

# Commissioners talk future of county dump at meeting

By Karen Krien

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The county landfill – extending the life of it and maintaining it to meet the Kansas Department of Health and Environment – was discussed when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Thursday, May 31.

Commissioners Ernie Ketzner and Andy Beikman had attended a workshop on maintaining landfills. One of the concerns of county commissioners is what to do with debris following a disaster such as a tornado.

Ryan Murray, emergency manager, said this is a real concern, especially after a 105-mile-per-hour wind damaged buildings in Rawlins County where he is also the emergency manager. As part of the emergency plan update, he said, it is recommended that the county have a small parcel of land designated for such emergency dumping. There will be strict regulations with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment which will need to be followed. He will have more information on the matter at a later date.

The county landfill was further discussed when Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, arrived. Mr. Beikman and Mr. Ketzner talked about having cells within the cells at the landfill. They felt like it would be easier to control and maintain.

They discussed buying a compactor and training personnel in using it.

In the near future, there will be new dumping rules including separating items (limbs, shingles, household trash, etc.) and dumping them in specified areas.

Cheyenne County's dumping fee is \$30 a ton but in other counties, it was higher and one county's fee was \$61 per ton.

Once people get used to dumping regulations, Mr. Beikman said, they will be OK. However, the commissioners expected there will be some unhappy people at first.

## Road and bridge supervisor's report

Supervisor Flemming, said the Kansas Department of Transportation is wanting to get rid of the small highway spurs that carry minimal traffic. The state is considering giving Cheyenne County Highway Spur 217, which runs through Wheeler, along with a sum of money to help maintain the spur. The commissioners asked Mr. Flemming to let the state know they were interested in the deal.

He said the county crew had been cleaning up around the shop and the courthouse steps which were removed several years ago are still up at the shop as well as some were at Troy Porter's. He wondered what to do with them. After some discussion, it was decided to have Mr. Flemming contact Greg Kite, who helped with getting the new steps.

They discussed having a resolution drawn up concerning horizontal oil drilling in the county. They felt that, if a company wanted to do horizontal drilling, then permission from the county should be obtained. No further discussion was made on the subject.

## Communications

Mr. Murray, along with Jen Padgett, communication director; Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director; and Reid Raile, hospital's information technologist, updated the commissioners on the 800 MHz radio towers. They said that the firemen using pagers do not want to carry radios. It was decided to continue to page using UHF signal as 800 MHz isn't a good coverage option.

We want to design something that will work for everyone, Mr. Raile said.

Mr. Murray said that the county can put a repeater on each of the state towers. If they have 800 MHz in the emergency vehicles, they will be able to bounce signals back and forth, however, he noted, K-161, has some dead spots.

Mr. Murray will get quotes on a 15-year tower lease from Nex-Tech and the state of Kansas.

## Coordination Plan

Mrs. Gilliland said she had a letter from Mike Callicrate and had also talked to him about a "Coordination Plan." She had made copies of Mr. Callicrate's letter which was to help explain coordination because she didn't feel like she understood the plan well enough to explain it to the commissioners.

The letter mentioned Fred Kelly Grant who is considered to be an expert on the subject. The commissioners agreed to have Mrs. Gilliland arrange for Mr. Grant come to a commissioners' meeting.

They talked about having the school boards and city councils attend the meeting but no decision was made.

The commissioners agreed that the concept of coordination is good. We are hearing all the pros, said Dale Patton, commissioner, but what are the cons and can we retreat back to the prior conditions?

## In other business

In other business: A representative from the department of labor had been in the county. She had checked the fairgrounds, courthouse and both county road and bridge shops. There were a few things, said Terry Miller, clerk, that will need to be corrected. But, overall, they would not be hard to fix.

Helen Dobbs, Cheyenne County Development Corporation coordinator, updated the commissioners on the progress of the Revitalization Tax Program. She said she still needs approval from several cemetery districts and the library board. She hopes to have the program in place by the end of June. She said she has already had a number of people ask about the program and are interested in using it.

