

Time to register is now!

People only have about 10 days to register to vote in the November election.

The registration books will be open until 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, in the Cheyenne County clerk's office.

Terry Miller, election officer and clerk, said anyone who has moved needs to re-register, even if they have previously been registered. Those who changed their name because of marriage do not have to re-register, he said, but those who have changed their last name in court do. For example, said Mr. Miller, if someone goes back to their maiden name after a divorce, they need to re-register.

Those who have never registered to vote, need to bring in a Social Security card or driver's license. Those who have voted in the county before, but need to re-register, don't have to bring anything.

Advance ballots for the general election will be available on Tuesday, Oct. 21. People can go to the clerk's office to vote early or have the ballot mailed to them.

REMEMBER TO CAST YOUR VOTE



CHEYENNE COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC in Bird City held their weekend flu shot vaccination clinic on Saturday. Karla Zweygardt (L) gave Beth Klepper her vaccination and Mrs. Klepper said it did not even hurt. The Clinic will still give vaccinations during the week and will notify the public when Medicaid sends authorization. Just walk in during normal hours.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Members catch up on business

By Linda Schneider
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With all council members present for the October meeting, the first order of business was catching up from the August and September public, special and regular monthly meetings.

Don High, Miller and Associates, brought a request for payment of September work done on the wastewater lagoon. He presented the letter from Chris Miller, Miller and Associates, that detailed a preliminary list of items needed to complete the project.

Mr. High had spoke with BSB Construction and they are now aware of the necessary work to be done, but added that the seepage test taken by the state had passed and the work can continue. Demolition of the old sewer structure is next.

"Miller and Associates is now working on the manual and will be finished shortly to satisfy the Kansas State Law," Mr. High said.

Before the council approved payment, it was clarified that a 10 percent (\$69,347.40) of the original cost would be retained for one year as a guarantee that the project would be working properly, and to be paid after final approval by council. Motions carried to pay BSB Construction, Inc. \$26,074.80, and Miller and Associates for \$7,475.60.

Lagoon expenses

Council talked about the equipment and chemicals it would take to maintain the wastewater lagoon. Councilman Loren White suggested the need to buy a batwing mower attachment (\$12,000) because the grasshopper mower could not keep up with the requirements needed to mow the 3-acre area. Craig White, city maintenance, said the chemicals used would be about the same amount. Matter was tabled until next meeting.

Councilman White spoke to Don Wright about building a mobile generator for both the lagoon and the lift stations. The cost is over \$10,000.

Councilman Wade Carmichael asked if the lift stations use as much horsepower as the well to run. The answer was that they do not and there has not been a need up to the present.

"If a tornado was to come through the town, a well went down and we needed a generator, would it be less expensive to rent one?" said Councilman Carmichael.

He went on to say that the council should consider buying one they know they will use instead of one that may or may not be used, something that would run the lift station verses something that would run a well. No action taken.

Loan amendment

Tabetha Ketzner, city clerk, presented to the council a loan amendment from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to increase the amount from \$474,925 to \$545,925. It will increase the payments from \$15,723.88 to \$17,565.92 twice yearly, if all the money is used. They discussed using it for buying a lawn mower and backup generator for the lift station. Motion carried to adopt the amendment loan.

Emergency medical training building

Dave Hickert brought to the council a request by Mort Plunkett, architect, to start advertising for opening bids on building the training room in the fire station/emergency medical building in Bird City. Mr.

Hickert presented the council with samples of suggested ads.

"Could the construction start before the beginning of the year?" asked Mayor Troy Burr. Mr. Hickert said with the ads needing to run at least three weeks, it probably will not start until spring.

After looking over the ad samples, the council decided to wait until changes were made and approved before moving ahead with the advertising.

Committee reports

Equipment Committee - Councilman White reported purchasing the grading blade and would look into purchasing street salt.

Parks and Recreation - Councilman Carmichael requested approval from the council to insulate the Van Doren Park restrooms.

"Estimated cost would be \$1,500 and the blow-on type," said Councilman Carmichael. "Kip Rethke does a good job and it could be done before the cold weather sets in."

Mrs. Ketzner reminded the members that any construction project over \$500 would have to be open bid. Councilman Carmichael said he would speak to Kari Gilliland, city attorney, before proceeding.

