.
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For more information, or to see the home ,
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