

Board ready to hire leader?

The vacant director position for the Sherman County Economic Development Council could be filled after council members reviewed applications in closed session Tuesday evening.

Nine council members attended a special meeting Tuesday to review the applications in closed session. No action was taken in the open meeting, but it appeared the council did reach a consensus on the top choice and will be offering that person a contract.

The monthly meeting of the council is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the basement at Western State Bank.

The council has been without a director for over 16 months, and when the group named new officers in January, hiring a replacement for Carolyn Applegate was a top priority.

Kay Younger, project coordinator, has been keeping the office at 1208 Main open and handling development efforts since she was hired in January 2005.

Applegate, who was the first economic development director, resigned in December 2004. She was hired in October 2002.

Council members present Tuesday were Shelly Thompson, chairman, from Bankwest; Don Newell, vice-chairman from S&T Telephone; Steve West, Western State Bank; Harlan House, farmer and rancher; Kim Bohme, Millers Home Furnishing; Gary Slough, S&T; Chuck Wilkens, Wilkens Truck and Trailer; Dwane Timm, First National Bank; and Mike Cochran, Cochran Farms. Council member Richard Breining of Sunflower Computers was absent.

'Tis the season



A dump truck working for APAC, the company repaving I-70 from Goodland to the state line, got caught in a power line around milepost 15 Wednesday afternoon, in front of the overpass there. APAC called the Kansas Highway Patrol and Midwest

Energy for help. If the line had broken, officials said, it would have shut down the Interstate, but the workers got it untangled and continued their job. Later, a worker was smoothing out a low spot in the asphalt. Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

School board asks city to remove pedestrian light

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News
Goodland School Board President Jane Philbrick signed a request to the city to remove the pedestrian light and crosswalk in the middle of the block at Central Elementary School on Monday night.

The Central Site Council has asked if the city could move the light to the corner of 13th and Main. They found out they couldn't do that without a new set of lights, which would cost more than \$80,000.

City officials explained that a light at the corner would have to control both streets; the present light won't do since it is equipped only for two directions.

The city has put up school crossing signs at the intersection, Superintendent Marvin Selby said, and when the intersection is rebricked later this summer, they will use gray bricks for the cross walk.

There is always someone outside to watch the crosswalk at the end of school.

The board voted to rehire all tenured teachers as the principals had recommended.

They approved a contract for retiring Selby for the 2006-2007 school year for up to 52 days as needed to be a consultant.

The school board will talk with principal's about non tenured at the next meeting. The majority of the teaching staff is tenured.

Selby reported that Blue Cross/Blue Shield medical insurance rates would go up next year.

Plan D for teaching and other staff will go from \$310 to \$334 a month and Plan C for the administration will go from \$414 to \$436 a month.

The increase will cost the district \$50,000 for the next school year, he said.

The board gave the OK for the

Goodland High School band to play at the ground breaking Wednesday for the new 1,200-foot tower for Smoky Hills Public Television being built eight miles south of Brewster.

Selby reported the present enrollment at 1002, down five from the official count for Sept. 20 of 1007. There are 64 high school seniors, he said.

The superintendent said a leak at the high school is covered under the warranty on the roof. A leak at Central turned out to be hail damage. They had Kansas Claims inspect the roof for hail damage, he said, and the adjuster suggested to EMC, the insurance company, that the building needs a new roof. The company did not mention prorating the roof, he said, but it has eight years left on a 20-year warranty.

A bid committee of Andrew House and Marty Melia met at 2 p.m. Tuesday afternoon at the ad-

ministration building go over bids to air condition West Elementary, Selby said. A special board meeting to discuss the bids was set for noon on Thursday at the same place.

Jim Mull, principal of Grant Junior High and North Elementary, reported that testing is finished, but they will not get the results until August.

Sharon Gregory, principal at Central, said that the third grade has finished the math assessment test and the fourth grade will finish it on Thursday. She said the test is new. The district will not see its final score until Aug. 31, she added, and won't get the Annual Yearly Progress report until Dec.

"We can tell which areas need to be worked on by the raw scores," Gregory said.

She said the fourth grade will go to the Shrine Circus with the trip paid for by the Goodland Shrine Club.

City to consider road contract at Monday meeting

City commissioners will have a contract for engineering and inspection of street projects in the joint city-county road rebuilding program when they meet Monday.

The commission gave Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates permission at the April 3 meeting to begin drawing up plans for replacement of the intersections on Caldwell at Eighth and Armory Road with concrete.

The contract covers those intersections plus the asphalt work on Caldwell from Eighth north to the airport entrance, Eighth from D'Lao to Cattletail, and 17th from the railroad crossing on Cherry west to Main.

Once approved by the city commission the contract will be forwarded to the county commission for review and approval to make it part of the list of contracts to be paid with a special 1-cent sales tax ap-

proved last month by voters.

Collection of the tax begins in July, and Neufeld said the city would not be billed until after the money begins coming in or the bonds are issued.

City Clerk Mary Volk said when the bills are received, they will need to be approved by the city commission and then forwarded to the county.

In other business, the city commission will:

- Consider approving the new power purchase and interconnect agreement with Sunflower Electric. The agreement was presented April 3, but the commissioners delayed approval to give them time to read the contract.

The new agreement raises the

cost to the city by about 5-7.5 percent, but allows the city to bill Sunflower Electric when asked to run the city power plant. The agreement provides a backup interconnect when the city switches to buying power from the new coal-fired power plant being built by Goodland Energy Resources, and the wind farm being built by ReNewable Energy Resources.

- Approve an ordinance regulating use of city rights of way by utilities and other commercial ventures. The ordinance was delayed from the last meeting to allow the city attorney a chance to revise the definitions to exempt home landscap-

ing from the permit process.

City officials looked at AT&T's proposal for a separate right-of-way agreement, and thought it was one-sided, possibly leaving the city holding the bag for street and alley repairs. They decided to write their own rules. The right of way typically includes 15 foot for an alley and 10 to 15 feet back from the street. It allows for public uses of streets and alleys and for utility lines, buried and overhead.

- Approve a bid for delivery of chip rock for the street sealing this summer.
- Appointments to the Kansas Municipal Energy Association

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

March 12 — Annette Gutierrez, \$120 for speeding.

Joleen K. Jamison, \$126 for improper parking.

March 13 — Dustan B. Aldridge, \$90 for speeding.

Andrew M. Johnson, \$90 for defective tail lamp.

March 15 — Marc Campbell, \$170 for over weight load.

March 16 — Austin K. Inzer, \$114 for speeding.

corrections

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