Bird City Times

30 Pages Including Special Section

Block grant application gets approval

By Karen Krien

A public hearing for the approval of a Community Development Block Grant was held during the Friday meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners. Following the explanation of what the grant is for and a question-and-answer session, the commissioners approved that the grant be allowed for appli-

The grant, which is basically a loan of \$665,000, will be used to purchase cattle, equipment and working capital for the proposed new dairy which will be located southeast of Bird City.

Randy Hrabe, director of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, Hill City, and Mike McCarty, owner of the dairy, were present for the meeting along with Tom Keller, Carla Lampe, Dave Flemming, Cathy Domsch and Troy Burr.

Mr. Hrabe explained that the grant is a loan through the county to the city of Bird City. The object of the loan is to provide jobs and provide low-to-moderate incomes.

The cost of the dairy is estimated at \$9,500,000 and will provide 19 jobs. The project cannot begin until the application is approved. The application is due to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Funds on Oct. 6.

Commissioner Jane Brubaker asked if there is any interest charged. Mr. Hrabe said that there is a low interest, probably around 6 percent. The interest money goes back to the state. The Development Commission also receives \$15,000 to administer the grant.

Commissioner Brubaker informed Mr. Hrabe and others involved that she wished she had been informed about the grant application before it appeared in the newspapers.

"I was a little embarrassed because I wasn't informed," she said.

Mr. Hrabe apologized and said that the public notice needed to be published seven days before the meeting and 20 days before the application date.

It was noted that if there is a default, the company, not the county, is responsible for paying back the funds. He said the biggest share of the applications are funded.

Mr. McCarty said he is looking at a seven- to 10-year loan.

Mr. Keller asked if the financial figures are available to the public. Mr. Hrabe said they were not.

There were several other comments before the commissioners agree to allow the application to be made. The application will be signed at the next county commissioners meeting on Sept. 29 so it can be submitted to the state by Oct. 6.



Bv Karen Krien Within the next couple of weeks, address.

old address for only one year. Everyone will receive a letter with residences, businesses and other their new physical address on a laplaces will receive a new physical bel. The post office requires the people to use the address exactly as



MIKE AND BEN McGilvary gave the Homecoming candidates a royal escort onto the field complete with jesters Lincoln Pochop, Hudson Louderbaugh, and Sam Hengen. Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett





Thursday, September 21,2006 Volume 81, Number 38 Bird City, Kansas 67731

65 Cents

For the past several months, the county sheriff, engineer and appraiser staff have been busy assigning 911 physical addresses in an attempt to improve emergency services.

Each address assigned follows a grid system using current road names. Every rural residence has been assigned a physical address in addition to some pumping stations, shops and fertilizer plants.

The city is responsible for assigning a physical address for those living within the city limits of Bird City or St. Francis.

The postal service has incorporated these changes. Those currently receiving mail by rural delivery will have their physical address as their new mailing address. If the resident receives their mail in a post office box, they will continue to receive their mail in that fashion, however, they will need to remember to know their physical address when calling for emergency services.

It will be the residents responsibility to notify others of their new will continue to deliver mail to the

it appears on the label.

The letter will arrive in a "marked" envelope from the appraiser's office. People are asked to please not throw the letter away as it will be the only notification that they will receive.

The letter should arrive the first part of October. Those who do not receive a letter and think that they should, should contact the appraiser's office.

In the future, if a resident moves to another rural residence or builds a new home, they must contact the appraiser's office for a physical address. The post office will no longer assign a rural mailing address.

"Hopefully, the implementation of physical addresses will assist not only emergency personnel but also deliveries to rural areas from UPS, Fed Ex, and other deliveries," said Deb Smith. "It will also be helpful to new areas under construction in the county.

"We understand that changing your mailing address is a big change, but the benefits of physical admailing address. The postal service dresses will be worth it in the long run."

Above; Royce Rambat helps son Jace auction off game balls. Right; Queen Jessica Marshall and King Lucius White. Below; Cheylin Dance Team, I to r; Nikki Johnson, Ana Ponce, Colleen Shrader, Mindy Antholz, Montana Rhymes, and Naomi Reeh

Times staff photos by Melinda Basnett



Commissioners approve raising the county mill levy

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday for the 2007 budget hearing. No one was present to protest the raise in the taxes so the budget passed as it was published in The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times.

The General Fund requires \$1,062,924 in ad valorem tax. Ad valorem tax is a tax based on the assessed value of real estate or personal property. Property ad valorem taxes are the major source of revenues for state and municipal governments.

The assessed valuation of the county has gone up from \$40,501,431 in 2006 to \$42,801,106 in 2007. This is due partially because of the oil and gas production in the county.

Consequently, a mill has gone from \$40,500 to \$42,800. Even with the increase in the value of a mill, the mill

levy is going up from 50.128 to 51.496 mills.

The total funds needed for the county's net expenditures is \$3,536,186. This is up \$460,242 from the 2006's \$3,075,944 expenditures. Some of the increases are in bulance back to the county. After the general fund which is up around \$200,000; and road and bridge, up around \$246,330.

While expenditures are up this year (\$58,600), it is less than it was from 2004 to 2005 when there was an increase of about \$137,667.

Ambulance

Jannelle Bowers, ambulance director, had the ambulance budget report and write-offs for the month. ers asked that Mrs. Bowers look into She said that during the month of August, there were 34 ambulance runs which is 24 more runs than last year?. She said it was a very busy back at the next meeting. month.

When there is a busy month for the ambulance and with higher gas prices, Mrs. Bower was worried that the fuel card, which is carried in the ambulance, might not have enough money in the account to get the amdiscussion, the commissioners agreed to raise the amount in the St. Francis Ambulance fund from \$500 to \$800. The Bird City Ambulance fund will remain at \$500.

She also reported that there is a need for more emergency medical technicians. There is an emergency training class being planned in Sherman County. The commissionthe cost and contact some of the people who have shown an interest in taking the class. She will report

Road and bridge

supervisor, said the county crew had torn down a bridge which had been built in 1925. The bridge, north of Bird City, was in an area where the road is seldom used and farmers will still have access to their land.

It would cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to replace the bridge

Supervisor Flemming had a bid for a garage door on the east side of the landfill building and a new opener for the door on the south side. After looking over the bids for materials as well as installation, the commissioners agreed that the county crew could install the door and opener and took the low bid for materials, \$1,356 from Merklin Construction, St. Francis.

Sheriff's report

Sheriff Troy Gardner requested that Tom Raile and Carol Gamblin,

Dave Flemming, road and bridge deputies, attend two classes, one class would cost \$190 each but covered the tuition, meals and lodging. The other class was free and was a computer training.

Sheriff Gardner said officer Craig Van Allen was back from training and they will now be able to give the county 24-hour coverage most of the time.

Ron Louden, as a joke, gave the sheriff a pair of pink boxer shorts from Maricope, Ariz., where the sheriff requires prisoners to wear the pink underwear. Mr. Louden recognized Sheriff Gardner as "providing good sheriffing in Cheyenne County.'

Sheriff Gardner said that Norvin Anderson, who was recently recognized locally as being the oldest law officer in the state, has now been recognized nationwide.

In other business In other business:

• The hearing for the city of Bird City to apply for a Community Development Block Grant was approved by the commissioners. The grant, which will be treated as a loan, is for \$665,000. It will be used to purchase cattle and equipment and for working capital. For additional information, see article elsewhere in this issue.

 Tye Faulkender, Extension director, was given approval to hold an 'Aging Strong and Well'' program in the basement of the courthouse. The first class will start on Oct. 10.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 29, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis