

## Water tested positive

It was reported by Brad Schneider, city superintendent, that two water samples taken within the city limits have tested positive for coliform.

DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk, told the members from what she has learned that coliform bacteria is not generally dangerous; however, it can be an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

Mr. Schneider said this is the first positive report we have had. He continued by saying that two other samples have been taken, one upstream and one downstream from the site, and both reports came back negative.

"I believe that it is an isolated problem and could have many contributing factors, such as broken or corroded pipes," said Mr. Schneider. "I have done the necessary steps to correct the problem and have submitted another sample. I am waiting for the results."

He added that the tests are random and Bruce Nichols, certified water operator, has the list of alternate sample sites to be taken every three or four months.

Mrs. Ambrosier also explained that according to state regulations every water customer has to have a copy of the notice of report as well as having it published in the newspaper.

## Fair board elects officers for 2010

By Linda Schneider  
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It was election night at the October Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting on Thursday. After business as usual with the reading and approval of the treasurer's report and last month's minutes, the elections began.

Dick Bursch was re-elected president for another year and Nick Ketzner was also re-elected vice president. Board members elected Gary Cooper to remain the board secretary and Lacy Reed as treasurer.

### Grounds construction and repairs

Members did not waste any time and got right down to business with discussion on repair and building projects that need to be done before the 2010 fair.

With approximately \$6,500 balance in the account after bills paid, members talked about how money could be spent toward one of the larger projects or several smaller ones.

At last month's meeting, they discussed building an office building under the stadium bleachers. It would be a 9- by 30-foot insulated, locked office that could be used to store important records. Also discussed was the option of installing a ticket window for more security when selling event tickets. Mr. Bursch said he received a bid of \$8,500 from Ron Krien for labor and materials.

"If the board approves the bid, the cement can be poured right now," said Mr. Bursch.

The members turned the discussion to the repairs needed on the horse barn. A bid of \$7,900 was received; however, Mr. Bursch says that he believes it included taxes, which the board is tax exempt. He continued by saying that if someone who wanted the roof tin would remove it, they could have it, then the bid could be lowered.

Another project was adding three yellow lights to the pit stop area in the stadium. Mr. Bursch said that J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis city superintendent, would not charge to bring the electricity to the area. In addition, the only cost would be if a pole was installed. Most of the labor would be running an underground line up to the pole.

Mr. Bursch mentioned that he thought it was a good idea to have Mr. Landenberger put the electrical line in simply because he was donating his time to do it. The board will decide what and how later.

It seemed like one project led to another and the next for discussion was the 4-H Exhibit building and needing a new door. John Finley, board member, said the doors needed to be fixed and one of the doors will not shut at all. Motion carried to instruct Mr. Finley to get bids.

Clay Zimelman, member, brought up the point that there are many small repair and construction projects that need to be done and would take up a lot of the money from the larger projects. He added that getting the driveway into the fairgrounds needed to be paved because of potholes and if the board would do the grounds side, maybe the county would meet the road at the back gate.

"Let's think ahead and finish one major project before starting on the office," said Mr. Zimelman.

### 4-H Club

It was reported that Joe Leibbrandt, Cheyenne County extension agent, resigned and went to Imperial, Neb. The members discussed what was done with the tables and chairs that had been donated.

Mr. Bursch said that he had been asked for board approval for a Market Heifer Class in the 4-H fair competition.

Mrs. Reed said that the interested parties just wanted another class to compete with the Market Steer Class. After some discussion, Jared Douthit, member, said he could not see anything wrong with adding another competition class and state fair had a heifer class. Board approved adding a Market Heifer Class.

### 2010 fair

With the meeting coming to an end, Brian Hobrock, member, made the suggestion of someone attending the fair association meeting in Topeka. He added that if anything, to get some fresh ideas for entertainment.

Mr. Finley added that performers would probably be attending the conference which is in January. No action taken.

### Executive session

Executive session was called for personnel. Upon reconvening, motion was carried for the fair board to take the responsibility of awarding the prize money to the driver who won with the most driving points, which included the races from Sherman and Thomas counties.

### Next meeting

Next meeting Nov. 5.



CHEYLIN PRESCHOOL STUDENTS are learning how to drop off items at the Bird City recycle bins with help from their teacher, Bridget Pochop.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Concrete poured for new runway

By Karen Krien

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There is lots of action at the Cheyenne County Airport these days as the concrete is being poured for the new runway. The runway has been closed since the middle of August and is expected to be ready for use by the first of November, if not before, depending on weather conditions. The company has 60 working days to complete the job.

Paulsen Construction, Cozad, Neb., submitted the winning bid for \$1,276,584 which included widening the runway to 75 feet as well as installing runway lights. The bid for concrete was lower than the asphalt bid which suited the Airport Authority members as it will last much longer and require less maintenance for the county.

The runway is being poured in three sections. The two outside edges are being poured first; then the middle will be poured.

Robert Grace, one of the managers of the airport, reported that the best thing about the construction will be the new runway lights. The lights, which were used before the

new runway was started, were installed around 20 years ago. They are adequate, he said, but the new ones are much better.

The new runway construction is being accomplished with a 95/5 percent Federal Aviation Administration matching grant. This includes more expenses than that of the runway. The Administration's share for the runway will be \$1,388,140 and the county's share will be \$73,060.

