

* Reverse filter might solve water woes

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ing into something for the city's water, the department will put any enforcement action on the back burner, said Mr. Metcalf.

Did Mr. Waldo say how much of the grant money might be cut from the state's budget? asked Councilman Rob McFee. No, said Mr. Metcalf, but he talked with him before the cuts were talked about.

Engineers with Miller and Associates have said that reverse osmosis water will be too aggressive for the city's old water pipes and might dissolve the gunk off the

inside of them, said Mr. Metcalf. The reverse osmosis water would be tweaked just enough to get it under the federal limits, said Mr. Metcalf. People would still want a system inside their home.

Administrator Austin Gilley said when he talked with Wayne Bossert from the Northwest Kansas Ground Water District four, it sounded like an engineering firm out of Denver might be doing some work on this idea.

The council asked Mr. Metcalf to call Mr. Waldo about coming to talk with them.

* City could look at changing firm for engineering

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herself and would be interested in looking into other firms.

City Administration Austin Gilley said he understood that Miller and Associates was under contract to design a new water treatment plant. Mr. Hirsch said they need to look at the agreement between the city and the firm.

Another thing to keep in mind, said Councilman Ray Ward, who was presiding as acting mayor, is with past projects, someone had to drive here to oversee the work and the city paid mileage. Mileage from another town could add up fast, he said. That's not a reason to keep the McCook firm, he added, but the city needs to look at those figures, too.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart told the council the city needs an impound lot where a vehicle involved in a case can be locked up. The city is using the old county shop now, he said, but they need a city lot. He said they have pretty much decided to fence in an area by the city shop.

How many vehicles does the city need to impound? asked Councilman Rob McFee. The city has two vehicles now, the chief said.

Mr. Gilley told the council that he's been reading through the city's ordinances and books. Some of the ordinances are not the actual practices the city operates with, he said. There's a lot of those issues that need to be cleaned up. Mr. Gilley

said he's working on revisions.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a new procurement policy. Mr. Gilley said he tried not to deviate from the current practice, but wanted the policy to be a little more clear.

- Heard that Mr. Gilley has talked with the department heads about being good stewards of the taxpayers' resources. The city's future is not necessarily grim or dark, he said, but he wants to highlight things that need to be done.

- Talked about possibly doing a citizen/customer satisfaction survey.

- Heard that the city hasn't been able to balance the books for the end of the year yet, through no fault of the staff, said Mr. Gilley. He said city has old equipment and is still using an outdated "DOS" operating system.

- Heard that two more roofers had looked at The Gateway roof. The city will run a public notice asking for bids for the roof and for the heating, ventilating and air conditioning units on the roof.

- Talked briefly about the Kansas Aviation Association meeting in March. Mr. Gilley said he thought he should attend the meeting.

- Approved continued participation in the Kansas Municipal Energy Association mutual aid program, which costs the city \$100 a year. The city has been in the program for the last 10 years.

* Bids vary widely on weather system

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and they haven't sent the form in to get the OK. The equipment can be approved before the city gets the OK for the site, he said.

Mr. Fraker said he can't explain the difference in the prices.

The money for the state runs out in June, said Mr. Fraker.

"While I understand the urgency to get this money," said City Administrator Austin Gilley, "I don't

think waiting two weeks would be bad."

In that time, he said, he could gather the files on the project, talk with the Department of Transportation and the engineers and figure it out.

He added that he would feel more comfortable, as the project manager, if he had two more weeks.

The council tabled the decision.

Woman flown to Kearney hospital

A 37-year-old Norcaturn woman injured in a car accident at the end of January is still in intensive care at the hospital in Kearney, Neb.

Melissa Hadley, 37, was flown by helicopter to Good Samaritan Hospital after the car she was in rolled on the Bohemian Hall Road the evening of Thursday, Jan. 29.

Erin Hadley, Melissa's sister, said she's been in intensive care for 11 days now and is still in critical condition. Both of the sisters are in the medical field, working at the Andbe Home in Norton.

Erin said she's been in Kearney since her sister arrived. Other family members have been there, too, but needed to return home. Erin said she doesn't want her sister to wake up alone and be scared. She said she's been keeping track of everything that's happened in a planner

so that when her sister wakes up, she can fill her in.

Doctors put Melissa in a drug-induced coma soon after she arrived, her sister said. The doctors lifted the medications six days ago, Erin said, and now she's waiting for her sister to wake up.

