

Economic Development plans for busy October

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

October will be a busy month for economic development efforts, including two major meetings in one week, the Shine On Sherman County "community conversation" and the Economic Development Council's annual meeting.

Director Tiffani McMinn updated council members at their meeting on Sept. 19, with details of the busy schedule coming up.

McMinn said the annual meeting was moved to Thursday, Oct. 19, because the community conversation had been scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 17, and there would not be enough

time to conduct a business meeting.

The annual meeting will be at the Goodland Elks Lodge. Nominations will be taken from the floor for two council positions, now held by Kim Bohme of Miller Home Furnishing, and Don Newell, manager of the Goodland office of S&T Communications.

Dwane Timm of the First National Bank holds a third position up for reappointment. The four banks have positions on the council, and the bank officers nominate the person to represent them. County commissioners have to approve all the appointments.

The annual meeting, which be-

gins at 5 p.m., will include an update on the activities of the year and give people a chance to meet McMinn, director since May.

McMinn said the Shine-On Sherman County committee, with the help of consultant Terry Woodbury, is doing the final interviews and collecting surveys to get ready for the "community conversation" at 5:30 p.m. that Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Elks.

McMinn said everyone is invited to come to the Elks for a free dinner and then participate in the community goal-setting discussion, which will involve what Woodbury refers to as the "public square" — business, government, education and

health and human services.

McMinn said the goal is to get people to look at what the county needs to do and establish some goals. She said this is a continuing process, not something that will be printed, bound and put on a shelf.

She said people have been filling out a 20-question survey, available at the four banks, the Goodland Family Health Clinic and Frontier Equity Co-op, or on-line at www.goodlandchamber.com. The last day to fill one out is Saturday, she said.

McMinn introduced Helen Dobbs, the council's new office person. She said Dobbs has been gathering information for the script

for a promotional video being developed by S&T Telephone.

The economic development web site is not finished, McMinn said. She said Richard Breninger of Sunflower Computers, who is doing the site, has been gone and has been sick. She said the site — gogoodlandks.com — is working, but several pages are not finished.

McMinn said she and Donna Price, executive director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, were at the State Fair in Hutchinson for three days, and picked up the new brochures from the printer on their way. She said the web address is on the brochures.

She said she would talk to Breninger to see what can be worked out.

The fair booth was paid for by the state Department of Commerce, she said, giving them three days to spotlight Sherman County and north-west Kansas.

Treasurer Bohme handled the meeting in the absence of the chairman and vice chairman, Shelley Thompson and Newell.

Under the treasurer's report, a question was raised about paying the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce phone bill. McMinn said the Chamber is on their own and will be paying their own phone bill plus one-third of the insurance each month.

County reviews cost estimates, options for county road projects

ESTIMATES, from Page 1a

cision to do the right thing," Way said.

DeBoer said the section of old 24 he picked for the mill and subgrade modification and eight-inches of pavement is on the slight curve east of Edson.

Tiede said he was worried there might not be enough pavement to mill in some places.

"What happens if we fall through the surface while doing the milling in a place where we did not plan anything," he asked. "Where does that money come from?"

"Not from road and bridge," said

Way, who had complained earlier about money for big projects being taken from his maintenance budget.

DeBoer asked Way if the contractor had fallen through when they did the last mill-and-overlay project near Edson.

Way said they did not, but said that doesn't mean it might not happen. He

said the asphalt is thicker on the east end of old 24, but not on the west between Goodland and Kanorado.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel if the county could do a bond issue to borrow more money if the projects cost over the \$12 million.

Rasure said the county could is-

sue bonds for up to \$300,000 without a vote.

Rumpel said the election in March allowed the county to issue bonds up to \$12 million, but said the sales tax could be collected until the project are all paid off.

"If you go over the \$12 million," Rumpel said, "you can use the sales tax to pay for the road projects — these projects — you cannot add projects."

Rasure said he thought they should ask for bids on old 24 in January with an alternative for the one-mile of subgrade work east of Edson. He said they will ask for bids on Eighth and Road 16 in mid-summer with an option to start in the fall, and have the county crew do the base work on Road 16.

Tiede and Thomas agreed that was the right plan.

Estimates, options for old U.S. 24, Eighth, Road 16

ROADS, from Page 1a

three miles and a 2-inch mill with a 3-inch overlay on two miles. The second option would be to do the mill, subgrade modification and 7-inch pavement on all five miles at a cost of \$2,818,206.

