

Midwest Energy projects need county right of way

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 Midwest Energy is working on two power line extension projects in Sherman County, and a field service representative told the county commissioners Tuesday both projects may need to use the county right of way.
 Chad Zimmerman from Midwest said the two projects will be done this summer. The first is an extension of the three-phase service to the Goodland Energy Center for their construction work and for permanent service to the site for lighting. He said the existing service on the north side of Northern Sun is three-phase, and they will extend it 900 feet north, and bore under the county road to the site.

"Everything they want on the site is underground," Zimmerman said, "except for the construction phase, which will be overhead lines."
 "They are sort of in a hurry for this one, and we will be doing it in the next 60 days."
 The commissioners said as long as it was done along the edge of the right of way they did not see a problem.
 Curt Way, public works director, was at the meeting and said he had no problem with the plan as presented.
 Zimmerman said the second project is east of Edson, where Charlie Coffey wants three irrigation wells put on three-phase power. He said there is three-phase service within three miles down County Road 30.

"We would come down the county right of way for three miles," Zimmerman said, "and cross the road to feed the wells. I asked Curt and he said it would be up to the county commissioners."
 Way said the problem with some of the county roads is there is no right of way.
 "They are listed as county roads," Way said, "but not really opened with a right of way."
 Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if it was cheaper to use poles than go underground.
 "Poles are four times cheaper than underground," Zimmerman replied.
 Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he did not see a problem with the plans for the second project. Tho-

mas and Rasure agreed.
 Dorendo Harrel, county health director, updated the commissioners on a mass clinic exercise to be held at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Elks Lodge to give workers experience in handling a large number of people who might need shots in an emergency.
 She told the commissioners they will be giving school kids tetanus boosters, and knows there are 95 who have signed up to receive shots. She is hoping for a total of about 126 when the clinic is done.
 Harrel said the county has a new grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for a pandemic outbreak and has received \$3,863 to help handle planning and the possibility of having to quaran-

tine people for up to two weeks.
 "I think something will happen," Harrel said, "even if it is not the bird flu. I have already done the survey and am getting the paperwork together. We don't have much choice."
 Harrel asked for a closed session with the commissioners to talk about a personnel issue. The commissioners approved the closed session for 15 minutes. When they returned to open session, no action was taken.
 In other business, the commissioners:
 • Approved a special resolution for Gary Rogers, emergency preparedness manager, establishing his authority for declaring an emergency. County Clerk Janet Rumpel

said the resolution does not have a date, and can be filled out by Rogers if there is an emergency. The resolution would be good for seven days once it is filled out.
 • Approved emergency vehicle registrations for volunteers the Goodland Rural Fire Department. Rasure said the new rural fire truck was to be delivered on Saturday. The commissioners received a notice that Hays Fire, sold the truck, was contesting a \$100 a day penalty the county imposed for being over 30 days late.
 • Approved a contract for the Rural Life to use the fairgrounds in June, waiving all the fees.
 • Approved bills for \$174,264, including one check that is waiting on documentation of the bill.

Commissioners hear positive report on county hospital

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 On-site audit work at Goodland Regional Medical Center is done, and the administrator told Sherman County commissioners Tuesday he expects to have a positive report by mid-May.
 Jay Jolly told commissioners he thought there would be some positive additions to the hospital's income from last year.
 "I anticipate a good audit report," Jolly said. "We expect positive ad-

justments of about \$138,000. The cost report adjustments have not been completed, but we hope that will be positive as well.
 "It will probably not be as sterling as last year, but should be good. This year, we have had two profitable months in January and February. March patient numbers are more like normal, back down.
 "Outpatient was down in January, but back to normal in February. The trends are down. Obstetrics was down last year, but this year we

are already ahead at least from what we know so far."
 Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if the outpatient program continues to grow.
 Jolly said that it does, but the inpatient numbers are trending down. He said the doctors from Associated Surgeons out of Denver have seen about 90 patients and have done several procedures. The hospital has not had a resident surgeon since September. The hospital is using the contract service from

Denver until they can recruit a more permanent surgeon. In the past the hospital has worked with the Citizens Medical Center of Colby to share a surgeon.
 Improvements in telemedicine technology may help with the surgery process, he said. He said it already helps the surgeons keep track of patients after the operation, and allows a nurse and doctor in Denver to monitor the patient's recovery.
 Jolly said these improvements

will allow the surgeons to do more major procedures in the next few months.
 He said the ophthalmology department is adding more services, and this has been a good growth area.
 The hospital is working with the University of Kansas and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs to add a sight clinic, he said.
 Jolly said one good thing is that when they renewed the hospital's insurance coverage, the cost dropped by about \$15,000 because they switched carriers for professional liability.
 He said the hospital continues working on an electronic medical records project, now adding the lab site.
 "This is a long, tedious technical project," Jolly said, "and we will eventually have it all together in one secure data file for both the hospital and the clinic side."
 He said the hospital is working on

a strategic plan for the future through a cooperative with the Hays hospital as the anchor.
 "Quality is the area we are focusing on," Jolly said. "How to help save lives by improving quality of care and improving the consistency of the delivery of health care."
 Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the hospital's financial condition looks good and the progress sounds impressive.
 Jolly said the hardest thing is to recruit doctors. He said they had a visit from one in the last week, but the young doctor decided Goodland did not have the volume he was looking for.
 "I think we did," Jolly said. "We are looking at a couple of others, and maybe even one or two in-house we may try to help further their education."
 The commissioners said they would be willing to help as long as the person is willing to complete a contract by working at the hospital.

