

Man questions boundry lines at recent meeting

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansan.com

A St. Francis man questioned boundary lines at the Wednesday, Dec. 31, Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting. The commissioners made no decision until the new county attorney would be present.

Craig Schoenrogge, St. Francis, has been at commissioners' meetings several times before to discuss closed, low-maintained and maintained county roads. He was checking on the status of Road M between Roads 15 and 16. He said that he has seen the city crew using the road at the south end of his property. He said the county engineer found the original platting markers and he is concerned if the boundaries to his property are correct.

He talked about the guidelines the county is using. Are the county statutes, he asked, covered by home-rule power? He said he had asked for the resolutions because he wants to know what his rights and public assess rights are. If there is to be a road, he said, it should be clearly defined. He wanted to know where: 1) the road is; and 2) what set of rules are the commissioners/county using.

If there were statutes, he said, it would be nice if I could know what they are.

He also pointed out that, with interest rates at an all-time low, he wanted to refinance at the lower rate and he would like to have the correct information.

He said he has started the paperwork at the north end of his property and will be platting out four 5-acre lots for business and/or residential. He said there is gas and electricity available.

Andy Beikman, chairman, told Mr. Schoenrogge that the commissioners were not going to make a decision until the new county attorney is there to represent them. We do not want to make a wrong decision, he said.

Mr. Schoenrogge said it had been six months since he had contacted the present county attorney and had no response from him. I am working on the assumption that I will not be landlocked on my property, he said.

Equipment for the appraiser's office

Bruce Webb, appraiser, had samples of mapping from different printers. The government has mandated Global Information Systems mapping in the future. Mr. Webb estimated that all of the equipment will cost around \$60,000. The cost to do the mapping of the cities will be around \$33,750.

The commissioners were concerned as this was more money than was available. Mr. Webb suggested that platting be done in stages, which was agreeable to the commissioners.

The mapping, he said, will be very helpful to other departments too.

Emergency medical service department report

Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, said she needed four portable radios. She had been using her husband's radio (he is a fireman in Bird City). She said there are four new First Responders and, when a radio goes down, there is no backup. The radios cost \$3,315. She will order four from Prairie States, Imperial, and the money will come out of the 911 Fund.

She said there were 318 ambulance runs in 2008. Of those runs, 263 were made in the St. Francis

area, and the rest in the Bird City area.

Because of the tight budget, she was denied purchasing six spine boards (\$140 each) and a projector to use in training classes.

The projector would cost anywhere from \$400 to \$2,000 but she thought that a good one could be purchased for \$500 to \$600. The commissioners said to get a bid and bring it back to a later meeting.

She said that she was planning a 16-hour refresher class for technicians in 2009. She would open it up for county technicians and then offer the class to area technicians. The class size minimum is eight and the maximum is 24. She said someone will need to come in and teach it. Mike Hanson, county instructor, will assist.

Mrs. Bowers, Mr. Hanson and the commissioners went into three executive sessions totaling 25 minutes to discuss personnel. No decision was made upon coming out.

Mrs. Bowers recognized Ray Lee, commissioner, for the work he has done for the department over the last four years.

Road and bridge department report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, asked that \$5,520 be encumbered to Penco Engineering for bridge inspections and \$26,900 encumbered to the state of Kansas for bridge building.

The commissioners signed permits for Nobel Energy and One Source Investment to bore under county roads. Tad Neitzel was given permission to trench across and low maintenance road (Mr. Flemming said the ditches were higher than the road.)

At the last meeting, Mr. Flem-

ming had suggested having a trench at the landfill dug. However, on checking with the Department of Health and Environment, he found that there was supposed to have a plat plan complete and it will cost "big bucks," he said. Other counties have paid up to \$9,000. He had contacted Miller and Associates, McCook, for more information and the company is working on plans for Rawlins County and didn't want to start anything until those plans are complete.

Mr. Flemming said that there should not be a problem as there are trenches on either side of the proposed trench so there would be no issues with property lines, utilities or property owners. He will find out more information for a future meeting.

Mr. Flemming said he will probably be looking for more employees in 2009.

