County reviews trash bailer building plan

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News The new trash bailer will arrive next spring, and Sherman County commissioners are moving ahead with plans for the building addition at the transfer station to house the equipment.

Curt Way, public works director, talked to the commissioners Wednesday about a proposed construction management agreement with Rhoads Construction to get the building project moving.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he would listen to the discussion, but would not be voting because of a potential conflict of interest in the project.

"We need to get the ball rolling to havethebuildingupbythetimethetrash

He showed the commissioners a outside if necessary.' proposal letter from Rhoads laying part of a construction management what the fee from Rhoads would be. agreement.

The letter said Rhoads would socounty could review the bids to determine which one would build the tor building. building. The county could choose the materials, and what parts of the project Rhoads would monitor.

Way said asking Rhoads to handle the construction management would insure the project would be done in but that would have to be coordian organized manner. 'Rhoads will do the scheduling

and watch over the project," Way tors for specific parts of the project, might have to be an outside contrac-

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said out what the company would do as it sounded good, but wondered

Way said he did not have a formal quote from Rhoads, but expected it licit bids from contractors, and the would be about 10 percent on top of the actual cost of the trash compac-

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked what portion of the project could the county do.

Way said he thought the county could get the concrete work done, nated with the contractor for the building to be sure it is coordinated.

He said the leachate collection said. "They will seek local contrac- system is one area where there compactorarrives next year," Waysaid. and have contacts to find people tor who is qualified through the

state Department of Health and En- we can negotiate with the city about Lumber could benefit from the purvironment.

The commissioners agreed to have Way negotiate with Rhoads on a formal construction management agreement to be presented at the next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 9.

'The baling system will give us more options," Way said, "especially when there is bad weather. We won't have to go to Finney County like we did after the rain Monday. It was nice to have the rain, but we were not able to use the landfill."

As part of the bailer project the county will have to upgrade the power at the transfer station Way said.

"The city will have to upgrade the power to three phase," he said. "We need to have it underground from the entrance to the building. Maybe conflict of interest where Rasure paid out of the solid waste fund.

the cost."

Way said he talked to Charlie pactor building. Bandel, electric distribution superintendent from the city, about the need for more power and the transfer station, and was told the city will have to bring in new lines to upgrade the power.

"I will cost a little more," Tiede said, "but we need to get it right. We are doing a major facelift.

"We need to keep this project moving forward to be ready when the bailer shows up in the spring."

Tiede made the motion to give Way permission to contact Rhoads about the management agreement and Thomas seconded. Rasure abstained because of the potential

chase of materials for the trash com-

The commissioners discussed the payment schedule for the bailer. They approved a down payment of \$58,000 in May, which was 20 percent on the bailer and 20 percent on the conveyor.

Under the contract for the bailer the county will pay another 20 percent about two months before it is shipped, and 50 percent when it is shipped.

The bailer and conveyor are to be delivered in early spring, and the commissioners expect to make the second payment of \$45,000 in December. The total price of the conveyor and bailer is \$319,000 to be

School to start drug testing

SCHOOL, from Page 1a

an activity)," he said, "wouldn't you be strong enough to say 'no'?"

Short added students would have an extra reason to get and stay clean.

"You straighten up," he said coaches could tell students. "You can do it."

Doke said the boundaries for the testing would help to give kids warnings before they were kicked out of the activity all together.

"They'll say, I better not do that again," he said. Swager said a national drug testing representative told him extra curricular participation increased by 11 percent nationally when schools started drug testing.

He said the representative said kids liked having an "out" when it came to drug use.

"It surprised me," said Swager. "I thought there would be a decline.'

Board members asked about a suggestion to drug test coaches, too.

"I don't think anyone is opposed to it," Swager said adding the cost is what limits the school.

Selby said because of teacher contracts, the district does not test teachers. Certified staff could only be tested on a volunteer basis.

"I don't see why the kids have to be (tested) if the Jane Philbrick. adults aren't," said Deeds.

He added a high school coach could be addicted to prescription drugs and no one would know about it.

"You're sending the wrong message there," Deeds said. "You're saying kids are bad, adults are good." Swager said school administrators can test teach-

ers if they have just cause or reason to believe they are doing drugs.

He added the goal for drug testing is to help kids fight peer pressure. He said adults can say 'no,' but peer pressure is a strong force for a teenager.

Board member Amy Sederstrom said when she was a NCAA athlete competing in track and field, she was tested for drugs.

"I had no problem with it," she said. "It makes it a level playing field."

Sederstrom said she felt better knowing others weren't using performance enhancing drugs.

Doke said starting drug testing in high school is a good life lesson.

"There kids are gonna have a good chance of being tested later on," he said adding he worked for a company where he was randomly tested for drugs. Doke said as an adult, some people are tested and

their lively hood is in the balance.

Melia said he is always weary of doing something that other schools in the area aren't doing yet. He added a similar program was well received in Brewster, and ensuring that kids stay off drugs is important.

We want to protect our kids," he said.

Swager asked if the district would like to have an outside group perform the test or if they should test in-house.

"We want an outside group," said board president

"You can't take the chance," added Doke.

The board agreed to implement the program for the 2005 to 2006 school year.

Details will be determined by the drug testing committee and approved by the board later.

Philbrick said the drug testing will be reviewed again next year to determine if it has been effective.

