

Board looks at special ed

The Oberlin School Board discussed bringing someone in from the Oakley Service Center to talk with special education teachers about their options in case the board decided to contract for special education services through the center. Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he has already talked with the teachers about their situation. He said the board didn't have to make the decision on what they wanted to do with the special education department right away, but he said he would like permission to pursue things. Mr. Glodt said he would like the teachers to get the questions they have answered.

Board member Monte Moore asked if there was any way to get the parents who have kids in special education involved in those discussions.

Mr. Glodt said he thought it would be a good idea, but not at the same meeting. The staff will be asking questions about employment, but possibly the parents could meet at a separate time.

Mr. Moore said he is a parent and would like that option. He said he wants to keep the parents informed.

The board agreed that Mr. Glodt could pursue the idea, but didn't take a vote.

The board held several closed sessions for non-elected personnel. The first one was 45 minutes, the second was 45 minutes, 30 minutes and 20 minutes. There was no action taken afterward.

In other business, the board:

- Accepted the resignation of Tucker Woolsey, who teaches computer/technology education at the high school.

In his letter to the board Mr. Woolsey said "There are factors within this community, some are school related and some are not, which I feel will limit my potential for growth, both professionally and personally. I do, however, believe my resignation is the best decision for both the school district and myself. When considering the district's current financial situation, it is my hope that in light of my resignation, the district will be able to maintain another teacher in some other department or grade level."

- Discussed the superintendent's evaluation. The board has already done one evaluation, but he has two a year until he is here for three years. The board agreed that they could talk about it at the next regular meeting which will be Monday, March 8.

Register gets reader

Decatur County commissioners approved buying a microfilm reader/printer computer system for the register of deeds office in the \$6,500 price range.

Register of Deeds Judy Gaumer said they have a 1990 reader/printer for the microfilm in the office made by the 3M Co., but the firm no longer deals with the device.

The office has started putting digital copies of deeds on CDs, but the state doesn't see the CDs as archival so the deeds still need to be put on microfilm.

Deeds have been put on microfilm since 1983, Mrs. Gaumer said, and the office needs the machine to print off deeds for customers.

The legislature has allowed \$2 per recorded page be set aside for equipment since 2002. Mrs. Gaumer said she had over \$7,000 in the fund, but spent \$1,000 on a Dell computer. The fund gains around \$300 a month.

She received quotes from four companies, Kodak, Minolta, Canon and Altec, ranging in price from \$3,000 to \$10,000. She said it is hard to break them down and compare them because each comes with different items. Mrs. Gaumer said she would like the Canon and plans to go to another office and see a machine in use.

Commissioners approved purchasing the machine in the \$6,500 price range.

Sewer rates to be discussed

The Oberlin City Council will discuss higher sewer rates when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

With the upcoming sewer project, the council will be discussing when they will raise rates and how much.

The meeting is open to the public and is aired on local access channel 7 on the Oberlin cable system.



Tea party is a hit

IN THEIR SUNDAY BEST, including hats, Garrah Gaumer and Anna Seeber Shaw (above) drank tea and enjoyed cookies at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center tea party for Valentine's Day on Saturday. Myrna Jones (right) provided music on the piano for the occasion.

— Photos by Kimberly Brandt



County looks at computer for dispatch office

Three prices were presented to the Decatur County commissioners Tuesday morning for a new computer for the dispatch office.

Emergency Preparedness Director Bert Cool said he got online and found three prices, a Gateway computer for \$1,377, a Hewlett-Packard for \$1,277 and a Dell for \$1,287.

The new computer will replace

the 911 computer and printer system. Mr. Cool said the one in the office now has a problem with its mother board.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he could check the state surplus list, because Mr. Cool may find what he is looking at for a better price.

Mr. Cool said he was interested in the Dell computer since they have an

authorized technician in McCook. All of the prices include flat screen monitors and the heat from the old monitors is tremendous, he said.

Mr. Hirsch said he wouldn't buy anything other than a flat panel just because of the desk space that is saved.

