

Confusion about the use of county cell phones and the number of different plans had the commissioners scratching their heads, but at last Tuesday’s meeting they discussed a new plan.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he checked into getting two plans with five phones each to cover the county departments. Tiede said the plans would allow free mobile-to-mobile calls, and would cost \$100 a month less than the county pays now. He said, however, the plans would have 200 fewer minutes than the old ones.

The commissioners agreed that there are to be no personal calls made on the county cell phones. If that is being abused, they said, the phone will be taken away.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas moved to accept Alltel’s proposal for the two plans for a base cost of \$199 per month before taxes are added.

Tiede asked the other commissioners if they use personal cell phones for business. Rasure said he did not have a cell phone, and Thomas said he did use his for county business, but it has not cost him any extra.

Tiede said he had to increase the minutes on his cell phone plan after becoming a commissioner, and that he uses it a lot for county business.

The commissioners had previously discussed allowing \$15 a month to employees who use their personal cell phone, and decided that Tiede, Deputy Burton Pianalto, Deputy Brad Parker, Deputy Jason Showalter and rural Fire Chief Kenny Griffith would be paid \$15 a month for use of their cell phone and the amount would be taxable to the employee.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Reappointed Kenny Sanderson, who had recently moved back to Goodland, to

the Smoky Gardens board, and approved the Community Fisheries Assistance Program agreement with the state Department of Wildlife and Parks.

- Approved a \$1,000 payment to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter for this year.
- Approved paying the Local Environment Protection Group \$880 for fees this year.
- Discussed bids for adding electrical service at the county fairgrounds. Midwest Energy will donate a pole and set it for the county. The fair board has agreed to help pay for the project to add outlets in the park west of the Agriculture building. Thomas and William McKnight, building superintendent, were to meet with the electrical bidders to work out the details.
- Received a resignation from Cris Lovington, former Prevention Center specialist, from the Juvenile Justice board. The commissioners will need to find a replacement.
- Heard Tiede report there was some paperwork that needed to be signed for a grant for the new Goodland fire truck. Rasure made a motion to approve the grant agreement.
- Heard an update from Tracy Hillmer from High Plains Mental Health and Meripat Bowman, head of Golden West Community Services, representing the High Plains Mental Health advisory board. Hillmer said the Goodland office continues to be busy, and they get a lot of referrals.

She said several of their staff members have been trained to deal with stress situations such as helping those involved as a result of a bad accident. Bowman said she needs the commissioners to appoint an alternate to the advisory board to go to meet-

ing when she is not available. The commissioners asked Bowman to let them know if she has a candidate.

- Approved an agreement with Trego County Juvenile Detention Center for \$145 a day to house juveniles. The commissioners asked Sheriff Kevin Butts if he had a chance to talk with the Garden City Detention Center. Butts said he would get in touch with Garden City to see what their rates are. Rasure made a motion to approve the agreement with Trego County.
- Heard County Attorney Bonnie Selby say she would be turning in a bill for prisoner medical care from St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver for Michael Douglas Whitaker, who was shot by Wildlife officer Michael Hopper while resisting arrest for stabbing Rustin Leiker in November.

Getting ready for new bridge



Workers unloaded I-beams for the new bridge on K-27, about eight miles south of Goodland, from a truck Monday next to the site of the old bridge. The new bridge project is to begin in March with L and M Contractors of Great Bend as the contractor at a cost of \$2,924,274

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Vehicle needs reviewed

The county road and bridge department wants to replace a Freightliner truck and a pickup, among other items, Sherman County commissioners heard last Tuesday.

Public Works Manager Curt Way told the commissioners the department would like to buy a used tractor and trailer, trading in the 1991 Freightliner. Way said this would cost about \$40,000 with trade.

The commissioners suggested Way draw up specifications for the tractor and then check with local vendors and with Hays Mack Truck to see what is available.

Way said he wants to replace the pickup that Superintendent Butch Vandiver drives, which has 137,000 miles on, and an old Ford Crown Victoria which has the transmission

out. He would like to find a used pickup to replace the car.

Replacement of a 1973 scraper, or earth mover, is another item on Way’s list. He said the steering valve is out, and it will cost \$4,000 for a new valve. That and other repairs would have to be made in Topeka, Way said, estimating the cost at \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Way said a used scraper would cost between \$150,000 to \$180,000. He would keep the 1976 scraper and trade the 1973 in.

The commissioners told Way to contact Martin Tractor and see what they have. Way said he would check with Wagoner’s, another dealer, as well.

He suggested replacing the old Ford with a regular pickup.

The commissioners told Way he

should check the driver’s license records of his employees.