Vouchers questioned

Vouchers questioned by the commissioners included:

- \$950.85 to the Cheyenne County Hospital for updating firemen on necessary shots.
- \$2,006.05 to Nex-Tech for a portable page radio. The payment came from the 911 Fund.
- \$685 to Riverside Recreation for emergency medical technicians' Christmas party. The money was taken out of the Memorial Fund.
- \$254.27 to Jennifer Padgett; the mileage for training will be taken out of the 911 fund.

In other business

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• No one was present for the amended budget hearing so the commissioners signed the agreement. They noted that this year's budget is tight and all department heads will be reminded to watch their spending and keep it in line.

• The wage agreement for Kent Al-

lard, sheriff employee was signed.
• Elmer Kellner, St. Francis, was re-appointed as the representative for Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development. Commissioner Ernie Ketzner is the at-large alternate.

• Mary Morrow, register of deeds, had two bids for a copier: \$6,100 from Topside, Goodland; and \$4,279 from Office Works, Colby, but didn't have needed drawers. Topside also had the lower maintenance agreement. The commissioners gave permission for her to purchase the copier from Topside.

• Mrs. Morrow announced that she will hire Marilyn Hnizdil to work part time.

• The commissioners recognized Terry Miller, clerk, for all the internet/computer technician work he does at the courthouse.

Reports are given to board

JoAnn Klie, risk manager at the Cheyenne County Hospital, said, at the Nov. 24, board meeting, that the most exciting thing in risk management this year was the installation of the free software for reporting. This gives employees an opportunity to sit at the computer and fill out the form and then e-mail it to Mrs. Klie, who then can run reports.

This, she said, makes tracking and trending a lot easier.

Mrs. Klie also assigns those to review the report and also sends this via e-mail.

The most challenging thing is with the nursing going live on their electronic medical records. She currently has to review on both paper and the computer.

She reported that when the surveyors were here, the risk management department received a good review.

Susan Roelfs is back to work as the quality coordinator/utilization review person after some medical leave. However, she is no longer in the county health department. She is continuing as the quality coordinator as before and has also assumed the duties of utilization review and the recovery audit contractor coordinator contact person.

Quality is becoming a bigger priority for facilities, she said. We are moving away from soft quality (such as crash cart checks, temperature checks) and moving to more improvement items such as in physical therapy where they have created exercises for moms and made a brochure for the expecting mothers.

The utilization review is a process

of chart review to be sure care is delivered under the correct setting, she said. This has been done retrospectively in the past but is being transitioned to concurrent review to protect our reimbursement.

Mrs. Roelfs does chart review to identify Severity of Illness and Intensity of Service. Her role is to go to the providers, determine what their plan is for the patient; and recommend changes that may be necessary to be sure the hospital gets paid for the care delivered. She reported that the evaluation and management of the patients care has been a huge learning curve for her.

She has also been helping with long-term care placement. She said we have had to send several out of area due to a lack of space at the Good Samaritan Village.

The hospital participates in two benchmarking projects that compare results with other Kansas hospitals in clinical measures. A couple of those measures include making sure inpatients receive their flu and pneumonia shots. This has been added to the nursing assessment on the new electronic record.

One of her other duties is the Recovery Audit Contractor coordinator and contact person for the facility. Documentation is a big part and the facility is learning and preparing for it. She also screens cases for nosocomial (hospital acquired) infections and reports these to Tenille Lee, the director of nursing.

Dee Epperson, Health Information Management director, said there are three employees in the medical records office — Jackie Ritchey,

Rita Keecker and herself. They also have Janelle Glidewell that does dictation and Steve Stroup who comes over from Benkelman and does outpatient coding.

Traci Neitzel, hospital board member, asked Mrs. Epperson to explain the daily functions of her office. She said they assemble the patient charts and papers which come from different departments at different times. She does the coding of the inpatients and their diagnosis. The goal of their office is to have the physician dictation on the chart within 24 hours of admission.

The staff has statistics they do for individual procedures which show up on the board's monthly statistical reports. They receive a lot of release-of-information requests from patients, other clinics, hospitals, physician offices and attorneys.

