

Commissioners discuss sand and delinquent taxes

By Karen Krien
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At the Aug. 31 Cheyenne County Commissioners, a letter was signed by the commissioners concerning the citation Callicrate Feed Yard had received several weeks ago.

Dale Patton, commissioners, said Kansas Department of Health and Environment officials would be at the feed yard on Tuesday and will clear up a lot of the issues. There is a lack of information between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Environment.

"I have asked our two national representatives to cut the Environmental Protection Agency when it comes time to make cuts in the budget," Mr. Patton said.

The letter the commissioners signed stated that they were supportive of having this facility and appreciated the jobs it supplies.

Sand

Dr. Brett and Cynthia Poling talked to the commissioners concerning the sand pit on their land. Mr. Poling said they dig out the sand, using their own equipment and fuel. The county purchases their sand but pays the same 20-cents for their sand as they do for the sand the county digs out for other people.

Dr. Poling wasn't as interested in the price paid as the possibility of having the county help them dig out some sand to meet a deadline with the Groundwater Commission.

The commissioners said they would talk to the road and bridge department supervisor and see what could be worked out.

Tax sale

Five people were present for the budget hearing held at 9 a.m. See related article.

During the budget meeting, the discussion turned to recycling,

delinquent tax sale and the sheriff's department's Hummer. (See article concerning recycling elsewhere.)

Present for these discussions were Rodney Netzel, Tina Kehl, Jim Laffond, Dr. and Mrs. Poling.

Mr. Laffond asked if there are plans for a tax foreclosure sale – that, when the delinquent taxes were printed in the paper, there were \$60,000 in delinquent taxes listed.

Mrs. Gilliland, county attorney, said the last time there was a delinquent tax sale, there were people from out of town who bought the property, then left and now the city has problems.

Having a delinquent tax sale is not cheap," she said, listing a number of costs including publication, abstracts and mailing.

"It is a 6- to 8-month process."

Ms. Kehl wanted to know why the county couldn't hand out stiff penalties? Mrs. Gilliland said that counties are not allowed to do that.

Hummer

Ms. Kehl wanted to know why the county needed a Hummer (the sheriff's department was given one several months ago). "Nothing is free," she said. "There are expenses that goes with it."

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, noted that a \$2,000 donation had been made to cover those expenses. And, he said, it has already been used during a fire.

Ms. Kehl said she had taken her pickup to the place where the fire had been and there was no use for the Hummer. She later identified that it was not the same fire where the Hummer had been used.

It boils down to life-safety uses, said Mr. Beikman. Look at the overall cost to saving a life and it is pennies.

Road and bridge supervisor report

Dave Flemming, road and

bridge supervisor, reported on work done by the county crew. He was asked about mowing as the commissioners had received complaints. They talked about why he used circular blades instead of the bat wings. Mr. Flemming said he was using circular blades now but would finish the mowing season with the bat wings. He also noted that a mower covers about 50 miles a day.

The commissioners signed permits for Nobel Energy to bore across the county road southwest of St. Francis.

There are several piles of crushed cement which will be used or sold. A load of cement sells for \$15.

He reported that he had a grader which needed repaired. He will take it to Colby for the repairs. The commissioners agreed to look at a new grader but didn't guarantee any purchase.

He said after the road oil had been released from a tank in Bird City, the county trucks had been used to haul three loads of rocks from Benkelman.

In other business

- The commissioners discussed the county employees' health plan, noting that they had recently received information that there was a \$100,000 cap on transplants. They felt that a higher cap should have been installed when they talked to the insurance agent earlier. They agreed that they needed to talk to the representative and/or supervisor and something needed to be worked out.
- Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, asked to go to more workshops/meetings. The commissioners said no to one and approved two others.
- Clerk Terry Miller was approved to attend a meeting in Salina.

Executive session

Craig Van Allen, sheriff, called for 10 minutes of executive session to discuss personnel. Twenty-five minutes after adjourning and going back into executive session again, the session ended and it was reported no decisions would be made.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, in the commissioners' room. On the agenda at 10 a.m. will be Randy Fitzgerald, Good Samaritan Society representative.



DANA ROSE helps her son Dawson color his name tag on the first day of school. Dawson is a kindergartener this year.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Club Clips

Every keepsake has a story to tell

Members of the Bird City Historical Association were privileged to learn some of the stories of keepsakes at the Aug. 12 meeting in the Bird City Senior Center. Something as mundane as an antique heart-shaped cookie cutter to an exquisite pendant were the historical program of the meeting.

Here are the keepsakes that were presented:

- This one antique cookie cutter led to a collection of many different designs including a train, stars, angel, animals, Jack-o-lantern, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a cutter in the shape of Texas, plus many others. These cutters made many cookies to take to school parties.
- A beautiful iris pendant was designed and made to honor a beloved Mother from the grandmother's wedding rings.
- A lovely blue churn dash pattern quilt was displayed by the quilter's granddaughters. This was a wedding gift to their parents.

- A leather ledger of business transactions which belonged to a great-great grandfather, who died in 1852.
- A totally hand-written book of a member's great-grandmother's Cherokee family history, including trials and tribulations.
- An unusual deerskin bag or purse with beautiful blue seed beading and a silk braided drawstring, also from the great grandmother.
- Another special keepsake was a member's grandmother's miniature porcelain tea set that is over 100 years old.
- A lovely 1898 doll dressed in a lacy, old-fashioned costume over the leather body and

porcelain head, shoulder plate, arms and legs. The dress was further adorned with a porcelain cameo pin that was made by the aunt - who was the original owner of this unique doll.

- A very large ceramic nativity set which was also made by this aunt, who had gone out in search of certain clays with which to make the under-glazes to paint on each piece before they were fired, glazed and then fired in a kiln again. This she had probably done around 1945.

The members were then asked to take a picture of these heirloom keepsakes and to write up a story about these for the development of a journal.

Historical association invites members

The Bird City Historical Association will meet Sept. 9, at 2 p.m. at the Bird City Senior Center. After a brief business meeting, the project, Blocks and Lots, will be discussed.

All members are asked to bring a picture and a written story of their heirloom keepsake for the development of the journal.

Also please bring a written story of your chosen category for the development of the pamphlet entitled, "The Mystery of the Past for Youthful Readers."

Anyone interested in the preservation of the history of the Bird City area and the surrounding area is welcome to come and join us.

Thank you

We would like to thank both Bumper to Bumper and Melvin & Barb Dunn for purchasing the premiums on our swine. We would like to thank the following for purchasing the premiums on our wood projects at the fair: Scoular Grain, Gilliland Seed & Consulting, Doug & Karen Flemming, Dr. Melvin Dunn, Sherlock Spraying and Mike & Leigh Ann Bandel. Most of all thanks for supporting 4-H!

Jude and Jake Faulkender

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