County sends paperwork to start sale tax

ROADS, from Page 1
 Cowan said he recommended the commissioners get bond insurance for this size of issue. He said the insurance, for the payment of principal and interest, enhances the credit rating of the bonds.
 "You can get lower interest rates by having the bonds insured," Cowan said. "That usually gives them a Triple-A rating. It would take two to three weeks. You would probably be able to have the money by the first of June.
 "If the city is ready this summer, I think it makes sense to move ahead with the bond issue. If not, we may

want to wait a month or two before we move forward."
 Cowan said the next thing that needs to be done is the agreement between the city and county on how the money is going to be spent. He suggested there be a process for the city to draw on the money.
 Rasure and Tiede said that is what they were thinking about, having the city present bills for the work to the county to have them paid out of the bond money.
 Rasure suggested that Rumpel and City Clerk Mary Volk could get with Cowan's staff to work out the details.
 Cowan said Rasure had asked

about having a financial advisor for the bond issue.
 "Yes, for a bond issue of this size," Cowan said. "We are the bond attorneys, but we may need to have someone look it over to be sure everything is in proper structure. An advisor may see something we might not know.
 "We do need a feasibility study, by law, to show that the bonds will be paid off by the sales tax. We could do the study, but it might be better to have a third party do the study."
 Cowan said he could send the commissioners a short list of people who might handle the study, and a

couple of bond insurers who could handle this size of issue.
 "The cost of insurance is another cost on the project," Cowan said, "but may be more than paid for if they can help reduce the interest rates."
 Rasure said he would talk to the city about their plans, and they would let Cowan know.
 Rasure said he was on the city agenda Monday to talk to the city commissioners about the election results and the bond issue.
 The next county meeting will be at 8 a.m. next Tuesday in the commission room on the main floor of the courthouse, 813 Broadway.

Hospital under pressure to publish care prices

HOSPITAL, from Page 1
 Hopkins, Jolly said; that's the standard. But they don't include information on Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements for the hospitals, he said; their reimbursements are the worst. The web site gives information

on fighting "excessive" hospital charges, how to protect your credit rating when you have medical bills and a list of federal poverty guidelines to qualify for charity care.
 Goodland's hospital offers charity care to patients who earn up to 150 percent of the poverty level,

Precht said, and writes off the entire bill. You're either in or out, he said. Patients have to turn in documentation, he said, in order to qualify. On the web site, the Fairness

Foundation says it was founded in 1998 to help low-income children to gain access to better education and to help those without health insurance to get good health care.

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Brewster All-Star Booster Club
Calendar for April 5 - April 11
Wednesday: Western Kansas Liberty League Speech/Drama at Tribune, 10 a.m.; Western Kansas Liberty League AD meeting in Tribune, 1 p.m.
Friday: Junior High track meet at Weskan, 2 p.m.
Saturday: High School golf in Oberlin, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday: High School track at Oakley; 10:30 a.m.; golf in Goodland, 2 p.m.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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CLUES ACROSS
 1. Political action committee
 4. British fools
 9. Quick
 14. Self-esteem
 15. High-altitude habitation
 16. Cocoa plum tree
 17. ___ Trump, magnate
 19. Expungings
 21. Imbued
 22. Of urea
 23. Predictors
 24. Academic terms
 28. Rug at the door
 29. Article
 30. Original matter
 31. A nomad
 33. Paragons
 37. 3rd tone of the scale
 38. Ed Murrow's network
 39. Not showing effort or strain
 41. A way to attack
 42. Element
 43. Principle
 44. Extremely angry
 46. Pueblo Indian vessel
 49. Sodium
 50. ___na cum laude
 51. Longings
 55. Fireplace (Brit.)
 58. End
 59. Stated
 60. Family parties
 63. ___-eye dog
 64. Unoriginal
 65. Fitzgerald and Blame
 67. Louie ___, comedian
 68. Unrefined
 69. Coarse hominy (plural)
 70. On the go without aim

CLUES DOWN
 1. ___trian — person on foot
 2. Past (archaic)
 3. Declares reprehensible
 4. Biblical country
 5. Spawning ground
 6. One of the six noble gases
 7. String
 8. Body fluid
 9. Gets up
 10. Sharp-sightedness
 11. Small package
 12. Frozen Italian dessert
 13. Runs PCs
 18. Subtle sensory stimuli
 20. Living
 24. Speaks, archaic
 25. Providing
 26. Pay
 27. Strike sharply
 31. The real ___
 32. White poplar tree
 34. Killer whales
 35. Element
 36. A slimed quality
 40. Indicates position
 41. Bargaining
 45. Stove
 47. Missing part
 48. Gladiatorial fighting places
 52. Grow on fingers and toes
 53. Equal, prefix
 54. Endangered Hawaiian geese
 56. Lotte ___, Kurt Weill singer
 57. Bordered
 59. As fast as can be done, abbr.
 60. Corpuscle count, abbr.
 61. Human sound receptor
 62. Patty Hearst's captors
 66. Lumen

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The pins are \$3.49 each and are available at *The Goodland Star-News* office, 1205 Main. Pins are on sale at Stagesop Sinclair station, Goodland Regional Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary gift shop, KOA Kampground, Bowmans Heating and Air Conditioning and at The Total Look beauty shop.

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