

Council OKs pay for director, holds contract

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
The Oberlin City Council approved a 10 percent raise Thursday for the marketing director which the city shares with the Economic Development Corp., but held up her contract because of wording.

City Administrator Gary Shike said director Connie Grafel is evaluated every two years. Last time she was up for renewal, however, the city was on a wage freeze, so she didn't get a raise. That means she has been four years without any pay increase. He recommended a 10 percent increase, which would bring her pay to \$26,520 a year.

The council said that was OK, but didn't vote on the contract.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said he had some concerns about how the agreement for Ms. Grafel was written. The contract will be fixed, and it will be on the agenda for the council's next meeting on Thursday, June 16.

The council was supposed to talk with Cecilia Brown about paving Ingalls Street at her request, but wanted some more information first. Mrs. Brown built a duplex on the street across west from the First Oberlin Apartments.

Mr. Shike said the council wanted to know how many feet she wanted paved and how much it would cost. The cost would be assessed to the property owners.

Mr. Shike said he doesn't know if First National has been approached about the street paving.

City Foreman Dan Castle said the

installation by Mid States of Salina of a new transformer at the power plant won't exceed \$15,000. He said the company recommends a circuit breaker to protect the transformer which will cost around \$34,600.

The transformer, which cost around \$85,000 won't be here until fall.

Mr. Castle said he would like to look into a system to remotely operate the substation from the power plant. Basically it would allow the crew to open and close switches at the substation from the power plant, read how much the loads are coming in to town and how much the loads are on the three loops around town. The city had a system similar to this, although it didn't do as much. That system doesn't work anymore. The council will discuss it again at budget time.

The council agreed to meet for budget workshops on Monday, July 11, and Thursday, July 21.

In other business, the council:

- Asked Mr. Shike to solicit proposals from auditors for the next two years after receiving a proposed contract from Mapes and Miller for the next three years. The council will ask Mapes and Miller for a one-year agreement. Mr. Shike said the council isn't dissatisfied with the firm's service, but since it is a big item, members thought they should get other proposals.

- Agreed to increase the amount given to the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter from \$500 to \$600 for next year.

County studies mailing equipment

The Decatur County commissioners talked with a representative from Midwest Mailing Solutions of McCook about a new mailing machine Tuesday, May 24, but didn't make any decisions.

The representative, Mike Broomfield, said the machine would cost the county \$126 a month for the next five years.

A few months ago, the commissioners looked at a machine from Pitney Bowes that would cost \$145 a month for five years.

Currently the county pays around \$247 every three months for a mailing machine which seals, weighs and stamps the envelopes.

The commissioners said they would think about the machines.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he talked with Anna Seeber-Shaw, and she would be willing to serve on the Health Foundation board. He said he will take her an application.

The group agreed to keep the doors open Saturday so those at the car show could use the restrooms.

Teens for Christ group to welcome new leader

Teens For Christ will hold an open house on Sunday, June 19, to start rebuilding the organization and meet the new leaders.

Pastor Doug Mason and his wife Johanna are taking over as directors of the Oberlin organization. The couple has been with the teen group for almost 10 years, most recently in Bird City, where they started a group in 2000 with around four students. Since then that group has grown to 31.

Mr. Mason also has served as the pastor at Immanuel United Methodist Church for the past five years.

With the move, he will be associate pastor at Lund Evangelical Covenant Church. Mrs. Mason is a registered nurse.

The couple have three children, Rebecca, 18; who will be going to Colby Community College; Amber, 15; and Bethany, 3. They will be living in Oberlin.



Tractors, vehicles shown

ON SUNDAY, Darrel Bruggeman (above) used his John Deere tractor to push a barrel across the white line at the Selden Car and Tractor Show. Ashley Kuhn and Jayce Storer (right) waited for snow cones. The Selden park and Main Street were full of people and several vendors for the show.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Plan puts even address on the left side

Decatur County Commissioner Ralph Unger presented a grid Tuesday of what roads and addresses in Cook Township would be like with a naming system using numbers and letters for county roads.

The idea is to put numbers on the north/south roads and letters on the east/west roads. There weren't any short roads or trails in the township, in Cook Township, he said, so there wasn't a sample of

how to handle those.

Commissioners agreed that houses on the left hand side of the roads going from the south or west would have even numbers. Those on the right side of the road from the west or south will be odd.

The group will continue discussing the project at the next meeting.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy said he wants to have the surveys for low to moderate income

for grant purposes out by Tuesday, June 14. He said the survey can be delivered in *The Oberlin Herald* at about 10 cents a copy, he said. No decision was made.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that the north side of the courthouse didn't leak on the fourth floor during the rain over Memorial Day weekend. Before the work by Mid Continental Restoration, it al-

ways leaked when it rained.

- Appointed Anna Seeber-Shaw to the Health Foundation board.

- Heard that weed control director Gaylen Huntley has already sold the Overdrive chemical he purchased and would like to buy close to \$1,200. Commissioner Patricia Glenn told him to go ahead in a phone conversation and then the commissioners ratified the purchase at the meeting.

County sells old equipment at bargain prices

The Decatur County commissioners sold six county items to the highest bidder at their meeting last Tuesday.

Bids were turned into the county clerk's office by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 27 for:

- \$157 for a tanker trailer from Dust Cloud Construction, owned by Dave Bose.
- \$100 for a 1974 Chevy van from Verl Sauvage.
- \$200 for a 1972 Ford F600 from

Ronnie Beachel, \$1,021 from Sheriff Ken Badsy and \$1,111.11 from Commissioner Ralph Unger.

- \$40 for a plastic fluid tank from Mr. Badsy.

- \$150 for a 300 gallon fluid spray unit from Mr. Badsy.

- \$510 for a 1964 blue F500 from Kent Euhus.

- \$312 for a 1967 Ford T850 winch from Mr. Unger.

The commissioners accepted the highest bids on all the equipment,

with Commissioner Unger not voting since he bid on two items. He suggested that all of the titles be done by June 1 so people can start a new month getting vehicle tags and taxes.

Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said there weren't any bids on a Briggs and Stratton pump, a 1979 Ford van or a 1961 International truck. The commissioners said if he receives a good bid on them, he can accept it and then tell

them. If the items aren't sold, they will be held until the next sale. Mr. Stallman said he may have an older dump truck for the next sale since he is looking at a new one. He said he is also looking for an aluminum water tanker.

Mr. Stallman said he had just hired Justin Brown to work on the road crew.

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