



LAST WEEK CITY WORKER Robert Sharp and Roy Shrader were digging in front of the Post Office and Legion Hall to repair a pipe broken by PBC Construction who was tearing out and replacing curbing and sidewalks.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Council agrees to sidewalk, curb and gutter repairs

By Norma Martinez

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The special meeting held before the Aug. 5 Bird City City Council meeting was held for approval and discussion on the 2014 budget. No Bird City residents were in attendance making it a very brief meeting and council members passed the 2014 budget as published in the *Bird City Times*.

Mayor Hal Sager pointed out that the taxes for the city will remain the same, and they will not be raised to meet the 2013 budget funds.

Cathy Domsch from Century II attended the August meeting requesting a permit to tear out and replace concrete sidewalks at three sites.

Site 1 for 313 and 315 South Bird Ave. was to tear out and replace the concrete sidewalk, two handicap ramps on the southwest corner, and the curb and gutter

extending along the Robertsen-Griffin-Bacon Building at a thickness of approximately 7-8 inches.

Site 2 was to tear out and replace the concrete sidewalk and building fronts to the Century II offices and Legion hall, curb gutters, handicap ramp on west end and drains.

Site 3 was in front of the thrift store to tear out and replace the concrete sidewalk and curb and gutter.

Editors note: Construction began as scheduled on these projects on Tuesday, Aug. 6. On Wednesday when the crew was digging the sidewalks out they hit a main line putting the Post office and Legion hall out of water for the day. Roy Shrader was called in with his backhoe and city workers were busy digging and working to get the break repaired.



CEMENT IS BEING POURED and many other projects are going on in the city of Bird City.

County sheriff discusses problems within city limits

By Norma Martinez

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The Cheyenne County sheriff discussed problems within the city with the Bird City Council at their meeting on Aug. 5.

Sheriff Cody Beeson reported that the biggest problem presently in Bird City is the reckless underage drivers who are driving four-wheelers on the streets.

"They are creating a problem and the sheriff's office has received several complaints" said Beeson. "However, by the time the sheriff's deputy can get here from St. Francis they are gone".

If the drivers in violation of the ordinance are underage, he said, the parents will be served the tickets for allowing underage children to drive these four-wheelers.

Sheriff Beeson also asked the council to clarify a discrepancy on what the city expects from the sheriff's department. He stated that during the commissioners meeting, he was questioned as to the amount of time and gas that has been spent recently in

responding to Bird City. Sheriff Beeson told the commissioners he didn't see that the sheriff's office was out of line with the amount of time spent in Bird City. The city basically pays for 40 hours of patrol per week. They have been patrolling more during the night, since this is when the juvenile activity has been going on. Since they have been doing this, the underage activity seems to have decreased. "Bird City is basically paying for patrol services" councilman Wright said. Mr. Sager said he can't see where the hours spent in Bird City are out of line with what the city is paying for. As he sees it, the Sheriff's Department is doing a fine job and should continue patrolling as they have been.

New equipment

Brad Schneider reported he has received the new Ford truck, and it is running very well. He is very pleased with it. He just needs a tool box on it to keep his tools secure. The new mower also arrived, which he intends to break in by mowing on the next day.

Part time workers hours

Dorey Magley, the temporary part time worker for the city, is about to run out of hours. There are several areas of work left where his help is needed. Ned Smith said there is still plenty of work that needs to be done, such as; painting the curbs and signs, and help is needed in working with the asphalt. "We are not going to get the jobs done without his help" he said. The council voted to extend Dorey's work hours by 200 more hours.

In other business

The contract for the Community Development Block Grant was signed for the beginning phase of the waterworks project.

Century II had approved the grant the city had applied for on the remaining amount needed for beginning the water and sewer Project.

Next City Council meeting will be September 2 at 7 PM.

Editor's note. The above article is taken from the unapproved notes taken at the Aug. 5, regular city council meeting.

Hospital staff working with adjoining county on grant

By Douglas Sloper

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The Cheyenne County Hospital, working in conjunction with the Rawlins County Health Center is submitting a grant proposal to the Kansas Rural Health Systems Improvement Pilot Project that would help address essential health services in the two counties. Only four communities will be selected to receive the grant funding.

The hospital is working with the health center in that collaborative efforts have an advantage in the selection process. With the limited funds available a joint effort will benefit both counties.

"There are limited funding opportunities specific to rural communities," said Judy Rockwood, hospital chief executive officer. "The grant committee is focusing on energetic, forward-thinking communities that are ready to act. We hope to have the support of the community during the application process and cooperation in the research

required if we are successful in receiving the funding."

There are many problems facing rural communities today including declining and aging populations, lack of financial resources, and difficulties attracting and retaining qualified medical service providers. If funding is received, the first year of the project would be to capture knowledge and experience from medical service providers in both counties and to then design, test and evaluate the risks and rewards of locally conceived or adjusted approaches to rural health systems improvement.

"This is not just a hospital initiative," said Carol Sloper, project coordinator. "This grant touches all medical services including dental, vision, emergency management, nursing facility care, and home health. We will be reaching out to community service providers before the deadline to request support for this initiative."

The benefits to the communities involved would be potentially restructured

services, working together to solve healthcare issues and needs based on local knowledge and potential solutions. This will also focus feedback to state and national policy makers.

The grant application is due Aug. 21. Community support is urged and needed to demonstrate that Cheyenne County is ready to change and work with other counties to secure the needed healthcare services that are needed for the Northwest Kansas area.

Letters of support for the project are being requested. Please contact Judy Rockwood or Carol Sloper at 332-2104 for more details.

The grant is being funded by the United Methodist Health Ministries in conjunction with the Sunflower Foundation, Health Care for Kansans, Kansas Health Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation, Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation and Kansas Hospital Association.