

# Former intern runs for state senate seat

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*  
A Goodland man is set to take on incumbent Stan Clark for the Kansas Senate seat for District 40, and he is asking for all the help he can get.

Dan Rasure, a 2001 Goodland High School graduate and son of Kevin and Christie Rasure, has thrown his hat in the ring with the goal of ensuring the survival of western Kansas. But he admits he can't do it alone.

"This election's an uphill battle," Rasure said. "I'll need a lot of effort, people to put up signs and knock on doors."

Rasure's campaign office will open Monday at 1011 Main and will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday

through Thursday and 6 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday.

Rasure invites all to come to his office for free coffee in the morning and to contact him any time to ask questions. His office phone number is 890-VOTE.

The most important issues, Rasure said, are economic development and the survival of western Kansas.

"We need to pass our values to the next generation," he said. "If we don't have the numbers here, we lose that opportunity."

Important to the survival and growth of the area, he said, are hospitals and schools.

Many towns in the district, like Tribune and Brewster, Rasure said,

depend on their schools for survival. If they lose their schools, he said, they lose their reason for people to live there.

Healthcare is also important to the area's survival, he said.

"Northwest Kansas has one of the largest numbers of aging," Rasure said. "We need to make sure we have enough doctors and nurses to take care of them to keep them here."

Also, he said, young families won't want to move to an area where there is no hospital.

Rasure, who served as an intern for four months for Congressman Jerry Moran and for a summer for U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, said he returned to Goodland from Washington to make western Kansas his home and to represent the area.

Rasure doesn't expect his representation to stop at maintaining the current state of the area.

"I do see growth," he said. "I wouldn't be back here if I didn't believe in western Kansas."

Rasure blames the state for many of the area's problems, for neglecting western Kansas.

"Topeka has done well taking care of themselves," he said. "We have fewer on welfare, but the costs still go up."

Getting ones who should be working off welfare is important, Rasure said, but so is reducing the administration costs in Topeka.

"I think government works best on the local level," he said. "It gets more scrutiny."

We see it on a day-to-day basis. The state takes away from that."

And he said the state's money

management has left cities and counties high and dry. Many cities and counties are on a raise freeze, he said, because of state money that was promised that was taken away.

Rasure said he will bring his work ethic from helping his parents at the lumber yard to Topeka and put it to work for western Kansas.

Rasure said he also takes to the job the things he learned about government operations in Washington and what he learned from Moran.

"Jerry Moran is a great teacher on how to treat Kansans," Rasure said. "With him, what you see is what you get. He's not a typical politician."

As for his opponent, Rasure said Clark has failed education and doesn't have the personality to bring economic development to western Kansas.

"I feel he hasn't come through on

education," Rasure said. "He votes on appropriations, but that's just a political move."

Economic development is going to take someone who gets along with the rest of the senators, Rasure said.

"That's Stan Clark's biggest weakness," Rasure said, "his relationship with other senators."

Rasure, out of high school for not quite three years, said some might view his age as his biggest weakness, but he sees it as an advantage.

"Some might view my age as a disadvantage," he said, "but it will attract a lot of attention. It will make me stand out."

Rasure said he always thought of politics as a second career, and after talking to others, he is now ready to take this opportunity.

# Final payments made on projects

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Final payments were approved on two airport projects Monday, and the city commission approved engineering design contracts for the airport crosswind runway lighting and the brick intersection replacement projects.

Following the joint meeting with the Sherman County commissioners the city commission held their regular meeting and approved payments to Evans Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for costs involved in the Renner Field property acquisition project and the asphalt crack repair and slurry sealing project.

The property acquisition was for and additional environmental study that was required as part of the 2.2 acres of land the city had to purchase. The study cost \$1,320, and Darin Neufeld of EBH said the city would be reimbursed for 90 percent of the cost through the Federal Aviation Administration.

