

Council asks for sewer rate plan to raise \$300,000

The Oberlin City Council and the city's consulting engineer talked briefly Thursday about how to pay for water projects that are underway and for a proposed water treatment facility in the future.

Thaniel Monaco, with Miller and Associates, said he had worked on a few scenarios to bring in money for the water department for future projects. The scenarios, with rate increases would bring in anywhere from \$1,634 to \$9,750 a month in revenue for the city.

Mr. Monaco said it is likely that the city will be building a water treatment plant.

He said the revenue scenarios are only an idea, and he needs to get more information on the number of services and sizes.

Are the current rates covering the water debt the city has so far? asked Councilman Stan McEvoy.

"To my knowledge, yes," said Mr. Monaco.

He said he has heard there might be a decrease in the amount of financing state and federal agencies will be doing in the future. The city might build the treatment facility in phases, he said.

Mr. McEvoy said he thinks the

council needs to plan to move ahead. The last new well needs to be hooked into the system and treatment needs to be done at some time. If the city doesn't move ahead, he said, then the water project the city has already completed won't be used.

Mr. Monaco said the first water project is in use, though not all parts have been hooked up.

The project was to generate more water for the city as well as improve quality with blending, said Mr. McEvoy. The city hasn't really done that.

When the city decides to do water treatment, said Mr. Monaco, more water will be needed.

If the city treats the water, then it should be able to use the south well? asked Mayor Ken Shobe. Yes, said Mr. Monaco.

The well east of town being re-drilled now will also help with the treatment, he said, and it will help prolong the life of the two main wells the city uses.

When the council sets its goals this year, water was at the top, said Mr. McEvoy. He said he didn't think they have moved forward or done anything with the goal yet.

Sealed bids wanted on new phones for the school district

The Oberlin School Board is asking for sealed bids for a Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol phone system which will be opened at the meeting Monday, March 14.

Technology coordinator Jess Randel gave a presentation in December on options for the district phone system. At that meeting, the board decided they wanted to go with the Internet system, but didn't decide when or where to buy it.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said at the meeting last Monday night, the board decided to ask for bids, which is the next step in the process.

Mr. Randel said the staff will be able to use the phones as an intercom system and for the bells. Both the current intercom and bell systems in both schools are in bad shape, said Mr. Glodt.

Eventually, said Mr. Glodt, every teacher will have a phone and two-way intercom with the office in their classroom.

The teachers don't have this with the system now.

The board discussed increasing the driver education fee for this summer. Mr. Glodt said Keith Grafel, who teaches the class, came to talk with him last year about increasing the fee. The students now pay \$2, which basically pays for the certificate they get when they complete the course.

Mr. Glodt said Mr. Grafel talked with schools in the area and most of them are over \$50, although one was

only \$35.

The suggestion was for a \$50 fee, which the board approved.

In other business, the board:

- Heard that member Monte Moore had noticed some unprofessional conduct from students at other schools lately. He said he was proud of the fact that the students from Oberlin weren't acting the same way. Mr. Moore said he wanted to thank the coaches and teachers, since he thinks the students' actions are a direct result of the high expectations the district has for them.

- Approved hiring Lairy Goltl as a substitute activity bus driver.

- Held a closed session to discuss negotiations starting with 10 minutes and then extended it five more. There was no action taken.

- Held a closed session for non-elected personnel starting out with 30 minutes. The board extended the session 10 minutes then five minutes three times. They met for a total of 55 minutes. There was no action taken.

- Approved the vocal department's request to go to the State Music Festival in Concordia at the end of April, and then to Worlds of Fun and the opera "Aida" in Kansas City.

- Approved a calendar for the 2005-2006 school year with 17 vacation days, seven teacher training or work days and four parent-teacher conference days.



Residents, kids dance

YOUNG AND OLD danced to the band Rendezvous at Cedar Living Center on Saturday, Feb. 12, to celebrate Valentine's Day. Kariah Castle (left above) joined hands and danced in a circle with some friends. Janet Anthony, (right) who works at the hospital, danced with Charley Vavroch, a resident.

— Photos by Othelia Vacura



County hears about agency

Decatur County commissioners talked with representatives from High Plains Mental Health last Tuesday, hearing that the agency's services are running smoothly in the county.

Dan Sturgill from High Plains Mental Health, who works with the mental health agency here, and Dorothy Vacura, who serves on the board, met with the commissioners.

Mr. Sturgill said he just stopped by to check in. In 2004 the agency was allowed \$25,000 in expenditures, this year there was \$800 added to that. The treasurer sends money to the agency a few times a year. He said officials from Hays will be out for a meeting soon and he wanted to know if there was any information the commissioners

wanted. County Attorney Steve Hirsch said they would like to see a full-time office here. Mr. Sturgill said they are working on some video conferencing for the future.

Mr. Sturgill said he comes to Oberlin on Wednesdays to meet with clients. Crystal Harman of Norton, John Phillips of Colby and there is a new worker in Oberlin

County Countdown

At the meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Discussed checking into other options and prices before making a decision to purchase a used sign-making machine from Rawlins County.

Story to right.

- Talked with representatives from High Plains Mental Health, who said they were just checking in. Story at left.

Storm spotter classes set

With the storm season around the corner, the National Weather Service office in Goodland is preparing for several storm spotter training classes in the area.

Dave Floyd, with the service, will be teaching the free classes, which

last around two and a half hours. The service will offer an advanced classes in May, but the dates haven't been set.

The storm class in Oberlin will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, at The Gateway.

Peggy Marine who works with clients here.

Where do people go if they need to be analyzed? asked Mrs. Vacura. Mr. Sturgill said some of the youths are sent to Kearney, Neb., or Garden City. They also work with hospitals in Hutchinson, Salina, Newton and Larned.

Mrs. Vacura said she and Vi Krizek, the county's representatives, have learned a lot serving on the board, but are looking for replacements.



Dr. Mark Wahlmeier, Optometrist, Opens Office in Goodland!

Drs. Morrison & Wahlmeier, Colby, are pleased to announce the opening of their eyecare office in Goodland. Dr. Wahlmeier is committed to bringing professional, patient centered vision and eye health care to area patients. Beginning March 7th, Dr. Wahlmeier will be available to see patients in the Goodland office on Mondays and Wednesdays and office hours will be maintained Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Appointments may also be scheduled with Dr. Wahlmeier in the Colby office on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

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