

# Road engineer decision unchanged

ROADS, from Page 1

a year or two down the road.”

“Your firm is not big enough to handle this as one project?” Rasure asked.

“We probably cannot get it all done,” DeBoer said. “We have 16 counties to service.”

Attending the meeting were City Manager Wayne Hill; Rich Simon, city public works director; Josh Dechant, a city commissioner; and Darin Neufeld, the engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who is designing the city part of the joint road project.

“Darin, could you do all this as one project?” Rasure asked.

“We could have,” Neufeld said, “but now I would have to say no, as we have put other things on the schedule.”

Rasure asked DeBoer if he had made any contacts with the company that will have an asphalt plant in Sherman County next year to pave the new K-27 south of town.

“I have talked to the Kansas Department of Transportation about who they are,” DeBoer said, “but I have not talked to them. I don’t want to give one contractor an advantage.”

He asked DeBoer when he planned to have the designs ready.

“Late this fall for engineering of 24,” DeBoer said. “Not sure about Eighth Street. That is what we had planned. Don’t want to do Eighth until after Road 14 is done, and don’t expect it to be done for a year.”

Rasure asked Neufeld about Road 14.

“Depends on the KDOT field checks,” Neufeld said. “There are three coming up in the next two months, could be quicker on Road 14 if we hold off until all the projects

are ready for the field check.

“It would be next to impossible to get it up within a year. I think it would be 18 months based on KDOT.”

“There is a lot of work to be done,” DeBoer said. “You could hire five different firms.”

“When we talked to you, Darin, you said you could do it all,” Rasure said.

“When we looked at it four to five weeks ago, we could,” Neufeld said. “We were shifting some work and getting help from our other offices. Yes, we could have done it by spring.”

“I feel we are piecing this out and losing the efficiency we were trying to get,” Rasure said. “I am frustrated and want to know when it was decided how the projects would be done, because I was not in any conversation.”

“I think we can only do what we can without getting in over our head,” Tiede said.

“From what I understand from Jerol, he cannot do it in one time frame,” Rasure said.

“If you want it done in three months, we can’t do it,” DeBoer said.

Rasure asked Tiede and Thomas about Road 14 and the discussion they had at a commission meeting on Friday. Tiede said he had been out to look at the road.

“I don’t think there is much going to change on the road,” he said. “Looks pretty cut and dried to me. I really don’t think we should change the motion we made.”

Rasure asked if it would be easier to work with one person out there.

“We do have Darin working with the energy center,” Tiede said. “The roads are going to have to match, no matter who will be doing the work.

“If we have two engineers, what one won’t think of the other one will. They will have to work together a lot. That is just my opinion.”

“If you want to do Eighth Street and 24 for bid letting by next March, it is going to be tough,” DeBoer said. “If you want to have all three done, you need to hire three engineering firms.”

“The motion has been made to use your firm,” Rasure said, “so that is what we are going to do.”

Rasure said there is a problem with the bonds for the project that the financial advisor will talk about at the commission meeting on Tuesday.

“We can’t hold the bond money in the bank for three years,” Rasure said.

Thomas asked what the time frame was, because they would be spending the money every year.

Rasure asked DeBoer if he could push Road 14 into the project.

“If you want to get Road 14 done, we can put it ahead of 24,” DeBoer said. “We can concentrate on Road 14 to get the field check done by October, then work on 24. There is not that much to do on 24. There is not a lot of survey work to do on 24.

“One thing to keep in mind is that on the five-year plan, the county has a project on Road 14 for the section south of old U.S. 24. Field check plans for that should be submitted by October. That project has not come up yet, and it is on the schedule. It will push 24 back further. Both projects on Road 14 are going to be concrete, and you need to let them together.”

Thomas asked if the field checks were in by October, would Road 14 still wait until 2009?

Curt Way, county public works director, said that would be true

unless other counties on the priority list step aside.

Neufeld said that was true on the five-year plan project, but the economic development project the county is approved (for paving between Old 24 and Eighth Street) is different and the money will be available after July. He said the county would have to ask to move it back.

“We are in a spot where we have to pick and choose the projects,” Rasure said.

Thomas said the priority is to get Road 14 started to do the KDOT process.

Tiede said the county needs Road 14 done before they do anything with Eighth Street.

“That is why I was looking at a three- or four-year window,” DeBoer said.

Tiede asked DeBoer if he could get the engineering done on 14 and 24 by next year.

“That is doable,” DeBoer said, “but then you have to do something with the south half of Road 14.”

Rasure asked if DeBoer could talk to KDOT about the two projects.

“That is the first step on Road 14,” Thomas said, “rather than sitting here all day talking about it. Can we call them or set up a conference call?”

“Can you get us the engineering design cost on 24?” Tiede asked. “That would be the first thing, and then set up a meeting with KDOT.”

“I can visit with KDOT,” DeBoer said, “and then at a commission meeting we can call him and visit with him.”

Tiede said the commissioners would be meeting on Tuesday and possibly on May 23.

# Energy Center takes first step

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who are doing more than putting their mouth out there to support this development.

“It is the tenacity, vibrancy and ability of the people that makes this kind of project possible.”

Sherman County Commission Chairman Kevin Rasure said the project was a good sign for the county and the whole area. He thanked all the people who helped bring it together.

