

Commissioners take ride in transportation bus

Decatur County commissioners took a ride in the county's yellow transportation bus during their meeting last Tuesday to check on rider complaints.

At recent meetings, the commissioners have heard complaints about the wheelchair lift, the air conditioner and the ride in the former school bus.

Commissioner Ralph Unger, who rode in a wheelchair up the lift into the bus, said the lift actually rides smoothly. It did make some jerks in the initial movement, he said, and he gave some suggestions to the driver.

The commissioners rode around the city for a few miles to get a feel for the bus. Mr. Unger said the driver, Bernie Goetze, said from an operator standpoint, he feels more comfortable using this bus than the old minivan.

It does feel a little different riding in it, said Mr. Unger.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine

suggested getting the air conditioner fixed, as it doesn't cool very well.

Later, Chief Dispatcher Marilyn Mack stopped with an application for a \$22,761 state grant for maintenance and repair for the 911 system next year. The commissioners approved and signed it.

Jacque Boultinghouse, emergency management director, talked with the board about a third 800 megahertz base station radio and where to install it. It doesn't make any sense to install it in the sheriff's office, she said, since there is one in dispatch across the hall.

Both the fire station and ambulance barn were suggested. Installation in either of those buildings wouldn't be that hard, she said.

Mr. Unger said the ambulance building does have more space if it's to be used as the command center. Ms. Boultinghouse said she would talk to both department directors.

Ambulance Director Linda Manning said Kem Bryan and Shayla

Williby have set up a business applying for grants. The department needs a defibrillator because the one they have isn't working. Those cost \$8,000 and more, but there might be a grant for one.

The department does have a machine that does some of the same things, she said, but it doesn't check blood pressure or oxygen levels.

The commissioners asked Ms. Manning to check with the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, as the organization has helped the county apply for grants in the past.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard the ambulance, fire, sheriff, police and emergency management departments held a drill last Monday night which went well.

- Agreed to donate three county history books to the Jennings Firemen's Fun Day.

Signing up Scouts



BEFORE the football scrimmage last Thursday, Kurt Anderson helped parents re-register their daughters for Girl Scouts.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Man eats 102nd steak here

In a quest to eat a steak in each of the 105 counties in Kansas, a Dodge City man stopped at the Teller Room of the LandMark Inn last Wednesday for lunch.

Bill Bunyan, a member of the Kansas Explorers Club, said he already has eaten a burger in every county and taken a picture of every courthouse in Kansas, and is now almost finished with his third quest.

If you are a good explorer, he said, you have a quest, so seven years ago he settled on eating a steak in every county.

He said he ate his 102nd steak at the LandMark. His plans for the last three include Sharon Springs, the Aberdeen Steak House in Atwood and Big Ed's in Bird City.

At age 72, he said, he's not sure what his next quest will be. It might be antique stores, since his wife Susan likes them, and she travels with him.

Mrs. Bunyan said the LandMark was the nicest place they have been to so far.

The club, said Mr. Bunyan, is part of the Kansas Sampler Foundation. He said he's hoping to get founder Marci Penner to join them in Bird City for the last steak.

He said it's been fun traveling the state. They have been everywhere and seen everything.

The couple was joined for lunch by friends Dick and Mary Beth Boyd of Norton and Rusty and Sharon Addleman of Oberlin



EXPLORERS Bill and Susan Bunyan stopped at the LandMark Inn last Thursday so he could eat his 102nd steak on his quest to eat one in each of the 105 counties in Kansas.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

County OKs spending exemption

The Decatur County commissioners decided to exempt the road and bridge department from a rule requiring department heads to get permission to spend over \$200 at a time.

At their meeting Tuesday, Aug. 10, the commissioners cut the amount department heads are allowed to spend without prior approval from \$500 to \$200.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said at the meeting Tuesday, Aug. 17, that the \$500 limit keeps him on his toes, and he can't hardly do \$200. Often times, he said, just to buy one part would put him over the limit.

Mr. Stallman noted that he has almost 10 times the budget of the other departments.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said

they could exempt the road and bridge department from the lower limit. It isn't the road and bridge budget that's having a problem, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

The department needs to get an algae treatment for the fuel, said Mr. Stallman, and that's going to cost \$281.

The exemption, said Mr. Unger, could be for oil, grease, repairs and other items, but if it's a brand new tool that the department hasn't ever had, maybe that needs to be approved.

Also, said Mr. Stallman, they need to order some off-road diesel. He said he thinks the department will run out before next Tuesday. The commissioners told Mr. Stallman to take bids and then take the lowest one.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved sending a letter to the Kansas Department of Transportation asking for the lien release for the transportation bus.

- Approved a resolution to transfer \$5,000 to the courts equipment reserve, \$225,000 to road and bridge special machine fund, \$55,000 to ambulance special equipment, \$10,000 to rural fire special equipment, \$1,000 to register of deeds special equipment and zero to noxious weed special equipment and general special equipment for the new year.

- Turned down a proposed agreement for using the juvenile detention center in WaKeeney, which would have required a property tax increase of a quarter of a mill.

City tables oil-lease decision

The Oberlin City Council put off a decision about a proposed minerals lease for city-owned ground again, although members did say that they are interested.