The next Airport Authority project will be to lengthen the present runway. The Federal Administration would not agree to lengthening the runway until it was widened. The present runway is 3,150-feet long. When the lengthening is done, the runway will be 5,200-feet long.

This will allow larger planes to safely land when temperatures are hot. When it is summer and temperatures are near 100 degrees, it takes more runway to get a plane airborne.

Land to lengthen the runway was purchased from Robert Uplinger Jr. and Karen Uplinger, fourth-generation owners of the land, for \$66,000. (See related article.)



OVER THE WEEKEND, landmovers began the ground breaking for the new medium-income housing construction. The site is north of the Cheylin Elementary school.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Council discusses important topics

By Linda Schneider  
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The October Bird City Council meeting was interesting and provocative. The council heard and discussed several topics including a report from Ann Burr, pool manager, about the summer swim pool program.

### City pool

At the September meeting, the council approved asking Mrs. Burr to the October meeting for her report and suggestions.

Mrs. Burr began her report by saying that in the eight years she has been the pool manager, this past summer session was the best yet. She had a few suggestions for the council to consider; however, she added that overall, the swim season was good and Brad Schneider, city superintendent, replaced or repaired any mechanical issues that came up.

She reported that there were 2,999 swimmers for the summer, 92 the highest for one day and two for the lowest. The pool, scheduled to be opened 83 days, was opened for 77 days, closed five days for bad weather, and one day for Cheyenne County Fair. The pool was opened 18 days out of 24 scheduled nights, closed six days; and had five private parties.

Mrs. Burr said Donna Wright, Wright Insurance, suggested updating some of the safety signs posted and maybe add signs that say "Not responsible for lost or stolen articles," and "Not responsible for accidents." The signs cover liabilities.

She made a request for a new weather radio, but added the deputies do make a point of stopping in to report of a storm coming in. She also requested a first-aid kit and reported the kid slide is cracked.

She said she had two main con-

cerns; the first was vehicles running the stop signs at the corner of Burr Ave. and Lebow Ave. She felt it was a big safety issue with kids running around. Her other concern was looking to the council for direction on what authority did she have in what was appropriate in dealing with disruptive behavior in the pool area.

Councilman Hal Sager told her on the issue of vehicles running the stop signs, she has the right to write down the license plate number, call the sheriff department and file a complaint.

On the issue of her authority, it was the consensus of the members that she was the manager and therefore the authority. However, the council also agreed that she and Councilman Wade Carmichael, pool committee, work together with Kevin Berens, city attorney, on developing a "Pool Conduct" policy.

**Illegal dump clean-up program**  
Bob Medina, Bureau of Waste Management, proposed a state illegal dump clean-up program that Bird City could utilize.

Mr. Medina explained that the state would handle clean up of illegal dumps sites only and those that are non-hazardous. Such dumps would have furniture, appliances and other household trash, and caved in structures.

He continued by saying that once the state has been asked to do the cleanup, they will pay up to \$10,000 for the job. Mr. Medina said that the city can submit an application to the state, then the state steps in and does the work.

Members discussed with Mr. Medina options and requirements of the clean-up applications and Mr. Medina pointed out that typically an illegal dump site within the city limits has been a problem for some

time. In addition, typically repeated requests from the local government fail to get a response. He said that when the state takes over the problem, property owners will generally comply. No action taken.

### Brownfields

At the September meeting, Cathy Domsch, executive director Century II Development Foundation, presented to the members an opportunity for local properties to be considered for new business sites.

Mayor Troy Burr said as he understood the program, Bird City would apply for a grant through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment who would inspect the property for such things as lead paint on structures.

While the council discussed the proposal and thought it had some good possibilities, there were still many questions that needed to be asked. The proposal was tabled until more clarification.

**City hall remodeling project**  
The city hall is nearly finished. Councilman Carmichael presented to the members for their approval conference room furniture.

The members discussed cleaning up the construction dust in the office and remove office supplies that had been stored in the sheriff's office during construction.

Mrs. Ambrosier said that she wanted to learn more about the file retention rules before she began cleaning up the old files. She asked if she could come in on weekends to begin the project undisturbed. The council approved.

**Medium-income housing**  
Council members all reported

seeing that the ground breaking had already begun on the medium-income housing construction across the street, north of Cheylin Elementary School.

Mayor Burr said that there are plans to build two single-family residences and two duplexes, totaling six-housing units.

Mr. Schneider said that he will be installing seven water meter barrels soon.

### Miscellaneous items

Throughout the meeting, the following topics were brought up and briefly discussed.

- Councilman Carmichael brought up the Bird City 125-year celebration by asking the members to consider adding extra electrical lines in the Van Doran Park. He said the park will be heavily used.

- The council approved to paint the city shop and wait until next year to address the roof.
- The Nuisance Ordinance was finally approved.

- The Eggers Building repairs are complete. The carpet has been ordered and needs to be installed.
- Winterizing on the pool and city equipment has been completed, park is next.

- Street manholes flushed.
- Seven applications have been turned in for the Rehabilitation Grant. Still accepting them.

- City water loss is reported to be 14 percent thanks to Craig White and Brad Schneider fixing some major leaks.

### Executive session

Executive session was called for personnel. Upon reconvening, no motion was made.

### Next meeting

Next meeting is Nov. 1