Mayor Rick Billinger said that with the power the city will purchase, he believes people will have stable electric prices. He said the development will put more kids in the schools and bring more people and businesses to the city, county and area.

Congressman Jerry Moran was represented by Mitchell Hall of

his Hays district office.

Pickman said the concrete pillars are being put down for the power plant, and as soon as the state completes the permit on the ethanol plant, construction will begin on that foundation, maybe by the first of June. Work on the biodiesel plant will begin later this summer.

City Manager Wayne Hill said the development was one of the reasons he was interested in coming to Goodland. He said the project will help the city, and he believes it is the kind of project that will help the city grow.

Chuck Lutters, vice-president of ReNewable, said the pile rig digs a 60-foot hole for each of the 88 supports needed for the power plant and fills each hole with concrete as the drill is removed.

# County questioned about merge proposal

Sherman County commissioners were asked Tuesday for their opinion about a proposal to merge the Sherman County Economic Development Council and the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Questioned about the merger by Tiffani Kirk, the new economic development director, commissioners said they are not against combining support staff of all three organizations promoting business in the county, including the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau. However, the commissioners were not sure combining the boards was a good idea.

“I am not sure about combining everything,” said Commissioner Chuck Thomas, and Commissioner Mitch Tiede agreed.

“A joint secretary would be more efficient,” Thomas said.

Chairman Kevin Rasure said he thought there was a concern about having all three work under one person.

“Who was doing what job was one of the concerns when they were all under one roof,” Rasure said. “I think the concern is there today. They are all important and need to work together, but I am not sure under one director is the right answer.”

Kirk said having one office location would make sense for people who want service from any one of the three.

“In my experience in Wallace County,” Kirk said, “I tried to do both economic development and the Chamber. I ended up not doing economic development, with both boards pulling me in different directions.”

The Chamber board asked the development council to consider a merger at a special meeting on May 2, Kirk’s second day on the job.

Shelly Thompson, chairman of the development group, said the council would discuss the merger at the meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Western State Bank.

# Holiday Inn Express incentive impact explained

HOTEL, from Page 1

should be 100 percent, and the city should set a dollar amount to be paid in place of taxes to make up the 10 percent.

He said he became concerned because the value of the motel and personal property would be used to set the 90 percent abatement, and it would be up to his office to assess the property each year.

“The whole burden is being put on the appraiser’s office,” Ballard

said. “I accept that, but it could lessen the burden if we do not have to deal with the value.”

Ballard said if the 90 percent abatement is based on the assessed value, it would require his office to reassess the motel value and personal property every year to determine the 10 percent to be paid.

He said it would be easier if the industrial revenue bonds were issued with a 100 percent abatement that would be set with one assessed valuation and remain the same for

the 10-year period. He said having a set dollar amount for the payment in place of taxes would make it easier on his office.

City Manager Wayne Hill and City Commissioner Josh Dechant were at the meeting and listened to Ballard’s explanation.

Dechant said he did not see a problem. He said the city was not giving away much because the hotel would bring business to the community.

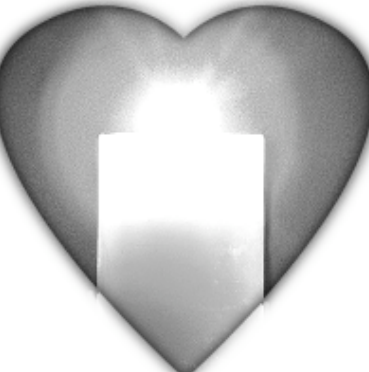
Hill asked Ballard if he was saying it would be easier on his office

if it was done as a 100 percent abatement with a payment based on a set amount.

Ballard said that is what he was trying to say in his memo.

“It would be easier to determine an amount to pay in lieu of taxes,” he said. “Then I don’t have to determine the value every year. I am not in any way being negative about the tax incentives.”

It was the consensus of the commissioners it was a positive project for the county.



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**\$10.00 per luminaria please!**

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## Crossword Puzzle

"Eeeee!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14			15	16			
17				18				19			
20				21			22		23		
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	49				50		51	52			
53	54			55		56	57				
58			59			60			61	62	63
64			65		66			67			
68					69			70			
71					72			73			

American Profile Hometown Content 060507

70. Tart taste

71. "Hit the road!"

72. Marked, as a ballot

73. Do in

DOWN

1. Is inquisitive

2. Occupy the throne

3. Ukraine capital

4. TV's Remington

5. —

6. Brunch entree

7. Morally low

8. Business bigwig

9. Bruins great

10. Intense cold

11. Sign up for

12. Actor Keach

15. "Bolero" composer

21. Tweed caricaturist

22. Dead Sea Scrolls scribe

27. Butler's expletive

28. Locket shape

29. "If I Had a Hammer" singer

31. Champing at the bit

32. Priest's garment

35. Dudley Moore title role

37. Drought ender

38. Has a late meal

40. Own, to a Scot

42. Italy's —

45. Big name in liquor

47. Draw with acid

50. Put up

52. Sends to the Hill

53. Where some tee shots land

54. Greek column type

57. Pimpily

60. — de cologne (scented liquids)

61. Line to Ben-Gurion

62. Yemen's capital

63. All wound up

65. Hellenic H

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