On the crack repair and slurry sealing project Neufeld said this was the final payment. The city approved paying \$5,247 to EBH which brings the total engineering cost to \$23,000.

The commissioners approved a request for payment from the Kansas Department of Transportation for \$9,857 for the state's part of the crack repair and slurry seal project. The total project cost \$189,800, and the state had agreed to pay \$139,000 or 75 percent of the project cost. This is the final amount to be repaid by the state.

Engineering design and construction service contracts were approved by the commission for the upcoming project to put runway lights on the crosswind runway and taxiway. The total project is estimated at \$170,000 with the state transportation department providing a grant for 75 percent of the cost. The city total cost will be about \$55,000 and will include the engineering costs.

The contract with EBH is for \$12,500 in engineering design costs and a maximum of \$22,000 for engineering construction costs. Neufeld said the project should be an add on to the current project which will replace the runway and taxiway lights on the main north-south runway this spring.

The commission approved an engineering contract with EBH for the design and construction work on the replacement of the brick inter-

sections at 11th and 12th and Main. This project is estimated to total \$412,350 with the city putting in \$230,000 because the state grant will not pay for the storm sewer work to be done at the 12th street intersection.

Engineering design costs for the two intersections will cost \$34,000, and the construction services are to be no more than \$58,000. Neufeld said he believed the construction service will be less than \$20,000, unless they run into unexpected problems. He said the engineering costs include the storm sewer.

Commissioner Dean Blume asked if there was a specific deadline for having this project completed. Neufeld said there was not a specific date, and that the timing will be worked out with the downtown revitalization group to be able to use the brick intersections as the public match for the grant program.

I have not heard the specifics from the downtown group, but I understand they did not get the response they needed to do the whole project, Neufeld said.

In other business the commission:

- Approved an ordinance establishing the policy and rates for commercial security lights. The city will install security lights in commercial applications, and will charge \$7 per month for a 100 watt light; \$14 a month for a 250 watt light and \$32 a month for a 1,000 watt light.

Pickman said this is to implement the policy the commission approved last year, and states that the city will not install security lights on private property, but will only install those in commercial situations when a property owner requests.

- Reappointed Harold Gillihan to the Goodland Housing Authority for a four-year term.

- Reappointed Sharon Mann and Tony Kafka to the Goodland Cemetery Board for three-year terms.

- Approved Payment of bills totaling \$454,551.

The next city commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 2, in the commission room on the second floor of the administration building 204 W. 11th.

## Stopping the leaks



Joey Snethen of the city's water department looked for water leaks as a co-worker watch for cave-ins Tuesday morning under 17th Street, between Clark and Broadway Avenues. Two separate leaks were found and repaired.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

# Future water, sewer system needs reviewed

CITY, from Page 1

He said the city boom truck has developed a problem which is a safety issue and it needs to be replaced.

"I see some headaches in front of us," Pickman said.

Pickman said the city park crew is suggesting that they could help put in a sprinkler system in the city parks, and are going to shape the edges of Gulick Park to improve the looks and the drainage.

He said they will get a bid on the parts for sprinkler system for all

three parks, and if the price is reasonable they will recommend the purchase with the idea the parks crew can install the system over the next year or two.

He said the estimated cost for Gulick is \$6,900, \$13,000 for Steever and \$5,000 for Chambers.

"We have excellent workers and it is great to have them bringing us cost saving ideas," Pickman said.

Commissioner Dean Blume said he was glad to hear about the city workers ideas.

Billinger asked about the swimming pool problem and what was

happening.

Pickman said the contractor and the pool installer are arguing about who's fault it is.

"We are trying to get an agreement, but if we don't get it done soon we will have to go to mediation on this," Pickman said.

Neufeld was asked about the status of Pioneer Park, and he said the plans are in Topeka for final approval. He said he was recently notified by the Division of Water Resources that they needed to review the plans.

"We will be ready to go out to bid as soon as the plans come back from Topeka," Neufeld said.

## corrections

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