Personnel - Councilman Ray Magnani said Mrs. Ketzner's 90-day probationary period was up and her benefits would begin very soon. He said that during this time she did good work uncovering the water loss, straightening up the office, etc. and thought she needed a raise. Mayor Burr called a 10-minute executive meeting for non-elected personnel.

Returning to the meeting, motion carried to give Mrs. Ketzner a \$2 per hour raise.

Streets - Craig White reported that the patch asphalt has been placed and both he and Brad Schneider will be grading roads.

Midwest Energy replaced the sodium hypo chloride streetlights in town. It was suggested the city contact Midwest to replace lights as needed and not just twice a year. In addition, keep eyes on the lights going out.

Special Committee - Councilwoman Deb Smith and Councilman Carmichael reported on the remodeling updates of the city hall.

A floor plan was presented to the council and they discussed where to start first. Some remodeling will be in the bathroom and the cellar would likely no longer be used. New furniture, doors, flooring and paint are in the near future for the hall.

City clerk

The council approved the purchase of a new copier machine for the office.

Mrs. Ketzner had received a letter from Linda Hunsicker, Kansas Department of Commerce, announcing there will be a visit from the state in compliance with the city's rehabilitation grant application.

Council approved her request to have Angel Pham come in and get updates to substitute in Tabetha's absence.

In addition, she has received a letter informing the council that construction for the new mid-income housing has been postponed until spring because Northwest Kansas Housing has had troubles selling the tax credits needed to fund the project.

Ads for bids on city salvage materials will be posted next week in the newspaper.

Local resident joins Cheylin staff as language and math instructor

By Linda Schneider
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She may be the one of the newest staff members at Cheylin School, but Janice Churchwell has been a resident of Bird City for some time.

Born just a few miles west of the "heart" of America in Smith Center, she started her education in Reamsville, a small country school. She said that in her early childhood she did not think about becoming a teacher — she thought about being a veterinarian or maybe a marine biologist.

Being a teacher was not something Mrs. Churchwell had planned on, but she will admit it probably was in her blood from the beginning. Her parents, Bill and Norma Garretson, were not teachers, but in her father's family of 11 brothers and sisters, all the brothers were teachers. In Janice's immediate family, her brother Jim is a teacher, but her sister Jenifer is not.

However, even with her love for animals and the study of the earth's oceans, she decided to become a speech pathologist and work with hearing and speech impaired children. Janice went on to get her bachelor of science degree in speech pathology.

But, as fate would have it, her school advisor suggested that she also get a degree in teaching because she would probably be working in schools with students. Therefore, she added a bachelor of science degree in education to her accomplishments.

In the beginning, she enjoyed working with the students, but soon found that it was not something she wanted to do as a career. She was a country girl at heart, wanted to stay in a small town, and felt to go further in her career as a speech pathologist would mean moving to a bigger city.

She remembered how much she enjoyed student teaching. She decided she would teach and in 1980, when she was around 21 years old, Janice



CHECKING AND CORRECTING class work and tests, takes a lot of time. Janice Churchwell takes it all in stride.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

started her first teaching assignment in St. Francis with second graders. The next year she taught fourth graders and stayed with them for eight years.

It was in the last few years of teaching at St. Francis that Janice met her husband, Eric Churchwell, and was married. Eric, a 1979 graduate of Cheylin, was working in St. Francis at the time.

Soon the Churchwell's were adding to their family and it was in the first semester of teaching kindergarten that Vance was born. It was not too long their daughter, Whitney, was born. Mrs. Churchwell decided to stop teaching and raise their family.

She took a 9-year leave and during that time, their son Heath was born.

When she wanted to go back to work, Heath was in first grade and there was an opening in Haigler. Janice taught first grade for 1 year then moved to Benkelman and taught fifth grade for 6 years.

Teaching at Cheylin is more challenging because she is working with older students than in the past.

"I can remember what it was like when I was a teen and relate well to what they are going through," said Mrs. Churchwell. "And I like it when I see that light go on that lets me know



they get it!" Mrs. Churchwell enjoys being a part of the community where she lives and now teaches.

"Class subjects are of key importance here, sports are fun, but the atmosphere of the school is great," said Mrs. Churchwell.