At the meeting Thursday, Aug. 19, Joe Combs, with the oil exploration firm Fred J. Hambright, said he was at the meeting looking for a response. At a previous meeting, Terry Woods, another company representative, came to answer questions.

Mr. Woods, said Councilwoman Rhonda May, offered \$10 an acre

for the three-year term of the lease, with an option to renew. The properties they want to lease, she said, are at Sappa Park, the golf course, the sewer lagoons and a water well site.

Later, she said, Hambright agreed to pay \$15 an acre. There needs to be some discussion about where it's OK to drill and where it's not. Ms. May said she hasn't been able to do the research.

Another issue is where the company can and can't do seismic testing. Several parcels are covered in

the proposed lease, said Mayor Joe Stanley. If there is certain property that the city doesn't want to have oil wells or testing on, the council needs to talk about that.

"We are interested," said Mayor Stanley, "but the council needs to figure out where ... the work is OK."

If the firm finds oil, asked Councilman Bill Riedel, what's the city's share?

"One-eighth," said Mr. Combs.

Council to discuss administrator applicants

The Oberlin City Council will meet behind closed doors Thursday night to narrow the list of applications for the city administrator's job down to two or three to interview in person.

Interim City Administrator Karen Larson said the council will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday upstairs at The Gateway.

Other items on the agenda include:

- A grant the city has been awarded from the Kansas Department of Transportation for a refueling station at the airport.

- Jan Ackerman, contract code enforcement officer, plans to be there with some more properties that need to be taken care of.

- Water rate increases that are needed to pay the debt for a new water treatment plant. The council started this discussion during the last meeting in August, but didn't make any decisions.

Except for the discussion on candidates for the administrator's job, the meeting will be open to the public.

MACHINERY AUCTION

Sat., Sept. 11, 2010 • 10 a.m.

Lunch will be served

AUCTION LOCATION: Kogl farm From Herndon, KS go 5 miles west on creek road and 1/4 mile south OR from Ludell, KS go 7 miles east on creek road then 2 miles west and 1/4 mile south. Signs will be posted.

Seller: Don Kogl Estate-Mariana Thomas, Executor

Vehicles

1990 Ford 4X4 w/bale hauler



Ford 1973, 16' steel box, hoist, 9.20 tires



2005 Sooner trailer, 7x20

Miscellaneous

- Generator, portable, Tecumseh, Mod. PMA 525302
- Lincoln 220 welder
- Hereford saddle & bridle
- (2) Solar fencers
- Portable corral panels and carrier
- (2) 7' stock tanks
- 500 Gal. propane tank
- 250 Gal. propane tank
- (2) 300 Gal. fuel tanks on stands
- 110 Gal. pickup fuel tank, hand pump
- Aluminum ladder
- Set dual 18.4x34 duals
- Electric fence posts
- Gas post hole digger
- Shovels
- Forks
- Electric fence wire
- Calf cradle
- Bulk bin, 100 bu.
- Mineral feeder
- DuAl hay basket
- Portable loading chute
- 3-Point bale unroller
- Bale carrier
- (2) Cattle head gates
- (6) Metal calf huts
- (6) Metal feed bunks
- (5) Big round bale feeders
- (55) Straw bales
- (11) Oats hay bales
- (16) Prairie hay bales
- (32) Cane bales
- (10) Alfalfa bales

Machinery



Gleaner F, 18' Gleaner G, 18'

- 28" CrustBuster drill, 10" spacing
- J.D. 2-section LZ drills, 12", rubber press
- J.D. DR disc drill
- (3) 5' Flex King w/readers
- 4-Bottom high clearance plow
- (2) Miller drag disc, 12', 14'
- 4-Bottom plow
- CrustBuster, 21'
- 3-Point bale hauler
- Graham Hoeme, 15'
- 6', 3-pt. Cimarron mower
- Miller 18' double offset disc
- J.D. 510 round baler
- Hesston 30A stacker
- IHC rod weeder
- Old Farmhand hay basket w/push off
- Pick-up stock rack
- Portable hay rack
- Bale rack for truck
- Otter dozer, J.D. brackets
- Hesston 30 stack mover



1973 J. D. 4430, power shift trans., dual rear tires, 18.4x38, dual hyd., 3-pt., cab and air



1963 J. D. 4010, standard, dual hyd. w/158 J. D. loader w/grapple, 18.4x34 rear tires



J. D. 3-section LZ drills, 12"



Sunflower 21', 18" sweep w/harrows



Krause 16' offset disc



Big Valley working chute



J.D. 510 Round Baler

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JOHN FABER

120th District Representative

It was an honor and a privilege to have represented the folks of the 120th district for 14 years. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ward Cassidy and wish him all the best.

I also want to take this opportunity to say that I am proud of what I stood for during my 14 years of service. I never "watered down your whiskey", or "pulled your leg" and tried to do the things that would have the most positive result for our area of the state.

I also want to thank those that stood by me during the campaign and all those that cast their vote, either for or against me. I always knew that it wasn't about me but about the people of the district and their wishes and desires.

Renee and I will move on to new or old things and spend lots more time together, see the grandkids more and enjoy life. Over the next few months, we will clean out my office in Topeka and get ready for the transition to private life.

Again many thanks. God bless all and a fond farewell.

- John Faber