Details worked out on joint road project bond issue

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News Sherman County commissioners agreed Tuesday to structure a bond issue to pay for the joint city-county road project based on conservative income estimates, putting any excess tax money into a reserve to pay the bonds off early.

Todd Loescher of Gilmore and Bell, bond attorneys from Wichita, met with the commissioners to give them two options for structuring the bond issue, which is scheduled to be sold on Sept. 12.

The \$12 million in bonds will pay for the county projects on old U.S. 24 across the county, Eighth Street (County Road 65) West of K-27 to County Road 14, the mile of Road 14 between Road 65 and old U.S. 24 (which the county got an \$800,000 economic development grant for) and a mile section of Road 16 between Road 65 and old U.S. 24.

City projects include Caldwell from Eighth Street north to the north side of the entrance to the Goodland municipal airport, concrete for the intersections of Eighth and Caldwell and Caldwell and Armory Road, concrete on 17th Street from Main to the railroad crossing at Cherry and Eight Street from Cattletrail east to D'Lao Drive.

Loescher told the commissioners

a little above 4.25 percent for municipal bonds like the ones the county will issue, and that should hold through September.

Loescher said his office has re-Department of Revenue about the Sherman County sales tax collections over the past seven years. He said the sales tax has varied a bit, 2003 when the rate dropped.

He said the two options for figuring the revenue estimates for the sales tax bonds are to look at a seven-year average or use the average for the past three years. He said rate fund," Rasure asked, "and can a third option is to use a five-year be invested?" average that would drop off the lower collection years.

"The average increase over seven years is .66 of 1 percent," Loescher said. "It is 1.3 percent over five income curve," Loescher said. years, and 2.25 percent over the past three years.'

He said there should be a way to emphasize being conservative when setting this up to give some people." cushion so no other city or county revenue would be needed.

The conservative suggestion is to use the 1.3 percent growth to set up the bond issue, and put in a debt cover plan to handle any emergenthere is good news on the interest fund could be set up cover any for payout for the bonds and the sec- mated sales tax growth of 2.25 per-

market. He said the rate is holding shortfall, and to build a reserve to ond a reserve fund. help pay the bonds off early.

He said there is an arbitrage limit of 125 percent for the debt cover plan, but there is not a limit on a reserve fund. He said the county could viewed the figures from the state invest the surplus money in the municipal investment pool, and for overnight rates the county could get almost 5 percent.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said and there was a drop in 2002 and she thought the county should see some money coming in from the 1 percent sale tax, which went into effect July 1, by September and for sure in October.

"That money will go into a sepa-

'Yes, that is what we did with the money from the quarter-cent sales tax," Rumpel said.

"There are a lot of pluses in the "You can put more into a reserve fund, and can earn up to \$1.2 million over the life of the bonds. I think this will be good for the bond

Rasure asked to have County Treasurer Iris Scheopner come to the meeting because they were discussing the investment options. Once she arrived, he asked Loescher if there would be two separate cies. He said a debt service reserve funds for the sales tax money, one

"Short term rates are better than little money off the spread," Rasure said

Loescher said he expects the rate on the bonds to be about 4.2 to 4.3percent.

'We don't want to have something happen to have to dip into any other funds," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said.

Rumpel said based on the vote of the people, the sales tax revenue is the only money that can be used to pay off the bonds. She said the vote specifically said that no property tax money would be used to pay the bonds.

"Our first payment is scheduled for one year from when the bonds are issued?" Rasure asked.

You can build up the reserve fund with money from the first quarter of sales tax collection," Loescher said. "The first payment is set from January to May and the second payment is from June to December.

With the reserve fund you can shave two years off the end. You should be able to retire all bonds by 2022 on the conservative approach."

Loescher said the second option is more aggressive, using an esti-

cent. He said the aggressive option servative approach is that you would accelerate the principal paylong term rates, so we can make a ment. He said the last payment would be 2023, but could be as soon at 2021

> "The conservative is based on the five-year average sales tax collec- bidder's option for the insurance," tion," Loescher said, "and the other option is based on the last three years."

"When can we start paying off the bonds?" Rasure said.

"We will build in a 2014 date for said. first call," Loescher said. "We don't want to get ahead of that."

The commissioners spent several minutes looking over the figures Loescher had handed out.

"We are waiting for guidance on which direction to go," Loescher said. "It can be changed a little, but when we go out with the official statement we want to be pretty sure what we are expecting.'

"Will the interest rate be different when we go out to sell the bonds?" **Commissioner Chuck Thomas** asked.

"I think the biggest difference is when you get the bond insurance," Loescher said. "That will make the bonds rate at AAA. When the bond people see the fairly conservative structure and reserve, I think they will be better for bids on the insurance

"The only downside to the con-

• Accept bids from the four local

would not be able to get as much interest income."

"Would we get an A rating with the higher option?" Thomas said.

"We are going to make it a Loescher said. "Then they will pay the cost. It would be cheaper for them, and they can be more aggressive on their bid."

