

Hospital board discussed many items

By Karen Krien
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The director of the physical therapy department reported at the Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting on Thursday.

Shara Johnson, physical therapist, is the director of the physical therapy department. Working with her are JoAnn Klie, certified physical therapist assistant and risk manager; and Sara Houtman, certified physical therapist assistant. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Houtman are also contracted by Aegis to conduct home health visits and nursing home visits. Mrs. Houtman takes care of the ergonomic checks for each department every year. Ergonomics is the science of fitting the workstation to the employee. In monitoring this, it will help reduce worker injuries and illnesses and aid in improving worker comfort which increases productivity. Mrs. Johnson said the Kansas Legislators now allows physical

therapists to have direct access to patients if they have seen them in therapy within the last year with the same diagnosis. Before, it was necessary for the patient to have a doctor's referral.

"It is nice that, now, the patient can come to the therapists immediately instead of having to wait to see a doctor," she said.

She said the therapy pool had been very good for the department. In 2007, there were 407 uses of the pool. Some of those using the pool are coming from out of town. People are coming to the

department to use the exercise equipment. Mrs. Johnson sees it as a preventive service for patients. She said patients often ask questions and the therapists are able to catch a minor problem before it becomes a major problem.

She noted that Kody Krien, Krien Pharmacy, is carrying most of the handicap equipment needed for patients, including walkers and canes.

Meeting with the commissioner

The hospital board and Les Lacy, administrator, will be attending a

county commissioners' meeting. Since 1996, the board has been receiving \$525,000 in tax money each year. Mr. Lacy pointed out that there has been a great deal of inflation in the last 12 years. Also, in that time, the hospital took over running the county health department which costs the hospital money. However, the administrator is looking at a Primary Care Clinic Grant to reduce those losses.

The county does give the hospital \$10,000 to help run county health care but that doesn't even pay the county nurse's salary.

The board agreed to ask the commissioners for \$650,000 for the next year. The extra money will help the board keep up with the rate of inflation and keep the hospital from having to ask for no-fund warrants to purchase equipment.

Airport runway

The administrator said he had talked to Dave Yost, president of the county Airport Authority, about the airport improvements. Mr. Yost said the plans and work are moving along as quickly as possible. He said the lengthening of the airport should be done in 2010 with the dirt work being done in 2009 and the paving completed in 2010. When it is completed, the new runway will be 5,000-feet long and 75-feet wide.

The airport runway will handle any emergency medical planes flying in, winter or summer. Right now, there are times when some of the larger aircraft cannot fly in and it is necessary for the patient to travel by ambulance to Goodland. The improvements will also aid in the availability of specialty doctors who fly in.

Flu epidemic

Mr. Lacy said the hospital has been full because there are patients with the flu. In fact, the facility has limited visitors to immediate family only. He and the board talked about how patients have been taken care of and that the staff has been taking a medicine, Tamiflu, which will help lessen the flu symptoms.



IT WAS FUN during the National Honor Society's annual fund raiser basketball game when Chris Walden jumped in to help his teammates.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Board has several decisions to make

By Karen Krien

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Finding money to proceed with projects was discussed at length when the Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Thursday. In the end, the board agreed to stay on track with the original plans to complete the projects.

For months, the board has been talking about finishing the labor/delivery room project and remodeling the kitchen.

The kitchen will not pass the Kansas Department of Health and Environment inspection again. The administrator and architect were working on the kitchen project when an inspector arrived. Since there was obviously work underway, the inspector gave the project some time to be completed. The cost of the kitchen remodeling had originally been projected at \$140,000.

The obstetrics labor and delivery room had come in way over the \$40,000 projected budget. Room five in the hospital has been designated for babies and their mothers. The room has worked but is far from what was planned.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, had two options prepared for the board at the Thursday meeting. He said that he was the mediator and, the end decision would be up to the board but, at least they would have two options from which to choose.

The first option was to go with the original plan to remodel two rooms and make one room for the labor and delivery room and the cost would be around \$180,000. The kitchen would also be remodeled, possibly taking space out of one of the existing basement rooms to enlarge the dining area and the cost would be around \$200,000.

Mr. Lacy and Shawna Blanka, administrative assistant, had measured off an area south of the nurses' station in hopes of building

a new wing (option two). The expansion project would add 1,900-square feet and would be used for the labor/delivery/recovery rooms. The basement area would be used for the new kitchen. The advantage of building a new kitchen would be that the old kitchen could be used until moving into the new facility. Otherwise, there will be some down time when the kitchen will not be usable.

The cost of the expansion at \$300 per square foot would be right at \$1.1 million. This amount did not include architect fees, contingency items nor kitchen equipment.

If the board decided on option two, the matter would be voted on in a general election.

"The decision (for building the expansion) would be up to the public," Mr. Lacy said.

Traci Neitzel, board member, was told that there were 14 deliveries planned through September. It was noted that the Cheyenne County Hospital's delivery department was one of the most stable in the area and there are obstetric patients coming from outside the area.

