

* Longer runway is possibility for airport

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 project through the Federal Aviation Administration. To get that, the airport has to have 500 annual operations. Those 500 operations, said Mr. Shike, have to be with a plane the size that would need a 7,000 foot runway.

There isn't any guarantee the city can get a grant from the federal agency, he said. Even if the city does get one, the grant only covers 95 percent of the project. The other 5 percent has to be raised here, through taxes or donations.

On a \$3 million project, that would mean \$150,000, Mr. Shike said, and a 7,000-foot runway would cost more.

The city, said Mr. Shike, doesn't have the land for a longer runway. It is buying some land on each side of the current runway and at each end for a navigation easement, but this has nothing to do with the project to build a longer runway.

Putting in a longer runway doesn't just mean adding more to the existing one, said Mr. Shike. The city would have to start over and put in a new runway, either 5,000 foot or 7,000 foot.

The new runway would start at the intersection of the current runway and taxi way and stretch to the west-northwest, he said.

Mr. Shike said he isn't sure how much land the city would need to make the project work.

In 1999, the city hired Bucher, Willis and Ratliff to be its airport consultants. The company was then re-hired by the city a month ago. Mr. Shike said they thought they would just update the airport plan, but the engineers found they will have to do a full airport master plan, which

* Meeting planned

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 out of Jennings, which wants a longer runway; officials from the Kansas Department of Transportation's aviation unit; a planner from the Federal Aviation Administration; and the city airport committee.

The meeting will be open, said Mr. Shike, and everyone is invited. He said they plan to answer questions from anyone who's interested and get things organized.

Dr. Anderson said he and Ms. Grafel are working on the political aspects of the plan. They have invited people from the offices of Congressman Jerry Moran's office and Sens. Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts. Dr. Anderson said some of the political officials said they would send representatives to the meeting.

The meeting will be upstairs at The Gateway, said Mr. Shike.

might take 10 1/2 months.

Construction can't be started until after the master plan is finished, said Mr. Shike. One thing that can be done is burying some of the power lines at the airport, he said, but that work hasn't started yet.

The city, said Mr. Shike, doesn't have any money set aside to help pay for the 5 percent match if a federal grant comes through.

* Storms keep crews busy again

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 an open, optional gym when there are no classes, he said, but they can't have sports practice or force the students to show up.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the city crew started plowing around 4 p.m. on Sunday and were still working on the streets Monday afternoon.

Since this was a heavier, wetter snow than last week, said Mr. Shike, the city will need to plow the whole town again.

One thing that has complicated the snow removal is the Cover Your Acres crop conference, the biggest single event at The Gateway, this week. Mr. Shike said the city likes having the event, but the crew had to get things cleaned up so that they can make room for exhibitors and so people can get into the building.

The crew, said Mr. Shike, is doing a tremendous job. The city has one motor grader, two front-end loaders, one backhoe and one skid loader. Each piece is used to help move the snow out of the way.

Later this week, said Mr. Shike, the crew will start hauling some of the snow to a field out of town.

The police department had gone around, said Mr. Shike, and identi-

fied cars that need to be moved off of the street, especially ones that are parked on snow routes.

The streets are getting narrower with more snow, he said, so it is important for people to get their vehicles moved. Mr. Shike said it would be nice if people would get the vehicles moved before the city asks them to do it. At the same time, he said, he understands that there aren't a lot of places to move the vehicles to, but everyone needs to work together.

Mr. Stallman said the county crew started to clean up around 10:30 a.m. Sunday and worked until about 6 p.m. He said they started the emergency routes, including the streets to the hospital in town and then moved to the county roads.

Around 6 a.m. Monday, he said, the crew headed out to work on the township roads. Today, he said, the crew will hit the county roads again and open anything that blew closed.

A few areas on the county and township roads are getting kind of tight because they are running out of places to put snow, he said, but so far the crew has had good luck.

Mr. Stallman said the area got about six to eight inches in the storm over the weekend.

Booths needed for show

It's time to reserve a booth for the fourth annual Home and Garden Show sponsored by the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce and KFNF Radio.

The event will be Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18, at The

Gateway.

Businesses may reserve either a 10x10-foot or a 10x20-foot booth by calling Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols at 475-3441 to get an application. The bigger booths cost \$175, while the smaller ones are \$125.



FOUR PHEASANTS ran across the snow in Decatur County over the weekend. The birds are under stress because they can't find anything to eat.

— Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

* Birds under stress from lack of food

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 In the 28 years, said Mr. Rodgers, that he has been with this agency he can't remember a storm this severe or that has hung on for so long.

It will take several days with temperatures over 30 degrees to get some of the ground cover melted

off. Mr. Rodgers said he can relate this storm to the severe weather in the Dakotas about five or six years ago. Those storms pretty much wiped out the bird population, although a few survived. There was excellent reproduc-

tion the following spring which helped those states.

He said he isn't predicting that will happen here, but he is hoping that enough birds survive so that there are a decent number of birds this summer to reproduce.

The good news is that the soil

moisture should be better than the last couple of years which will help the population because there will be better breeding conditions, said Mr. Rodgers.

The bad news is that there might not be enough birds to take advantage of those conditions.

Council holds hearing

The Oberlin City Council held a public hearing about hiring the city clerk's husband to do some of the electrical work on the new wastewater treatment plant at its meeting Thursday night.

Only one person asked to talk. Rose Eskew said she didn't see any issue with Bob Castle doing some of the subcontractor work.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Mr. Castle had been hired as a subcontractor to do some of the wiring on the new lift station. The council had to hold a public hearing about this issue since Mr. Castle's wife Deanna is the city clerk.

The council appointed Randy Ostmeyer to the board of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. for a two-year term.

Melinda Enfield, who asked the council to keep her chickens in town and is running for a seat on the council, told the council that she had filed to run in a state pageant as Mrs. Decatur County. Mrs. Enfield was at the meeting to let people know she was in the pageant. The council suggested that she come back at the first meeting in March since it will be aired on local cable access channel 7.

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