

Tying up some loose ends



FRIDAY AFTERNOON, Ron Beneda worked from a bucket truck to prepare power lines behind the high school for a pole replacement after an employee of J Corp, the company doing the city water project, hit the pole with a back hoe. The broken pole is on the south side of high school parking lot. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

‘Beach party’ could take place on Penn in July

The Oberlin Business Alliance talked about moving its summer “Beach Party” on Main Street up to July at a luncheon meeting last Wednesday at the LandMark Inn, but made no decisions.

The party had been scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 2, the weekend before the county fair starts. Joe Stanley, who is organizing the event, said the group is really stuck on a date because there isn’t a Saturday when there isn’t something going on. The group could have the party on a Friday, he said, but they wouldn’t be able to have sand volleyball competition during the day.

If the alliance wants this to be a back-to-school event, he said, July is sort of early.

The group decided that it doesn’t have to be a back-to-school event. The suggestion was made to have the beach party on Saturday, July 26, the same day as the alliance garage sale.

The group is going to ask people who don’t sell everything at the community-wide garage on Saturday, July 19, if they would donate leftover items to the alliance sale.

If the beach party is held the same day, Main Street would have to be closed for the sand volleyball, but the suggestion was made to have the garage sale in the drive through at the former The Bank building, so people could still drive to it and not have to walk very far.

Rusty Addleman, owner of Addleman Drug Store, said he has started fund raising for the Fourth of July fireworks. He said he called a company he buys from and the man plans to come to Oberlin this year to help set them off.

Mr. Addleman said Mike Dempewolf, a local man, and the group that set off the fireworks do a good job. He said the man from the fireworks company has something to do with federal regulations and homeland security.

In other business, the alliance members:

- Heard they made \$306 and some change at the burger fry the Friday before the alumni banquet. The group agreed to give \$193 and some change to make \$500 to give to The Gateway sign committee.
- Talked about the alumni hospitality room. The alumni used the room, but there was food and drink left this year. A suggestion was made to have less food next year.
- Agreed to pay Marty Munson, owner of the building where the hospitality room was held, \$75 for utilities.
- Held a 10-minute closed session for personnel. There was no action taken.
- Received a letter from Randy Hrabec with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission saying that he needs two copies of the loan closing for H&B Construction.
- Signed a resolution for Mid States Port Authority to re-appoint two representatives to the board.

Commission hit with surprise bill for radio tower

The Decatur County commissioners discussed a bill from SBA Network Systems, the firm that owns the tower the county’s radio repeater is on, at the meeting Tuesday morning.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said the tower has changed hands and apparently the company did an audit and found out they owned a tower out here and now they want rent.

The county hasn’t been paying any rent, he said. The bill was for \$2,600.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said he thought the bill should be null and void because the county didn’t know a new company had taken over the tower or anything about the rent.

Mr. Brown said the county has never been charged anything before.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said before, when the county was paying to rent the tower, it came out of several budgets so the bill will touch all of them.

The commissioners said they would look for any existing contract.

The commissioners agreed to give \$500 to the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter depending on what the budget is for next year. Susan Wegle came to talk with the group.

The county has given \$500 to the shelter in past years.

She said a lot of the funding for the facility has been cut and they are going for grants, but wonder if the grants will get cut too.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said what the county has done with other agencies is say they will give what they gave last year, but at this time can’t do anything else. If there is anything extra, he said, the commissioners will contact her.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Agreed to increase the permit fee to move a building from \$1 to \$20. The county contacted 25 other Kansas counties and the average was \$10 for the permits.
- Heard the county has to find someone to appoint to the Arts and Humanities Commission to replace Ella Betts, who has served her term. Anyone interested can contact the county clerk’s office.

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