

County tables decision

Sheriff vehicle on hold for bids

Decatur County commissioners decided last Tuesday to table a decision on a new vehicle for the sheriff's office until an opinion is received back from the state attorney general about whether the county has to buy from a Kansas dealer.

Last month, Sheriff Ken Badsy and Undersheriff Michael French brought commissioners a bid for a Dodge Durango in Illinois for \$22,900.

The week after that, County Attorney Steve Hirsch had a copy of the letter sent from the Kansas League of Municipalities stating that municipalities can't purchase vehicles from dealers who are not licensed to sell in Kansas.

Last Tuesday, Sheriff Badsy and Undersheriff French were back with bids for vehicles listed with area dealers. There were six:

- Faw's Garage in Arapahoe for a 2004 Dodge Durango for \$25,340.
- Wagner Ford in McCook for a 2004 Ford Expedition for \$30,731.
- Oakley Motors in Oakley for a 2004 Dodge Durango for \$31,670 less a \$3,500 mail in rebate.
- Matteson Motors in Phillipsburg for a 2004 Dodge Durango for \$34,785 less the \$5,500 rebate.
- Herl Chevrolet-Buick in Goodland for a 2005 Chevy Tahoe for \$31,626.
- Tubbs and Sons Ford in Colby for a 2005 Ford Expedition for \$26,806.

A call was made to Faw's, the lowest bidder, and they don't have a Kansas license.

With the bid, the men asked about stripping the equipment out of the 1997 Expedition the department owns and trading it in to OMB Police Supply out of Dodge City to get \$5,000 worth of credit for equipment from the company. Undersheriff French asked if they could do that since it can't be put off.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said she wasn't in favor of doing things for credit.

Commissioners decided to place the Expedition on the next county sale or may put it up for bid for individuals to purchase.

The sheriff's office is sending letters out again for bids from companies in-state for a vehicle.



LAST WEDNESDAY, a crew with B&H Paving sprayed oil on the streets (above) with a large truck and then a machine came in and dumped sand over the oil (below). The crew did the east/west streets in town, finishing the job on Thursday.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Crew seals streets with sand and goo

Crews started pouring black stuff on Oberlin streets, then covering the smelly, sticky goo with sand.

East/west streets were sealed this year. City Administrator Gary Shike said the city sends out bid packets each year, and B&H Paving out of Scott City has been the only company reply for years. Most companies like to work on a bigger job, he said.

The crew brought in sand some time ago and stored it on Martin Avenue, west of the cemetery. Mr. Shike said it has been stored there before but not for years. The company has used the state mixing strips outside of town, but these were already in use this year.

The sealing extends the life of the streets, he said. The asphalt surface gets dry, hard and brittle and starts to crack. The crew sprays the oil on the streets and then covers it with sand, said Mr. Shike. The new oil softens the pavement, and then sand works its way in and then renews the wear surface.

The whole process costs around \$43,000, which is what it would cost to repave just one block.

The streets are on a three year rotation, he said. Next year, the city won't do any sealing, then the year after that, they will do the north/south streets. In 2007, it will be time to do the east/west streets again.

The crew started the work last Wednesday and finished Thursday.



Training offered to officers

Television service would be free to city

The Oberlin police chief told the City Council at the meeting Thursday, July 1, about a television network that offers free televised training for officers which could save the city money.

Chief Police Wade Lockhart said Sen. Sam Brownback had helped get the system hooked up in the state of Kansas free for a year. City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the training usually costs around \$3,000 a year.

The classes are on television through satellite, the chief said. He said he and the officers can use some of them to satisfy their yearly training requirement. Mr. Hirsch said he uses three of the systems in Hoxie to do training for the firemen.

Chief Lockhart said he would like to invest in a DVD recorder so they can record the classes and then watch them later.

Is it just for training? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. No, said Chief Lockhart. They can also learn about homeland security and other things on the secure network.

A recorder costs around \$218, he said. Traveling to get the training hours is far more expensive, said Chief Lockhart.

