

* Runway plan noticed by officials

(Continued from Page 1A)
closed. County Commissioner Ralph Unger said that the commissioners wouldn't have a problem with that.

Mr. Brennan said that BCI might look at buying land near the airport and then leasing it back to the city to use for the new runway and approaches if it wasn't too expensive.

Mr. Weisenburger said if a landowner doesn't want to sell, the property could be condemned using eminent domain, but not without the city getting involved.

Ed Young, director of the aviation division for the Department of Transportation, said that both the governor and the secretary of transportation had talked to him about the Oberlin airport project and that both want regular updates.

"Boy, are you on the radar screen," he said.

Mr. Young said that the estimated cost for a 5,500-foot runway, which is what the Federal Aviation Administration would be looking at, is

about \$2.5 million and the cost for a 7,000-foot runway would be in the \$4 million to \$6 million range.

The city will have to make a decision, he said, whether to go for speed on the project and use state money up front, or go for federal money, which may take longer to get, and then ask for state help at the end if it's needed.

If the project doesn't use state help right away, he warned, others might take precedence.

While no firm decisions were made, Mr. Weisenburger said the meeting had been productive and the community involvement was invaluable.

Mayor Joe Stanley reported on the get together at the council's regular meeting Thursday night.

"Evidently, we've ruffled all the right feathers in the right way in Kansas City and Topeka," he said.

"They say it's moving fast. It seems slow to us, but the people who need to know about it, they know."

* Rates to increase in September

(Continued from Page 1A)
"They can decrease usage enough so you can't make your payments (on the federal loan)," he warned the council.

The city could have a \$90,000 loss on water next year if it doesn't raise rates, Miller added, even without the plant.

After looking at possible rate structures, the council chose to change the meter rate from \$6 to \$9.20 per month for those with 3/4-inch water lines, the most common type. The rates will also increase from \$5 to \$8.20 per thousand cubic feet for those using less than 750 cubic feet of water per month, from \$6.88 to \$15.14 for those using between 750 and 2,000 cu. ft. and from \$7.50 to \$16.50 for those using more than 2,000 cu. ft. per month.

A cubic foot of water equals 7.48 gallons, so someone using 750 cubic feet would use 56,010 gallons, City Clerk Deanna Castle said.

The increase will cost the small-

est household with a 3/4-inch meter using the minimum amount of water an additional \$6.40 a month, she said.

The increase should bring in about \$160,405 next year unless usage drops more than 10 percent, Mr. Miller said.

At the same meeting, the council voted to raise electrical rates by 1 cent a kilowatt hour from 11 1/2 cents to 12 1/2 cents. That should bring in around an additional \$100,000 or so, Mrs. Castle said.

Of the increase, she said, half will go into the electric fund to pay for electricity they buy from Sunflower Electric Power Corp. and other suppliers, and the other half will go into a special street fund to pay for street repairs.

In January 2006, the city made power rates the same for all users, standardizing it at 11 1/2 per kilowatt hours, Mrs. Castle said. Before that, there were several levels of rates depending on use.

Oberlin residents use 700,000 gallons

Water use stayed below the 700,000-gallon trigger all but one day last week, but that and the forecast were enough to put the city on water rationing again.

The city came close to the trigger several days with people using just under that amount.

At the council meeting on Thursday, members voted to approve Mayor Joe Stanley's proclamation of a Stage 2 water warning. That invoked water restriction, meaning that people using city water are restricted to every other day for outdoor use.

People who have odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Those who

have addresses ending in zero, two, four, six or eight can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. All watering has to be done between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m.

No one is allowed to use water outside on Mondays.

Last week, the city pumped:

- 744,000 gallons on Monday, July 16.
- 680,000 gallons on Tuesday, July 17.
- 688,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 538,600 gallons on Thursday.
- 658,300 gallons on Friday.
- 659,300 gallons on Saturday.
- 658,500 gallons on Sunday.

* Water rules in force

(Continued from Page 1A)
The regulation allows anyone establishing a new lawn or who needs to do a special outside washing project to ask for a permit from the city office. There is no fee for the permit, which will be filed with the city clerk. A copy will be given to the city foreman and the police department.

The outside water restrictions

apply only to those on city water service. Those with private wells are not covered.

The evening water restrictions helps the city water tower to recharge, said City Administrator Gary Shike, since most household and business usage is during the day. It also helps to reduce evaporation since it's cooler at night and lawn watering is more efficient then.

* Workers needed

- Rides include:
- The moon walk, for kids.
 - Kiddie swings.
 - Kiddie cars, run by the Norcat community.
 - Adult swings, run by a group from Norcat.
 - Ferris wheel, run by the Oberlin Rotary Club.
 - Merry-go-round, run by the Oberlin Lions Club.

- Octopus, run by Herndon residents.
- Twist-Over, run by a Jennings group.
- Tilt-a-Whirl, which needs a group.
- Train, manned by volunteers.
- The fishing pond, which has been a kid game for years, will be replaced this year, said Ms. Ray, with a new kiddie game.



Crews continue work

DESPITE WORK near the emergency entrance at the Decatur County Hospital, ambulance attendants Cathy Bouts (above left) and Karen Eskew moved their equipment in and out to pick up and drop off patients. Workers from Rhoads Construction of Goodland (right) began putting up steel last Wednesday for the hospital addition.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes



Test plot results look good

Results for the 16 varieties of wheat planted west of town on the May Family Farms for the 2007 Decatur County Extension Wheat Plot are in, and they all look pretty good.

The plots were planted on Oct. 5 and harvested on Friday, July 6. County Extension Agent Byron Hale said the results were as good and better than last year.

The test plot was fertilized with eight tons of manure per acre and 10 pounds of top dress nitrogen.

The two highest yielding wheat varieties were Wesley and Millennium at 57 bushels per acre.

Ranked in order of highest yielding, the rest of the plots included:

- Trego at 54 bushels per acre.
- Hatcher and NuFrontier at 51.
- Postrock at 50.
- Fuller at 49.
- Infinity and Thunderbolt at 48.
- TAM 111 and Keota at 47.
- T81 and Ron L at 46.
- Shavano and Smokey Hill at 45.
- Overly and Jagger at 44.
- T136 at 42.
- NuHills and Jagaline at 41.
- Santa Fe at 39.

There wasn't any data for Bond, Cutter or Danby.

Mr. Hale said the May family, which has hosted the wheat plot tour for years, plans on doing it again next year.

Quilt show scheduled

The Tri-State Quilt Show will be held in Goodland Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Classes are being offered by Virginia Robertson, Kansas Troubles and Happy Hollow Designs. There will be hands-on seminars, a quilt challenge, quilt exhibit, high tea and more.

For details or to preregister for classes, call (866) 605-0387.

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