"Do we need a motion?" Thomas

"What do you think Kevin?" Tiede asked.

"The conservative approach doesn't hurt us," Rasure said.

Tiede and Thomas both said they agreed.

Loescher said he would take that information back to Kevin M. Cowan, the main bond attorney on the project. He said Cowan would come out on Tuesday to get the final details ready to make the sale date of Sept. 12, and the deal would close on Sept. 22.

Rasure asked Rumpel if she had seen the final draft of the agreement between the city and county on the sales tax project.

"I think we had some problems about the percentages and the surplus," Rumpel said, "or finding a way to keep from using property tax, since we cannot use that."

· Hired Tonya Gray as assistant

Elementary School.

School district staff excited to begin new year on Wednesday

SCHOOL, from Page 1

this summer. She said the staff had a "stamping party" for the new reading rotation books and the math books. She had received the raw data from the state assessment tests and hoped the finished data would be done on Tuesday. She also said their accreditation at Central was to take place this year.

Junior high Principal Raymer said that he and 25 others went to the a training session at Garden City by Todd Whitaker, a motivational speaker for teachers. Raymer said it was good.

Neufeld said they would need to

SAFE, from Page 1

other traffic there is.

numbers for enrollment were similar to last year. The staff did math training last week, she said. A crew came and did the last work on the air conditioning.

High school Principal Swager said the alumni were impressed and proud of the building. Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Dawson visited and were pleased how the money they give each year to the science department has been used, he said. Swager said they were planning to continue the support and the scholarship they have to a student who plans on teaching math or science.

Swager said he was pleased with West Principal Milnes said her how summer school had gone. A

representative from the Kansas Supreme Court is planning to give a program at the high school on Thursday, Oct. 26, he said.

Activities Director Smith said nine out of 10 coaches had gone to a workshop given by the Kansas State High School Activities Association. Smith said Monday was the first day of practice for fall sports. There are 45 out for football at this time, six boys and six girls out for cross country, seven for girls tennis, 30 for volleyball and ten for girls golf. He said he expected the numbers to increase some. He said he planned to make the new eligibility requirements plain to the students

at an assembly.

In other business the board:

• Heard the teachers breakfast

would be Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the high school cafeteria.

Medical student returns to early home

over them.

DOCTOR, from Page 1

In a city, she said, a family physician doesn't usually see people with so many different problems. there is more specializing.

"They do really well here," she said. "I'm quite impressed."

Gannon said the experience here will help her meet a goal to be able to recognize when a patient has a physical illness and provide care or prop-

Gannon's experience expanded in college, where she majored in neuroscience and minored in religion. She is Catholic and attended

middle school. In college, she said, her religious studies were mostly on Hinduism and Islam to give her a broader perspective.

"I'm big into freedom of spirituality and religion," she added.

Besides, she said, as a psychiatrist, you have to be open-minded.

Gannon said she likes the people here and would love to work here but knows she will probably have to work in a city because of her intended specialty. There wouldn't be being away from him, but it's only enough people in a rural area to support a practice, she said.

Besides, her husband, Nathan dency in July.

Crossword Puzzle

tals, and his career will require working in a city.

She met Boy in Boston — he went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They married in December, but Gannon kept her name, a decision she made before she met him. Realizing her name would be Jessica Boy sealed the deal, she said.

Nathan works for Cerner Corp. in Kansas City, Mo. She said it is hard for a month. She will graduate in May, and she hopes to start a resi-

gather information on the numbers of children walking and biking, improving infrastructure around and after the changes. what their routes are and how much schools to handle traffic and set up The program works on safety ways, trails and bikeways.

nents, Neufeld said:

Finding safe ways for students to walk, bike

tration to guide the program.

concerns of parents by encouraging enforcement of traffic laws, educa- portation, walking and biking skills and adjustment of utilities are not

· Promotion of walking and bik-The program has five compoing with events and activities.

• Watching and recording results • Engineering, which includes through collection of date before

The engineer said there was no safe and accessible crossings, walk- reimbursement for the plan preparation but the city thought it would • Education on choices for trans- be a good thing. Rights-of-ways

eligible for reimbursement, he said.

erly refer them to another doctor.

Catholic school for three years in Boy, develops software for hospi-

banks for certificates of deposit for volleyball coach for Grant Junior

\$1,040,000. The bid committee will High. Accepted the resignation of

meet at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25, to go Donna Ruddell as cook at North

tion and finding ways to create safer streets.

Safe Routes to School was established in August 2005 as part of the most recent federal transportation bill, he said. The law will give multi-year funding to community surface transportation programs run by the state Departments of Transportation.

There is up to \$15,000 available for phase 1 and up to \$250,000 for phase 2, he said. Those getting phase 1 money will receive priority in funding from phase 2 but are not guaranteed the money.

Phase 2 money will be available from 2007-2009. The programs are under the Federal Highway Administration's offices for bicycle and pedestrian programs and National Highway Traffic Safety Adminisfor life and safety campaigns around schools.