On Road 16, DeBoer estimated it would cost \$792,895 to do the grading, subgrade modification and concrete pavement at the railroad crossing, with a 6-inch asphalt pavement. The second option was to do the 6-inch pavement at a cost of \$393,605.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked why he was recommending the 2-inch mill on two miles on Road 65.

DeBoer said he felt the base was in good shape on the two miles, and that it would give the county a bit more money to cover the other projects.

Tiede asked why asphalt pavement on the existing road 16 would not work at the railroad track. DeBoers said they will have to do something at the railroad crossing, and that concrete is the best answer.

Curt Way, county public works manager, said he had talked to the Kyle Railroad and they may not do anything.

"You have not contacted Kyle?" Rasure asked DeBoer.

DeBoer said he has not talked to them officially, but had talked to the maintenance people who said the railroad might put concrete panels at the crossing.

Rasure asked for an explanation of the options on Road 16.

DeBoer said option 1 would be having a contractor do all the work. Option 2 is if the county did the grading and subgrade modification to get the road ready for paving.

"Could the county do it?" Rasure asked Way.

"I would not commit to that," Way said. "I think we have the knowledge, but it would take a vast amount of crew to do it."

"Bear with me here," Tiede said to Way. "We are going to have a while before the project is going to happen. We could have the county start working on the ditches and upgrade it over the period of time before the project comes up. We will have to do quite a bit of work."

Way said it would be best to do the work in the spring. Tiede said having the county do the work ahead of time would save some money.

"Would you consider doing that work?" Tiede asked Way.

"We could consider that if it is a way to save some money," Way said. "It is probably the way to go."

"Having the county do that would

be better than if a contractor went in," DeBoer said.

DeBoer said his company has been doing roads in Scott County, where the county has worked on the road before the asphalt was laid down.

"We have done several roads where the county has worked on the road a year before, and then we put four inches of overlay," DeBoer said. "They have lasted 10 years."

"That is something we might consider on that one mile," Tiede said. On old U.S. 24, Thomas asked about a rough section near Edson.

"What about that one area?" Thomas asked. "If we don't do it (right), we will have to come back in a year."

"It would last longer than a year," DeBoer said, "but we won't know until we start milling. What we have found in the tests is the base is better underneath than it appears on the surface."

Historical Society facing lawsuit on woman's injury

LAWSUIT, from Page 1a

Beamer can't stand on her feet for long periods of time after the injuries without swelling and pain in her ankle and leg, her attorney said. This is a hardship, because owns the Beauty Mark, a beauty saloon, and is a cosmetologist.

The stairway leading to the attic is now posted "staff only, do not enter."

The historical society has structure and liability insurance similar to homeowners except for a non-profit organization, said President Dave Branda. Their lawyer for the suit has been retained by the insurance company.

Branda said he has no idea what the suit and its costs will do to the house's insurance rates. The society buys insurance alone and does not belong to a group, he said.

Branda said the society purchased the house in the spring of 2001 and opened it to the public that summer.

"This is the first case that I'm aware of," Branda said of the lawsuit against the historical society.

Plans for building the late Victorian Queen Anne-style were started in December 1905, the society said in its application to get the house on the Register of Historic Kansas Places. Mary Seaman Ennis purchased three city lots and had con-

tracted with Fred Hunt to build the 1,768-square-foot, three-bedroom, one-bath home.

The *Goodland Republic* in March 1, 1907, describes the house with four gables, two porches, one one-story and two two-story bay windows and a balcony. It was built on a three-foot brick foundation with a brick basement under half of the house.

The plans included a covered back porch on the northeast corner and a one-car garage. Later that was replaced with a two-car garage and covered breezeway. A small building on the property originally was a chicken coop and presently is used for storage. The house was painted and the trim

restored in 2004 and 2005.

The interior is highlighted by oak woodwork. The entry and stairway feature Corinthian columns, railings and banisters.

Ennis was the widow of William Ennis, who operated one of Goodland's first drug stores. She and her sisters, Lyda and Margaret, operated the Palace Hotel until it burned down and later ran a millinery shop known for its designs.

The builder, Hunt, moved from New York. In Goodland, he was a conductor until he left to become a master carpenter.

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