Will the officers receive training that is as good as being in a classroom? asked Dr. Anderson. Yes, said Chief Lockhart. The men can claim up to 20 hours in video training, but they need 40 total. He said he can claim up to 20 hours of instructor training that way, too, but there still will be some training for which he wants to travel.

The council agreed they didn't have a problem with him purchasing the recorder, since he has the money in his budget.

On another issue, the council said they owed a big thank you to Gary and Leslie Bartels, who hand carried surveys for the city to find out the percentage of people in town with low to moderate income. The survey results could help the city get a grant for the sewer plant renovation project, which would mean the users wouldn't have to pay for all of it.

The city, so far, has received 716 of the 868 surveys back, which is 82 percent. Of those, 256, or 36 percent, were above the low to moderate income level, while 64 percent were below it.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he and Mayor Ken Shobe attended a Kansas League of Municipalities workshop on a new code of procedure. Currently, he said, the city uses the Robert's Rules of Order. If the new code was adopted, it would take the place of that.

The council didn't make any decisions but agreed to read the code booklet.

Internet tonight!
475-2206

Registration open for primary election

The Aug. 3 primary election is just around the corner, and people who want to vote only have a few days left to register.

The books will close at 9 p.m. Monday. County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who is the county election officer, said the clerk's office will stay open late that night for anyone who wants to come in after they get off of work.

If you have registered in the county before, she added, you don't need to re-register even if you haven't voted for years.

Those who just turned 18 years or who have never registered in Kansas before need to bring their driver's license or Social Security card when they register.

Mrs. Horn said it would be nice to have a good turnout since the county

pays for the election whether anyone votes or not.

Three races will be determined in the primary on Tuesday, Aug. 3, all on the Republican side. Those include the race between Dan Rasare and Ralph Ostmeyer for the 40th District in the state Senate, John Faber and Doug Sebelius for the 120th District seat in the House of Representatives, and Ralph Unger

and Phillip Lahman for District 2 county commissioner.

Running unopposed are Mrs. Horn for clerk, Steve Hirsch for county attorney, Doyle Brown for county commissioner seat for District 3, Jean Hale for treasurer, Judy Gaumer for register of deeds, Ken Badsy for sheriff and John Bremer for magistrate judge. All are incumbents.

Writing conference to be held here, in McCook

Registration for a writers conference, "For the Lover of Writing," later this month is still open.

The price for both days Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24, is \$55, which includes two lunches. The cost for each individual day is \$35 including lunch that day.

The first day of the conference will be held in McCook starting at 8

a.m. The keynote address will be given by Omaha novelist Alex Kava on "Using Fact for Fiction," followed by "Polish Your Writing Skills," by *Omaha World-Herald* writing coach Steve Buttry; "Writing What You Didn't Know: Research," by Mrs. Kava, a panel discussion and writing activities will be included.

From 1:30 to 5 p.m., there will be a journalism workshop featuring Mr. Buttry, including seminars on "Make Routine Stories Special," "Writing and Reporting Clinic," and "Becoming a Storyteller, Not Just a Reporter."

The following day, the conference will move to The Gateway in Oberlin with registration starting at

8 a.m.

There will be a talk by Marcia Preston, "What It Takes to Be a Writer." The speakers for the morning and lunch have not been announced yet. In the afternoon, there will be a panel discussion on "What Editors and Publishers Want."

To register by phone, call (800) 658-4348 or (308) 345-8122.

Market starts today


The weekly farmers market was scheduled to start this morning.

Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols said it will be held on Main Street starting around 6:30 to 7 a.m. each Wednesday.

Ralph Ostmeyer

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"I have a common sense approach to governing in Topeka. I believe that a government closer to the people it serves, the better. This philosophy has guided me during my service in the House and will continue this record of leadership in the State Senate."
-Ralph Ostmeyer

Elect

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State Senate - 40th District

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Vote August 3 - Primary Election

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