Vicki Hubin with the Western Kansas Child Advocacy, talked to the commissioners. Currently, Cheyenne County gives \$500 per year to the advocacy. See related article.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be held on Friday, June 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse. Congressman Tim Huelskamp will meet with the public in the courtroom before the meeting.



CELEBRATING THE MAY BIRTHDAYS at the Bird City Senior Center were Hollis DePron, Rosemary Powell and Donna Wright.

## Club Clip

### American Legion Auxiliary

On June 2, the American Legion Auxiliary 352 met at the American Legion hall in Bird City. There were seven present.

For the program, Wanda Dowdy shared some information about Flag Day that she had gotten off the internet. George Morris of Hartford, Conn., is popularly given the credit of suggesting "Flag Day," the occasion being in honor of the adoption of the American flag on June 14, 1777. The city of Hartford observed the day in 1861, carrying out a program of a patriotic order, praying for the success of the Federal arms and the preservation of the Union. The observance apparently did not become a tradition.

In 1885, Bernard J. Cigrand, working as a grade school teacher in Waubeka, Wis., held the first recognized formal observance of Flag Day at the Stony Hill School. The school has been restored, and a bust of Cigrand also honors him at the National Flag Day Americanism Center in Waubeka. In the late 1880s Cigrand spoke around the country promoting patriotism, respect for the flag, and the need for the annual observance of a flag day on June 14, the day in 1777 that the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes.

He moved to Chicago to attend dental school, and in June

1886, first publicly proposed an annual observance of the birth of the United States flag in an article titled "The Fourteenth of June," published in the Chicago newspaper. On the third Saturday in June 1894, a public school children's celebration of Flag Day took place in Chicago at Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln and Washington Parks. More than 300,000 children participated, and the celebration was repeated the next year.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day. In August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

Wanda also shared with the group an article that was in the American Legion Auxiliary magazine about men and women from each branch of the service, who were asked to share some thoughts about their service. This was very interesting as there were two ladies and four gentlemen who were asked these questions.

They have served a total of 56 years all together. When they were asked what it cost them to serve, their answers were mostly that they missed their families at home, but what they gained from their service out-weighed the cost. They had received responsibility, independence, strengthening of relationships, real-world experience, friends and most of them said they had no regrets. They were grateful for all the support that they had from back home and even from people they didn't know.

After this, Hulda Dorsch asked each to share our ties to the military. We have newer members and have not heard why they were willing to join with us. We really grew new insight in our members – the ones who have been here for a longer time and the newer members.

At the end of the meeting, members enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments that Mary and Hulda Dorsch prepared.



PUTTING UP AND TAKING DOWN flags on Memorial Day is a lot of work but these veterans think it is worth it. Norm Dorsch and Charles Coleman, right, put the last flags away. Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

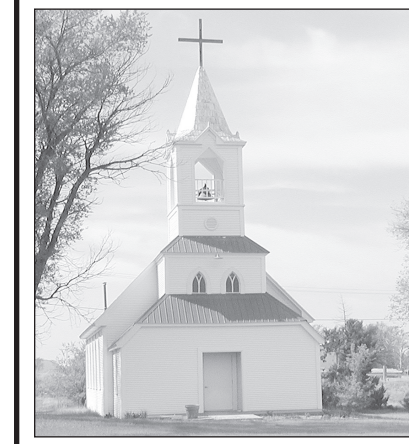
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### NOTICE OF HEARING ON AMENDING THE 2011-12 BUDGET

The governing body of Unified School District 103 will meet on the 18th day of June, 2012 at 6:45 PM, at Board of Education Room, Bird City Kansas for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds.

Detailed budget information is available at District Office and will be available at this hearing.

#### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Fund	Adopted Budget 2011-12			Proposed Amendment 2011-12 Budget
	Actual Tax Rate	Amount of Tax to be Levied	Expenditures and Transfers	Expenditures and Transfers
General			1,438,668	1,444,338

*Jan E. Young*  
Clerk