• Enforcement by police of traffic laws such as speed, yielding to pedestrians and safer walking and biking.

but construction, engineering and materials could be reimbursed.



EVISION SCHEDULE SPORTS TEL

Saturday

9 a.m. ESPN Little League World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

TNT PGA Tournament PGA Championship: Third Round from Medinah, Ill.

10 a.m. ESPN2 U.S. Open Series Tennis Western & Southern Finacial Group Masters: Semifinal #1 from Cincinnati, OH

11 a.m. ESPN Little League World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

FOX MLB Baseball Teams TBA

TNT PGA Tournament PGA Championship: Third Round Continued from Medinah, Ill.

12 p.m. CBS PGA Championship Third-round play

12:30 p.m. NBC Dew Action Sports Tour Vans Invitational

1 p.m. ESPN Little League World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

1:30 p.m. ABC WNBA Playoff A first-round game

2 p.m. ESPN2 MLS Soccer Colorado Rapids at D.C. United 2:30 p.m. NBC Volleyball AVP Brooklyn Open

4 p.m. ESPN Little League

World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

ESPN2 WNBABasketball Playoffs - First Round Game #2 5 p.m. FXSP MLB Baseball

Rockies at Mets WGN MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Minnesota Twins from The Metrodome

6 p.m. ESPN Little League World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

4:30 a.m. ESPN2 FIBA World Basketball United States vs China from Sapporo, Japan

Sunday

9 a.m. TNT PGA Tournament PGA Championship: Final Round from Medinah, Ill.

11 a.m. ESPN Little League World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

ESPN2U.S. Open Series Tennis Western & Southern Financial Group Masters: Final from Cincinnati, OH

IND MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Florida Marlins from **Dolphins Stadium**

TNT PGA Tournament PGA Championship: Final Round Continued from Medinah, Ill.

UNIV Fútbol Liga Mexicana Exhibition: Seahawks at Colts

Querétaro at Toluca Diablos from Bambonera

11:30 a.m. ABCWNBAPlayoff A first-round game

12 p.m. CBS PGA Championship Final-round play

12:10 p.m. WGN MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals from Busch Stadium

12:30 p.m. NBC Dew Action Sports Tour Vans Invitational

1 p.m. ESPN Little League World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

2:30 p.m. NBC Women's Volleyball AVP Brooklyn Open

3 p.m. ESPN Little League World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

ESPN2 WNBA Basketball Playoffs - First Round Game #2

5 p.m. ESPN2 NTRA Road to the World Thoroughbred Championship Pacific Classic/Longacres Mile from Track del Mar, CA

6 p.m. ESPN MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox from Fenway Park

ESPN2 Little League World Series Pool Play Round from Williamsport, PA

NBC Sunday Night Football

Just Ducky

1. Toy dog, for short 4. Sound from the bull pen 9. Pigeons' homes 14. "... man mouse?" 15. More achy 16. See eye to eye 17. The first Englishman to circumnavigate the world 20. Mall bag 21 _ up (irate) 22. Pay mind to 23. Roomy dresses

ACROSS

25. Tartan wearer

27. Hurler's stat 30. Grid great

Dawson

31. One to hang with

- 33. Takes a break 35. Copyright violator
- 37. Heed the alarm

38. Peddling of snake

- oil, e.g.
- 42. Like some Mass
- parts 43. "8 Mile" rapper
- 44. Mom and pop
- 47. Teeny amount
- 48. Rock's Petty
- 51. Hoopla
- 52. Italian wine town 54. Mind one's
- manners
- 56. One of the
- Simpson kids
- 58. Teachers' org. 60. Genesis son
- 61. Bruce Tinsley
- comic strip
- 65. Hoopster Shaq
- 66. Spine-tingling 67. Keats or Shelley
- work
- 68. A.J. Foyt won four

The

- 18. Boggy area
 - 19. Loafer, e.g.



24. Cast-of-
thousands movie
26. College course
unit
28. Artful dodge

- 34. In great shape

- 11. Swaps at a car lot
- 12. Comics shriek
- 13. "Get the picture?"

70. Brillo alternative

2. Bird on an AL cap

1. USPS part

3. Rat Pack

surname

4. Ukr., once

5. Biblical vessel

7. Four-sided figs.

8. Prefix with pod or

9. Midshipmen rivals

6. Caen's river

corn

10. Cruel dude

DOWN

- 45. Twangy speech puzzle brought sounds to you by: Goodland Star-News

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29. Orangutan, e.g. 32. Poorest, as excuses go 35. Senate gofer 36. President pro 38. Campus area 39. Prepared for use, as a tarp 40. "The 63. NYPD officer Comancheros" actress 64. Went first 41. Hand over The crossword 42. Restful place

49. Indulge to excess 50. Free-for-alls 53. Reason out 55. Swiss cheese gowith 57. "Now ____ me down

59. Word on Irish

stamps 61. Word from Miss Piggy

62. Raggedy doll

060813

46. Old Russian

autocrat

48. They're forbidden