

Motion dies for grant for water plant

A motion to apply for a \$400,000 Community Block Development Grant to build a water treatment plant died for lack of a second at an Oberlin City Council meeting Thursday.

It was the second time the plant failed to come to a vote. At the beginning of the year, the council's motion to apply for a \$4 million grant failed on the lack of a second. The council decided to table any decision.

Chris Miller and David Blau, engineers with Miller and Associates of McCook, came to the meeting Thursday to tell the members about the grant process.

Mr. Miller said if the council members want to apply for the grant, the paperwork needed to be in Friday. Then he and one other person would attend a meeting with state officials at the end of August to plead the city's case. A public hearing on the application would need to be set by Sept. 16, said Mr. Miller.

When can the city apply next for the grant? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May.

The process starts again in June or July of next year, said Mr. Miller, and then the state allows 18 months for the money to be spent. If the city wins a grant and the money isn't spent in that time, he added, it can apply for an extension.

So this would move the city forward with the water treatment facility? asked Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener. Yes, said Mr. Miller.

The water treatment plant is needed because, under new federal standards, the city's water is over on the allowed amount of uranium.

If the city had to spend that much money for public health, said Ms. May, she would probably be OK with it, but there's not a real need for this plant.

This is a proposed \$4 million project, she said, and it's to remove minor contaminants that have been in the water for as long as town has been here. This is a city with 2,000 people who will then have to pay for a \$4 million project, she said, adding that the plan doesn't even address high nitrate levels.

The city would have a loan for 40 years, said Mrs. Lohofener, with equipment that probably will last only 20 years. Mrs. Lohofener said she isn't in favor of applying for the grant at this time. Congressman Jerry Moran is going to sponsor a meeting in October for Kansas towns with water problems because of the numbers set by the Environmental Protection Agency, she said. She said she would rather

Council roundup

At its meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Discussed a roofing regulation proposed by a roofing company which limits houses to three layers of shingles, but didn't make any changes to the city code. Story to come.

- Approved a \$4,246,289 budget for 2009, with minimal discussion about money for the wetlands at Sappa Park. Story on the Front Page.

- Made plans to look at the land left to the city and the Decatur County Hospital by Fred and Henrietta Bremer before making a decision to sell or keep it. Story to come.

- Allowed a motion to apply for a \$400,000 state Community Block Development Grant for a water-treatment facility to die for a lack of a second. Story at left.

- Talked with representatives from the Golden Age Center and meal site about using the room downstairs in The Gateway for about nine months while the new senior center is being built in Oberlin. Story to come.

want to find out what happens after the meeting.

The plan for the plant includes water distribution improvements, said Mr. Shike. Mr. Miller said the city might not be able to get the grant just for the distribution system without addressing water treatment.

Could the distribution system be separated from the rest of the plan? asked Mrs. Lohofener.

Yes, said Mr. Shike. Although the city has had high uranium numbers for four quarters, the state hasn't issued any edicts, said Mr. Miller.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he would just as soon apply for the grant and then not use it, than not apply and then find out that the city has to do the project.

Mr. McFee made a motion to apply for the grant, but no one offered to second it.

The council asked Mr. Shike to get some information on the distribution system project. Foreman Dan Castle said some of the improvement involve putting in some shut off valves. Some of the city's valves are old, he said, and they don't want to twist them off so valves come off with the water on or off and then not be able to do anything about it.

Proofing error delays board

A proofreading error in last week's edition of *The Oberlin Herald* means the Oberlin School Board will have to wait until Friday, Aug. 29, to vote on the budget for next year.

Although the budget for the 2008-2009 school year was printed in last week's paper, with a hearing set for Monday night, it showed that the hearing and budget were for the 2007-2008 school year.

Clerk Vickie Lippelmann said she called the Kansas Department of Education to see if the board

could go on as planned even with the typo, but was told with the error, the budget has to be reprinted.

Mrs. Lippelmann said a state representative told her the board should go ahead with the planned budget meeting and have the board discuss the budget and answer any questions, but not to take any action.

The board will have an official budget hearing at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 29, after the budget is republished in today's paper. The board will take its formal vote at that meeting.



AT THE HOSPITAL golf tournament Saturday Jacob Larue drove himself and his dad, Bruce, (above) to the next hole. Rusty Addleman (below) prepared to tee off while

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden (bottom) sold candy bars and pop out of the back of her borrowed all terrain vehicle. —Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Hospital raises money

Golfers teed off first thing Saturday morning for the annual Decatur County Hospital golf tournament at the Oberlin Golf Course.

With 112 golfers and a shotgun start, the games took most of the day as golf carts maneuvered past each other on the cart paths. The team of Brian and Pam Simonsson and Robbie and Jeni Henningson ended the day in the lead.

They were named the winners later that evening at the benefit dinner.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said the hospital made roughly \$17,000 before expenses, which were around \$5,000. That means the hospital made close to what it did last year, she said.

That evening, around 165 golfers and others met at The Gateway for a prime-rib dinner, silent auction, live auction and a chance to win raffle items.

At the dinner, Mrs. Doeden said, Leslie Bartels won a Toshiba 42-inch high-definition television; Jim Barrett won a Garmin 255 global positioning system; Linda Hunt, a golf putter; and



Melinda Grafel, a patio set.

Mrs. Doeden said she thought the biggest money maker was the raffle for the television.

All of the money raised this year goes to the county doctor procurement effort, she said.

Just to get a physician to Oberlin takes around \$30,000, said Mrs. Doeden, which helps pay any recruitment fees, advertising, loan expenses, signing bonuses and more.



Expect highway delays

Travelers on U.S. 36 west of town and U.S. 83 south out of Oberlin should expect delays starting next week as the Kansas Department of Transportation starts a repaving project.

The two jobs by Venture Corp. of Great Bend will be going on at the same time, said Kristen Brands, spokesman for the department office in Norton.

On U.S. 36, she said, the workers will start at the Rawlins-Decatur

county line and work east, milling up the surface and recycling it into a 1.5 inch overlay. The job goes for 11 miles to the U.S. 83 junction.

On U.S. 83, the job starts at the Sheridan/Decatur County line and works north. Both projects will use a pilot car, with delays up to 15 minutes expected for one-way traffic to pass.

The projects, with an estimated cost at \$2,703,166, should start Monday.

HELP WANTED

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is accepting applications for Early Head Start Home Visitors for Colby and Norton.

Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent. Experience in early childhood preferred.

Contact Person: Keva Scheib, Head Start Director, 785-672-3125 ext. 160. To receive an application, contact Rose Langley at 785-672-3125 ext. 200.

Applications Deadline: Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

NKESCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Thank you for your votes in the August 5th Primary Election for my run for district #3 County Commissioner and your continued support in the General Election in November.

*Thank you,
Gene Gallentine*
Paid for by Gene Gallentine, Treasurer


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100 Years

 1918

 1925

 1950

 1990

 Clara

The children of Clara Schieferecke invite you to a reception in honor of her 100th Birthday at the Leoville Parish Center on Saturday, August 30th, 2-3:30 p.m. Your presence will be your gift. Cards may be sent to Box 167, Hoxie, K8 67740.

Happy 50th Anniversary Dad & Mom! (Bob & Sharon) August 24th

Love from your kids & grandkids



The family of **Don & Lois Fredrickson** is hosting an open house in honor of their **60th Wedding Anniversary** on Saturday, August 30, 2008 from 2-4 p.m. at the United Church Fellowship Hall.

Please no gifts but cards may reach them at: 510 E. Oak Oberlin, KS 67749