All three computers come with a three-year extended warranty, said

Mr. Cool.

The commissioners agreed to allow Mr. Cool to purchase a computer as long as he doesn't exceed \$1,500. They said they would leave it up to him on the kind.

There is money in the 911 fund for the new computer.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Named Martin May to take over as the treasurer for Logan Township since Greg Unger has moved.
- Discussed the old court computers. Commissioners will take sealed bids by Tuesday, March 8, for the computers and printers. One of the computers is a Magnavox Professional and the other is a DTK. Both will be offered to other offices in the courthouse before the sale.

Commissioners look over new truck

Two Decatur County commissioners got on their hands and knees on the side of the road Tuesday morning to check out the underside of a newly purchased Mack truck.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman one of the three trucks outside the courthouse so commissioners could get a look.

Mr. Stallman said the trucks each have around 300,000 miles on them.

Mr. Stallman said he had set up two hazardous household waste

pick up days. The first will be in Oberlin on Saturday, April 24, and the second will be in Norcatur on Saturday, Oct. 23.

He said he plans to rotate so that Oberlin will have a pick up every year and Jennings and Norcatur will have one every two years.

He said the transmission on a 1993 Dresser 850 has been repaired but he doesn't have the final bill on it, but thinks it will be over \$10,000.

With the snow, he said, the crew

cleared roads. They didn't have any problems except for the wind. Roads had to be opened twice because the wind kept causing drifts.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn asked if Mr. Stallman had any responses to the ads he had placed to hire someone for the department. Mr. Stallman said he had heard from a few people.

There was a 10-minute closed session held for non-elected personnel. There was no action taken.

Council allows purchases

The Oberlin City Council approved two equipment requests from the city foreman at its meeting Thursday night: a six-wheeled all-terrain vehicle from Southwest Implement for \$8,568 and an air compressor from Wagner Equipment for \$12,321.

Foreman Dan Castle said he got three bids for the vehicle, a 6x4 Gator which is a utility vehicle like a four wheeler but is a six wheeler and will be used at the cemetery to haul dirt around. There will be a sprayer mounted on it to spray weeds.

The first bid was for a 4x4 Yamaha Rhino from Colby Ag for \$8,524, the second bid came for a 6x4 Cub Cadet from Southside Total Power in Colorado for \$9,697, and the third for the 6x4 John Deere Gator from Southwest Implement for \$8,568.

The council budgeted \$8,000 for the item.

Councilman Joe Stanley asked if the city already owned a sprayer. Mr. Castle said the city has one, but the crew would like to get a smaller one. He said half the price can come from the parks budget and other half from the cemetery.

The sprayer, said Mr. Castle, will cost around \$500 to \$600. He said his suggestion was to purchase the one from Southwest Implement. Councilman Ray Ward said he wouldn't vote on the issue since he is employed by the business.

The council approved the purchase with Councilman Stan McEvoy voting against it and Mr. Ward not voting.

Mr. Castle said he also received three bids on the air compressor. The first came from M-6 Concrete in Wichita for \$13,460; the second from Air Rentals in Colorado for \$13,240, and the third from Wagner Equipment in Colorado for \$12,321.

He said the companies all said that the city should get 15 to 20 years of service out of the equipment.

Mr. McEvoy asked if it was in the budget, and Mayor Ken Shobe said no. Councilman Joe Stanley said he would like to run the old one until it blows up, but eventually, the council approved the purchase with Mr. McEvoy voting against it.

Initiative meeting set

The Lifelong Community Initiative for Oberlin has rescheduled a public meeting for 7 p.m. Monday after it was cancelled due to snow.

Committee members have been working on surveys of health care, community services, transportation, government, economic development, churches and housing.

Those at the meeting will have the opportunity to have their say on the surveys.

Former high school Principal Buzz Matson will moderate the meeting.

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February 21, 2004

Gateway ~ Oberlin, KS

7:30 p.m.

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