The newest item is the electronic medical record and the hybrid record. She said this has been a good system so far with good training.

The staff also spot checks charges on diagnosis before they go to the business office for billing. Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, said that the Wisconsin Position Services (insurance company) has not followed the same codes as Blue Cross Blue Shield did so there has been some adjusting and changes along the way.

Mrs. Epperson said she was asked by some of the employees to express that they would like to know the board members better and that it would be nice if they would stop at the hospital and made rounds to the departments once in awhile.

Commissioners interview hospital board candidates

By Karen Krien

Two hospital board candidates were interviewed when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Wednesday, Dec. 31. At the end of the meeting, they decided to appoint Jerry Toler, who has already served four years on the board.

There were three people who had called the clerk's office indicating they would be interested in applying: Mr. Toler, Mike Hanson and Connie Morris, all of St. Francis. Mrs. Morris wasn't present for the interviews.

Mr. Hanson, county emergency medical technician and instructor, said he was interested in being on the hospital board because he spends time at the hospital and found that moral was low. He felt that, as a technician and a board member, he could be a liason.

"I would like to see the low moral improve," he said.

He noted that, in talking to the staff, many of them were not aware of who was on the hospital board. He said that he thought board members should have more contact with the hospital staff.

Mr. Hanson said he had served on the fair board for three years and has been the president of the county emergency medical technician organization.

Mr. Toler, who interviewed after Mr. Hanson, said the board was aware that there had been some moral problems and they met with department heads, one each meeting. He said he receives calls from employees from time to time but the board works with the administrator.

"That is his (administrator's) job to check into moral problems," he said. "If they aren't solved, then the board will step in."

He said that he has enjoyed his term on the board and thought the board had made some major progress including those in technology and services to patients.

The hospital is now serving more people in the county, he said, and he would like to see that number up even more.

He said there are two major projects which have been started and need to be finished. The first is remodeling the hospital kitchen which is out of compliance with the Department of Health and Environment. The second is the expanding/remodeling of the labor and delivery room. He said the board is hoping to write some grants which would help fund these projects. Any construction projects, he said, will be in the future.

Mr. Tolder said that the maintenance department is moving to a

small building outside. That will free up room for other needs. He also mentioned additional parking as one of the future projects.

"I am very confident in our capabilities at the hospital," he said. "I have had personal experience and the staff saved my life."

The commissioners agreed that Mr. Toler had done well in his first term, seemed interested and also, being retired, had more time to spend on the board. They also agreed that having an emergency medical technician on the board could be a benefit. However, in the end, they appointed Mr. Toler to another four-year term.

Public Notice Official Notice of annual meeting

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

PEARL L. CARROLL, Deceased

Case No. 2009-PR-01

NOTICE OF HEARING

STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Kent Hoffman, a beneficiary of Pearl L. Carroll, deceased, praying that: the foreign will of Pearl L. Carroll, deceased, dated August 5, 1986, be admitted to probate and record in this Court; no administration of the Estate is necessary; the will be construed, and the following fractional mineral interests in, on and under the following described real estate, to-wit:

659/5760 interests in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Ten (10); 659/5760 interests in the North Half of the Southwest Quarter (N/2SW/4) of Section Ten (10); 659/5760 interests in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quar-


ter (NW/4SE/4) of Section Ten (10); 1/9 interest in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Fifteen (15); 1/9 interest in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4NE/4) of Section Sixteen (16); 1318/11520 interest in the South Half of the Northeast Quarter (S/2NE/4) of Section Sixteen (16); 1318/11520 interest in the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Sixteen (16); 1318/11520 interest in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section Twenty-one (21); ALL in Township One (1), South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M., Cheyenne County, Kansas,

Be assigned to Kent Hoffman, the residuary legatee and devisee of the Estate of Pearl L. Carroll.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before January 30, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the District Court of Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Kent Hoffman, Petitioner

Michael J. Day #8523
KITE & DAY
112 W. Washington,
P.O. Box 575
St. Francis, KS 67756
(785) 332-3323
Attorney for Petitioner



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