Mr. Lacy pointed out that right now, the plan is functional but limited. The new wing would free up rooms for other patients. Currently, there are times when there is a shortage of rooms, especially on surgery days or when the influenza is rampant.

He also said that the extra space in the basement could be used for outpatient treatment.

Whatever path they choose, the board was looking at the projects that would not be finished until 2009 because it would take that

much time to raise the money.

In option one, the money for the kitchen would come from a Community Development Building Grant with the county hospital matching half the amount. The approval of the grant would not be known until 2009.

The labor and delivery remodeling funding would come from Kansas Income Tax Credits. "We are talking for the whole community," Mrs. Neitzel said.

"You need to look at finances and figures," said Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance. "Outpatient treatment rooms and other services are things that help with reimbursements from Medicare."

Mr. Lacy handed out pieces of paper to each of the board members present (Mrs. Neitzel, Joy Andregh, Jerry Toler and Jane Young; Kari Gilliland was absent) and each was asked to write down the option they were in favor of and three reasons for choosing the option. When totaled, all four members had voted for option one (remodeling the existing kitchen and labor/delivery room). Among the reasons were: The obstetrics department was new and the numbers were uncertain; the cost was high and one member felt that the county could not afford it; and the board needed to make better use of funds.

"I think this (option one) is the right decision for now and we will look at it in the future," Mrs. Neitzel said.

TREASURER'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT

ENDING January 31, 2008
Published in The St Francis Herald, St Francis, Ks. and Bird City Times, Bird City, Ks. Thurs., March 6, 2008 (10)

FUND	BALANCE
GENERAL	840,698.75
ROAD & BRIDGE	505,692.91
BRIDGE BUILDING	74,888.98
NOXIOUS WEED	19,327.18
NOXIOUS WEED SPECIAL	8,731.70
CAFETERIA PLAN	3,736.28
HOSPITAL BOND & INT	23,553.00
VIN-STATE	20.00
RURAL FIRE	15,751.80
HOSPITAL	24,973.26
DIVERSION FUND	5,658.39
CO ATTNY BAD CHECK	820.15
REG OF DEEDS TECH	19,109.72
16/20 M TRUCKS	168.44
SPECIAL PARKS & REC	2,403.83
911.00	23,038.77
E-911	13,620.01
UNCLAIMED FUNDS	5,075.47
AMBULANCE MEMORIAL	9,675.21
ADV TAX-NON BUDGET ED	3,465.75
SPECIAL AMBULANCE	21,937.00
DRIVERS LICENSE	20.00
SPECIAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	5,036.00
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	6,475.56
MOTOR VEHICLE FUND	10,600.75
STATE SALES TAX	16,494.01
CURRENT TAX	89,604.11
COUNTY REDEMPTION	4,977.09
DELINQUENT PP TAX	212.57
PAYROLL WITHHOLDING	-219.30
ATTORNEY FUND	1,880.19
FISH & GAME	20.15
MORTGAGE REGISTRATIO	125.46
MAPS	320.00
BENKELMAN TOWNSHIP	620.45
CALHOUN TOWNSHIP	7,122.97
CLEVELAND TOWNSHIP	763.48
JAUQA TOWNSHIP	7,307.57
HANDICAP EQUIPMENT	520.00
EQUIPMENT RESERVE	141,511.20
CCH/COUNTY HEALTH	4,356.10
PRAIRIE DOG	4,809.28
GIFT ANNUITY	16,210.07
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	97,029.30
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	2,038,143.61

I do solemnly swear the above is complete, true, & correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God. Dolores Jenik, County Treasurer

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Club Clip

McDonald Area Development

McDonald Area Development met on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Frosty Mug with 11 members and one guest, Eleanor Swihart, present.

Ray Johnson called the meeting to order and the minutes and treasurer's reports were given. Lois Morelock gave a report on the Christmas drawing for the crocheted tablecloth. It was a very profitable project, and the cloth was won by Sydney Busse of Bird City. She also stated that there were 54 businesses and individuals that donated to the Christmas bingo.

The lighting contest was won by Bill and Lois Schaff, Dave and Sylvia Hubbard, Luis and Gabrielle Gonzales, Steve Schneider, and Michelle Pinion. Ray stated that

raising the speakers helped a lot for the bingo games.

There is a canister at the post office for placing names for the Valentine drawing. There will be a \$30 gift certificate for meals at Two Lees and the Frosty Mug. Drawing will be on Valentine's Day.

Bill Schaff brought thank you's from Cheylin school children who participated in the Scarecrow contest. He also said the Nativity scene at the City Park is in bad shape. He will donate the labor to make a new one if McDonald Area Development will pay for the plywood and paint. It was moved to accept his offer.

The meeting was adjourned and all joined in a surprise birthday celebration for Betty Lewis.

Legislative Town Hall Meeting with Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer & Rep. John Faber

Saturday, March 8, 2008

8 - 9 a.m. CT — Bird City — The Heritage Corner Cafe

Pd by Ostmeyer for Senate, Lori Edwards, Treasurer
Campaign to Elect Rep. John Faber; Ed Carson, Treasurer



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