

County, city narrow list for bond financial advisor

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 County commissioners and members of the city commission met Tuesday to talk about the first steps to get the joint road improvement project moving.
 Collection of the new one-cent sales tax will begin in July to pay for the \$12 million-plus city-county road improvement project, but city officials told the county commissioners Tuesday they are ready to begin work on two projects, replacement of the intersections on Caldwell at Eighth and Armory Road with concrete paving.
 City Manager Wayne Hill, City Clerk Mary Volk, City Commissioners Josh Dechant and Annette

Fairbanks and Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who has handled many city projects, attended the county meeting to talk about the design work for the road projects.
 County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had looked at a list of financial advisors for the bond issue, and called Dechant, a banker, for his review of the top two.
 Rasure said the list came from Kevin Cowan, bond counsel from Gilmore and Bell of Wichita, who had suggested a financial advisor would be good because of the size of the bond issue.
 He passed out background information received from Ranson Financial Consultants of Wichita.

Rasure and Dechant agreed Ranson appeared to be a good candidate because they are financial advisors only and have done projects in western Kansas.
 Rasure offered to call John Hass, president of Ranson, to allow the other commissioners to ask questions. Hass called back and talked to the commissioners about what his company could do, and offered to provide a proposal for the next commission meeting on Tuesday.
 County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she talked to the Russell County clerk about a project Ranson handled for them. Rumpel said the clerk said the county had been pleased with the work Ranson did. She said the Sharon Springs School

District had good things to say about Ranson for work they did on a bond issue.
 Rasure said the commissioners will review the information from Ranson at the next meeting and see if information is received from Tod Loescher, of D.A. Davidson and Co., another firm from Wichita.
 Rasure said the bond money would not all be spent that quickly, and it is possible the county can reinvest the money and break even on the interest rate versus the bond costs.
 Rasure asked Rumpel and Volk if they have received a draft of the agreement from Cowan. Both said they have not. Rasure said he would ask Cowan to see if that can be sent before the next meeting.

City has road projects ready to start this year

DESIGN, from Page 1
 project, but would not be there more than a month.
 "We are not going to get much asphalt from this plant," Neufeld said.
 He said an Iowa company coming next year will be doing the K-27 project south of town will be here longer, and is interested in talking about doing any asphalt projects the city and county may have ready.
 He said the estimate for the city and county project is 130,000 tons of asphalt, and that is about the same as what will be put on K-27.
 "His ears perked up," Neufeld said when he talked to the man from the Iowa company.
 Tiede asked Neufeld if he felt all the asphalt projects could be done in one year.
 Neufeld said he felt they could if all the projects were ready to go out to bid by September to November, when the contractors are planning for the next construction season.
 He said packaging all the asphalt projects could save the city and county quite a bit of money.
 He said it would all be put together as a bid package, but have separate project plans.
 Curt Way, county public works manager, said the county has used Penco Engineering out of Plainville in the past, and has an agreement with the company to do bridge inspections.
 Penco did the engineering on the replacement of the bridges on old U.S. 24 near Caruso and Kanorado, and on Eighth Street north of the Sugar Hills Golf Club.
 Commissioners Tiede and Thomas said it would be fair to give Penco a chance to provide a proposal on the road projects.
 The commissioners agreed to have Way contact Penco and have a representative at the next meeting, at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday.
 Neufeld said the usual season for asphalt work is from April 15 to Oct. 15, but the concrete work can be done nearly year around.
 He said the city will have to do more design work for the replacement of 17th Street because of the storm drains and underground lines along that street.
 He said the plans should begin soon on the concrete replacement of the asphalt on County Road 14 that will run past the Northern Sun sunflower plant and the new Goodland Energy Center.
 The county won \$800,000 in January in grant money to help rebuild the road as an economic development project.
 Neufeld applied for the grant on behalf of the city and county in October.
 Tiede asked when the grant money would be available.
 Neufeld said the money would be available after July 1, but that because of the state involvement it will take longer to do the design and have it approved.
 He said it will add about 15 months to when the project can begin. He said that is probably a good timeline for the project because it would be better to wait until after the construction is done on the energy center plants to rebuild the road.
 Thomas asked if Neufeld has a contract with the city for the intersections, and if that should be approved by the commissioners to be part of the joint project to be paid from sales tax receipts or the bond issue.
 Neufeld said he is preparing a contract for the two intersections to be done as a design-build project, and will not bill the city until after the sales tax money begins to come in.
 City Clerk Mary Volk said the contract will be approved by the city and then sent to the county for approval.

Support mobilized for Goodland engineer

E-MAIL, from Page 1
 Penco should be given a chance to present a proposal.
 Rasure said he had received calls through the morning, and thought it was to be expected.
 "This is part of the government process," Rasure said. "Everyone has the right to show support for their point of view."
 "I think having one engineering firm is the best plan, and I think Darin (Neufeld) has done a good job for the city. I like the idea of having someone who lives here and drives the streets help design them and oversee the construction. I think he will make sure it is done right because he lives here."
 "We would not have the \$800,000 in grant money to help with County Road 14 if he had not submitted the grant proposal last year."

Rasure said he had no problem with having Penco come give a presentation, but said he believes that using the local firm is the way to get the best project done.
 Jona Neufeld, a teacher at West Elementary, said Wednesday she was surprised at how fast an e-mail can get around the community.
 "I felt something had to be done," she said. "I have received over 30 responses back, and some were from people who I didn't send the first one to."
 Neufeld said she thought the first message went to 94 people, but was forwarded to many more than that.
 "I did this not as his wife," she said, "but I am a taxpayer too; I should have a say, too."
 Darin Neufeld said Wednesday evening he was a bit nervous when his wife decided to send the e-mail.
 "I did not want people to think it

was because I wanted the money," he said. "I want to see this project done right."
 He said he started getting phone calls Tuesday after she sent the first message, and had more calls and talked to people in person today.
 "I think my e-mail has been full today," he said. "A lot of the people are asking questions about what is going on. I have nothing against Penco Engineering, and there may be a way to work together."
 "What I think is important is to have one person who is in charge so there is only one person to call and to complain to when there is a problem."
 Neufeld said he will have the contracts for the city projects ready for the commission meeting on Monday.
 In her e-mail, Jona Neufeld mentioned the passage of the one-cent sales tax to help fix the city streets

and county roads.
 "The city has moved forward with hiring our local engineering firm (EBH Engineering) to complete the designs," she wrote, "however, the county has been using a firm out of Plainville for a number of years and is debating who they should hire to complete the county design work. The Plainville firm gets the job done, but what do they do for our community? Not a thing to my knowledge."
 "EBH Engineering has been helping our community for the past eight years. Darin Neufeld and Jerry Nemechek are involved in organizations throughout the county. They both donate many hours of personal time to community events as well as countless hours professional engineering services to the Goodland area and organizations."
 "Recently, as part of the road issue and to better support the new power plant, Darin wrote a grant and lobbied for the county to receive an \$800,000 economic development grant to repair Road 14, in a 24-hour turnaround time, at not cost to the city or county."
 She said Evans, Bierly engineers live here and want the projects to be done right.
 "Please help me by contacting the county commissioners to let them know that we would like the contracts and engineering work to stay local."
 Attempts to reach Commissioner Mitch Tiede on Wednesday were unsuccessful.


Sixth grade band, choir present spring concert

MUSIC, from Page 1
 Patrick Carson lead into "The Hits Keep Rollin'," which included "The Way We Were," "You Made Me Love You," "Pretty Woman," "Happy Trails," "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head" with Geist as soloist and "The Heat Is On."
 Freeman, O'Harah, Ryder Kling, Avelar, Curtis Ross, Luther, Fugleberg, Sieck, Sloan, Carson and Hayes were the "Men in Black."
 "We Got the Beat" came next, then

"Sweet Dreams" featuring Gabriella Wallis. Ryan Hillmer, Bellamy, Herl, Farris, Fisher and Jacob Garcia lead "Pump Up the Jam."
 The program ended with a slide show by Sloan called American Tears.
 Members of the sixth grade choir were Avelar, Ricardo Bacasegua, Battistoni, Bellamy, Carson, Katelyn Coon, Cowan, Dallas DeLaRosa, Farris, Fisher, Jaime Flores, Freeman, Fugleberg, Fulcher, Debra Garcia, Jacob Gar-

cia, Garrett, Geist, Jamie Gittinger, Samantha Gutierrez, Hayes, Hendrich, Jacee and Laine Herl, Hillmer, M'Lynn Hinger, Kling, Priscilla Ledesma, Linin, Linnell, Luther, Delores Montoya, Garrett Nemechek, O'Harah, Peden, Peter, McKenzie Purvis, Ragels, Arnaldo Rangel, Shawn Reiter, Ross, Ruhs, Rutz-Cross, Seeger, James Sheats, Sieck, Sloan, Stelling, Stramel, Cappi Thomas, Thornburg, Titus, Wallis, Skylar Williams, Winston and Woodrow.

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Crossword Puzzle

After All

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ACROSS

1. 1965 civil rights march site
6. Split pea, e.g.
10. Adherent's suffix
13. Israel's Sharon
14. To boot
15. Scandinavian capital
16. All-__ (TV special's cast)
18. Condo division
19. Legalese adverb
20. Gangster's gun
21. Hefty volume
22. Sci-fi aliens
24. Tracked down
26. Telephone parts
31. Place for antes
32. Surface calculation
33. December tune
35. Goblet parts
39. Do in
40. Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"
42. "The African Queen" screenwriter
43. Derby entrant
45. WWE victories
46. Ice cream buy
47. Delivery co. with brown trucks
49. Builds the inventory
51. Wealthy ones
55. Entrepreneur-aiding org.
56. Hide in the shadows
57. Jungle swinger
59. Qatar's peninsula
64. "Garfield" pooch
65. All-__ (Bonds's 73 homers, e.g.)
67. Place to moor
68. Ms. Brockovich
69. Made a boo-boo
70. Cover with turf
71. Umlaut's pair
72. Clarinetists' section

DOWN

1. Cumberbund, e.g.
2. Art Deco master
3. Bull artist
4. "A __ formality"
5. Axis foes
6. __ Quentin
7. Cassini of fashion
8. "The __"
9. Soda opener
10. "This __ a test!"
11. Slug's trail
12. Lugged around
15. All-__ (blitz)
17. Purpose
23. Urban ball game site
25. Comedian Bill, familiarly
26. Dish that's "slung"
27. Folksy Guthrie
28. In the vicinity
29. All-__ (long-lasting lollipop)
30. Interstate rigs
34. Pre-Easter times
36. Senses of self
37. Beanery handout
38. Flow slowly
41. Weather map line
44. Pollution watchdog org.
48. Put into words
50. Life's work
51. Broadway bombs
52. Video companion
53. Took a shot at
54. Former veep Agnew
58. Give off
60. Realty unit
61. Use an auger
62. Really steamed
63. Tacks on
66. USNA grad

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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