When Melissa arrived at the hospital, she had a long list of injuries, including a fractured skull, brain bleeding, contusions around her heart, one lung punctured, the other bleeding, a lacerated liver, three breaks in her pelvis and cuts that couldn't be closed up because of glass and dirt.

Since then, said Erin, the doctors have found that there's possibly something wrong with her right knee and there are blood clots in one leg and her upper extremities.

"She is in very critical condi-

Northwest Winds blow strong



ON SATURDAY, the Northwest Winds basketball team beat a team made up of Oberlin volunteer firemen and teachers in an annual game at the grade school. Kyle

Hartzog (middle) got ready for a rebound off the line while Matt Farr (left) and Leigh Zodrow watched.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

County bus frame to be straightened

The Decatur County commissioners approved spending \$535 to straighten and brace the frame of Bus 22.

Gaylen Huntley, noxious weed director, said he took the bus to Carl Lyon in Norcaturn, who said he can see that the frame has started to bend.

The commissioners discussed whether the county should pay to get the van fixed or not, since they have talked about purchasing a

used school bus.

Even if the county could purchase the school bus, said Mr. Huntley, the van needs to be used until then and then maybe the school bus could be used to take someone who has to go to McCook. The van, because the county received it through a state program, can't be driven out of state.

With the resignation of Sarah Fredrickson from the weed department, Mr. Huntley said he started

advertising the full-time position. He said he wants to keep it the same with the job being shared with the other departments.

He said he's working on setting up a time for someone to come look at the leaky roof on the old county shop. He said they also need someone to look at the mortar between the blocks of the shop too.

Mr. Huntley said they worked on the 2000 Expedition, which was the first response vehicle. The doors no

longer automatically lock. He said they have also retrieved the code needed for the key pad.

The 2000 Dodge diesel truck was having problems in the steering column. Those have been fixed, said Mr. Huntley, for \$900 with labor. The commissioners had already approved the expense.

The commissioners approved Mr. Huntley going to the annual conference in Lawrence in March and that his wife would ride along.

Health group could get money monthly

County countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with the road and bridge supervisor about signs for the county roads, but didn't make any decision. Story on Page 3A.

- Approved a motion declaring items salvaged from the theater and senior center as surplus to give away. Story on Page 3A.

- Heard that it's already been a busy year for the ambulance service,

with over 41 calls so far. Story on Page 2A.

- Approved spending \$535 to straighten and brace the frame of Bus 22. Story on Page above.

- Talked with one of the county's High Plains Mental Health representatives about giving the yearly contribution to the agency monthly or quarterly instead of all at once. Story at left.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine said he attended a Northwest Kansas Energy Collaborative meeting in Oakley to continue talks about wind power in this part of the state. He said Colby Community College hopes to get accreditation to offer a wind energy maintenance program.

The group is mainly an informational source for wind energy and a way for counties to stay in the loop.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said people should be cautious about anything that they are signing in the way of leases on their land. He said he hopes people are taking those to their lawyers to review first.

Mr. Unger said he attended a meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Commission on Monday. Members talked about whether the county wants to blow the all clear whistle when a storm has passed.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch

said there isn't any liability on the county's behalf if the all clear whistle is blown and then something happens. No decision was made.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Signed the letter allowing the clerk to apply for a credit card through the Bank.

- Heard that Register of Deeds Kari Ketterl had hired her predecessor, Judy Gaumer, to be deputy register of deeds. Mrs. Ketterl said there were lots of other applicants, but Mrs. Gaumer had the most experience.

- Approved renting The Gateway for storm spotter training for \$75.

- Approved giving the Northwest Kansas Area on Aging Agency \$4,300, the county's normal contribution.

- Reappointed Greg Long and Dr. Travis Hissong to the fair board. There's still one spot open, held by Sheriff Ken Badsky. Anyone interested can fill out a form at the clerk's office.

- Reappointed Connie Grafel to the hospital board.

Food Check Out Day set for Tuesday at Raye's

The Decatur County Farm Bureau plans to help teach people about the cost of what they eat during the annual Food Check Out Day at Raye's Grocery on Tuesday.

The theme for the day will be "Stretching your grocery dollar with health, nutritious food." Tammy Sporn, with the bureau,

said they will have a cart full of food and people will be able to guess what it cost. All of the food later will be donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry at the United Church.

The person who guesses closest to the actual cost will win a \$50 gift certificate to the store.

Five other names will be drawn, with each one receiving a Farm Bureau cloth tote bag.