Later, Way asked for a closed door session to discuss a personnel matter. The commissioners were in closed session for 10 minutes. After that, Commissioner Mitch Tiede made a motion to allow a raise for Noel Ramirez from \$8.15 per hour to \$9 per hour. The motion passes unanimously.

Later in the meeting, the commissioners discussed the salary increases for all departments for the year, and decided that a memo should be sent to all departments saying they have a 5 percent total for raises that is to be divided between all employees at the discretion of the department head.

The commissioners will review the department recommendations.

Chamber looks ahead to next year

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

As the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce looks ahead to next year at its annual banquet next week, the business promotion committee is investigating adding a spring festival to the schedule.

At a board meeting Tuesday, Chamber President Donna Swager said the committee is looking into something that would bring people into town and keep them here to shop.

“Even if we bring people to town,” she asked, “how do we get them into the stores?”

The committee, Swager said, is considering adding on to an existing program like the Home and Garden show.

The Chamber, Swager said,

could set up a booth at the show and hand out fliers for special discounts.

The newest board member, Karen Ginther, said if the Chamber offered some sort of barbecue downtown, people might come for the food and stay for the shopping.

The group also talked about sponsoring the Rattlesnake Roundup or a railroad festival.

Swager said since Goodland was founded around the railroad it might be neat to have a rail festival. The

committee considered hosting an exhibition of miniature trains and life-sized locomotives.

The railroad idea, board members agreed, could bring in enthusiasts from other towns.

Swager said the promotions committee is excited about starting something up by the spring of 2006.

“We’re looking down the road at more festivals,” Swager said, “I think if there’s going to be festivals in town, it’s going to be up to us.”

Post office spreads word

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Post Office warns people to be on the lookout for “work-at-home-scams” in its seventh annual National Consumer Protection Week campaign.

Postmaster Steven Schultz said the campaign is set up to warn people of fraud.

“If it sounds too good,” he said, “it’s probably a fraud.”

The scams include offers for envelope stuffing, he said, product assembly or craft work, medical billing and reshipping.

“I think it’s getting worse and worse,” he said.

Some of the mail scams, he said, ask consumers to buy an address list for envelope stuffing.

A statement from the Postal Service said people should remember the three Cs — caution, common sense and community resources.

“A single call to the Better Business Bureau or the local consumer protection agency may be all it takes

to avoid a costly mistake,” it said.

Schultz gave a few tips:

- Don’t give out personal information to anyone you don’t know.
- Be suspicious of any offer that doesn’t pay a regular salary or involves an overseas company.
- Check out the company with the Federal Trade Commission, Better Business Bureau or state attorney general.

Schultz said protection from the scams is especially important to the elderly and those with low income, who can easily fall prey.

corrections

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

student of the week



Name: Katrina Cotter
Parents: Robert and Cheryl Cotter
Grade: Junior
Age: 16
We’ve nominated this student because: Katina is interested in learning. She is an energetic and conscientious student and enjoyable to have in class.

Student Comment: My favorite aspect of school life is being with my fellow classmates. I’ve always liked my math classes and accounting has become another favorite subject. I will always

remember all the exciting and fun trips taken in high school.

Activities involved in at school: Band, volleyball and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

My choice of movies, books, and games: I like a variety of music and movies. Scary and funny movies are my favorite. I enjoy reading mysteries and love to play boggle, yahtzee, sequence and pinocle.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to college. I’m looking at Kansas State University to be an accountant.

And 10 years from now, I think I’ll be: working as an accountant and maybe starting a family of my own.

Favorite Quote: “God always answers our prayers. Either he changes the circumstances, or He supplies sufficient power to overcome them.”

Anonymous

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New on the Market



309 Willow....Located across from Rosewood park this tri-level offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, open kitchen and dining area, family room in lower level, double attached garage. A nice home for the family. Priced at \$78,500. For more information contact Terry or our new sales agent Jana Fairchild



708 Washington..... A brick home for only \$68,000? Here it is. 3 bedrooms on main floor, 2 baths, formal living room and combination dining area/family room off kitchen. Utility room on main floor, basement open and ready for you to finish as you like. Attached garage and large lot with an east side location.



241 Cherry.... Don't wait long on this one. The VA's loss is your gain. This home consists of 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large family room in lower level with utility area off family room, attached double garage located close to North School. Priced at only \$45,500..



1103 Main ...One of the highest quality buildings on Main with a prime location. 7,000 sq. ft. of open retail space, over 4,000 sq. ft. in basement, small second story office and bathroom in back of building. This building has had high maintenance and is in excellent condition. For information on these or one of our other great listings give any of our staff at Homestead Realty a call.

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