City to raise utility rates, taxes

BUDGET, from Page 1a

do a rate study and look at what might be needed. She said it could be done later in the year, but the numbers have to be plugged into the budget.

"How often can we change the rates?" askedCommissionerDechant. "As often as we have to," Volk replied.

"We need that wind power to help, Commissioner Annette Franklin said. "We've got to think out of the box to make this happen."

The new power purchase contract signed with Goodland Energy Resources will be a positive part of the electrical rate adjustment. The contract approved last Thursday, calls for the city to purchase power at 47 cents per kilowatt hour for five years once the new coal-fired power plant comes on line in the fall next year.

An addendum to the contract says the city and Goodland Energy Resources will negotiate over the next 90 days a short term contract to cover the period between June and September next year. The city's contract with Sunflower Electric is due to end on May 31, and the new power plant is expected to be in operation by September.

Rod Blake, city power plant superintendent, and Mark Justus, of Renewable Resources, told the city they would work together to find a

power source to protect the city dur- (50.06 mills for 2004) was lower ing the summer months next year.

The commission decided not to raise the sewer rates in the budget city was higher than Colby (37.87) for next year, but there was a consensus among the commissioners that once a plan for a new sewage treatment plant is determined the rates will have to increase to pay for the new plant. Estimated cost to replace the sewage treatment plant range from \$4-\$7 million.

The budget includes a maximum five percent merit pay raise for city employees. These raises will be reviewed on the employees annual hire date, and raises may range from one percent to five percent based on safety area improvement. the recommendation from the department head.

There is an increase of \$8,000 for the library with half going to electric costs and about \$2,000 for raises for the library employees.

In his report Jim VonFeldt, auditor from VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt of Larned, said the city was financially in good shape, but did mention the drop in water revenues and the slim margins in sewer and electric as areas for the commission to watch in the future.

In the audit report VonFeldt presented charts, which compared Goodland's mill levy and total dollars levied per person to surrounding cities.

Comparing cities Goodland lighting project.

than Concordia (55.47), Russell (53.60) and Larned (73.84). The and Paola (44.24).

Looking at the total dollars levied per person Goodland was the second lowest at \$727 with Larned being the lowest at \$650. The highest was Paola \$994, Colby \$860, Russell \$788 and Concordia \$730.

Other items on the commission agenda for Monday:

 Appointment of Jeff Mason as city attorney replacing Peery Warren who retired at the end of July.

• Approval of bids for the runway

· Approve a change order for the airport lighting project.

 Approve an ordinance explaining the increase in tax revenue needed for the 2006 budget.

 Approve payments to Miller Construction for work completed on the Pioneer Park project. Approve payments to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for engineering work on the Pioneer Park project. Approve payment to Strukel Electric for work done on the airport lighting project. Approve requests for reimbursement from the Kansas Department of Transportation for the Pioneer Park project, and from the Federal Aviation Administration for the airport

Edson gym opening delayed

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The doors of the old Edson school plan to open the gym ready or not, and set up before opening. gym will stay closed for another Soper will wait and set up before "We'll wait until we have it

him about two weeks, from Aug. 5. nia. Now he wants to fill the gym Instead of following his original with items from his storage lockers

Crossword Puzzle

Going to the Dogs

ACROSS

month as the California man who purchased the building has been delayed again.

Jeff Soper was forced to put off the opening of the new Flea and Farmers Market slated to go into the gym.

"I had a little setback," he said, explaining that his step-mother, Mary, fell and broke her hip last weekend.

He said Mary suffers from Alzheimer's Disease and his 81year-old father, Lou, can no longer take care of her himself.

"I'm doing the best I can," he said. "My family comes top priority."

Soper has set the new date of arrival for mid September.

He said the accident will delay

opening. He bought the gym to use as a resent the gym positively." market to sell items he buys from

auctioned off storage units. Soper decided to wait to open the

gym because he wants to be the representative of his business.

"I want to represent what I'm trying to do," he said, adding he is interested in helping the community grow and have a place for commerce.

"I do have an attitude. It's not a bad attitude, it's an 'I'm gonna succeed attitude.' There's nothing negative about me."

He had planned to leave the business in the hands of others while he traveled back and forth to Califorright," he said. "I just want to rep-

Soper is planning to bring Lou and Mary to Kansas to live with him, too, but will wait to make solid arrangements.

With the extra time, Soper has made arrangements to add carpeting to the gym. He said the addition will help protect the gym floor.

He recently bought a commercial grill and stove and chairs for an outdoor concession stand.

Soper said he is still excited to check out the gym and the area. He apologized for keeping everyone waiting, too.

"I just feel bad because I know everyone's waiting for me," he said.



July 18-Aug. 13

With every car purchased

Taylor Motors

will contribute **\$250** to the County Fair/Carnival/4-H of your choice!!



"Used Car Headquarters of NW Kansas!"

GM

At Southwind Plaza, Colby, KS ~ 460-3317

www.taylor-motors.com ~ 800-834-2338 •



67. It ebbs and flows 68. Operatic Pinza

- 69. "Goodnight" girl of
- song
- (substitutes)

10. Eisenhower, as a collegian

8. Yeats and Keats,

for two

9. Second

- 36. Generic pooch
- 38. Door sign
- 42. Poet Percy
- Shelley

45. Gas in signs

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:



1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735 (785) 899-2338