

Sheriff shares department goals with commissioners

By Karen Krien
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The new sheriff presented the commissioners a booklet telling about the department including a list of vehicles, goals, weaknesses and strengths when the county commissioners met on Friday.

Sheriff Cody Beeson said he was not asking for equipment or anything, only letting the commissioners know about his department. When I do need something, you will know what we already have in the department. In the future, he said he would like to replace the Blazer which has 169,000 miles on it.

Sheriff Beeson's father, Sam, is a 911 dispatcher for the county. He has been ill. The sheriff asked and was allowed to donate his sick leave to his dad.

He said the new 800 radios had been installed. However, he was concerned about the radio equipment having been installed in the old jail, which is near the dispatch office. He said when the jail was used to hold prisoners, the glass had been replaced with a plastic but they leak moisture and air. In fact, when there is a snow storm, snow collects on the floor of the jail.

That equipment, he said, cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000 and something needs to be done to protect it. The commissioners approved having someone look at the windows and see what can be done.

Audit bill

The commissioners reviewed the audit agreement and preparation bill from Jack Eldridge. It was about \$2,000 more because he had spent more time in the county performing required single audit A-133 for the airport. We are also paying more and more because he is not getting timely and correct information, Dale Patton, commissioner said. This is the second year in a row that the county treasurer had not closed out at the end of the year.

We, as a county, pay for that, Mr. Patton said. There was not a single warrant paid until the middle of the month. Cell phones were threatened to be cut, interest has been accrued and the sheriff's credit card was denied while out of town.

With an elected official, what do we do, asked Ernie Ketzner, commissioner. Even though the county pays the wages, what can we do?

Do diligence, Mr. Patton said. Do the job and in a timely manner. He noted that last year, the treasurer was extremely ill.

The sad thing, he said, is it is the credibility of the county.

Taxes abated

J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis city supervisor, and Bruce Webb, appraiser, asked the commissioners if they would consider dropping some of the back taxes, interest and publication charges on two lots in St. Francis. If we could get these cleared up, Mr. Landenberger said, then we could get someone to clear them off and they would be decent lots.

Commissioner Ketzner said that if the lots are not generating taxes, then they are stale mates - they're not doing anyone any good.

If we can get something that generates taxes, said Commissioner Patton, then I view this as a win-win situation. The commissioners agreed to abate the taxes and drop the interest and publication charges.

Mr. Webb said it was time to sign the contract with R&S Digital for the digital mapping. There was a 10-percent increase. The commissioners agreed to sign the contract for \$6,265.

Landfill report

Adam Peter, landfill supervisor, reported on plans to dig another pit. Once the plans have been made, the commissioners said it would be necessary to advertise for bids to dig the pit.

He said the new compactor

had to have some work done to it but it was still under warranty. Commissioner Dale Patton asked about the steel in the landfill and what was being done with it. Commissioner Brett Poling said he had been told of a gas truck that could be used for a water truck for the landfill. Mr. Peter said it was rat infested.

Mr. Peter called for executive session. When coming out, the commissioners accepted Mr. Peter's resignation. An ad will run in the newspapers.



Brunswig

Card shower requested

The family of Emma A. Brunswig is requesting a card shower for her 80th birthday on Feb. 20. Cards can reach her at 31736 Hwy. 34, Haigler, NE 69030.



OFFICER DARRELL THOMAS from the St. Francis Police Department works an accident on Main street last Tuesday.
Herald staff photo by Scott Knebel

Grant writing topic at meeting

Randy Hrabe, executive director with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, and Carol Redding, St. Francis, met with commissioners on Thursday, Jan. 31, to discuss the availability of grants and grant writing.

Mr. Hrabe said he wanted to get to all the 18 counties and update them on what the organization can do for them. In the past, the organization has helped obtain grants for cities needing water, sewer, ambulance and fire trucks, just to name some. He noted that there is about one-half of the grant money available as there was 10 years ago. They have also helped Rexford and Norton in getting moderate income housing.

Pioneer Development, also with the Northwest Kansas Planning, is a non profit that works with private businesses. With the housing program, built 96 houses and have 20 more on the drawing board. St.

Francis, he said, is unique as they enforce their code - it is a clean town.

He talked about house bill 2072 that has to do with landfills. It is a proposal but, if anyone operates a city-owned trash collection, they will not be able to pick up any trash outside the city limits. If the legislators let that slip through, he said, that will be bad for people living just outside the city limits.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said he approached Ms. Redding, about writing grants for a monetary part of the grants that are received.

Ms. Redding said she would be delighted to help write grants. She said she felt her education and work experience would help her in writing the grants. Janet Carman, St. Francis, has offered to help and Ms. Redding said they work well together.

If the grant is received, they will receive 10 percent.

I will make county organizations my top priority, Ms. Redding said. But, I won't know who needs grant writing unless they contact me. She also noted that she is willing to work with the Northwest Kansas Pioneer Development and Mr. Hrabe.

Grant writing has become very competitive, Mr. Patton said. Following up on the grant will be the responsibility of the person who has gotten the money, not Carol's.

Mr. Patton said Carol will be the grant writer for the county; she is not trying to step on any toes and will work with Laurie Knebel, who is heading to her first grant writing class, and Helen Dobbs, Cheyenne County Development coordinator.

For those wanting more information on grants, call Ms. Redding at 332-3531 or her cell 332-6194. Her e-mail address is c.redding@att.net.

Senior Citizens Menu

Thursday, Feb. 7

Waikiki meat balls over rice, broccoli, mixed fruit, roll, cookie

Friday, Feb. 8

Chicken patti, potato salad, pears, bun, pumpkin dessert

Tuesday Feb. 12.

Ham and Beans, spinach salad, cornbread, fruit crisp

Thursday, Feb. 14

Smothered steak, parslied potatoes, green beans, roll, apricots

Friday, Feb. 15

Macaroni and cheese with hamburger, cauliflower salad, mandarin oranges

Tuesday Feb.19

Sloppy joes, baked beans, cole slaw with carrots, bun, apple slices

Thursday, Feb. 21

Mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, roll, mixed fruit

Friday, Feb. 22

Meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, corn, roll, peaches

Tuesday, Feb. 26

Polish sausage with kraut, mashed potatoes, Italian blend vegetables

Thursday, Feb. 28

Chili, gelatin, with carrots and pineapple, crackers, cinnamon roll

Bird City Diner

US 36 - Bird City

Breakfast Night

Every Wednesday

5-7 p.m.

Starting February 6



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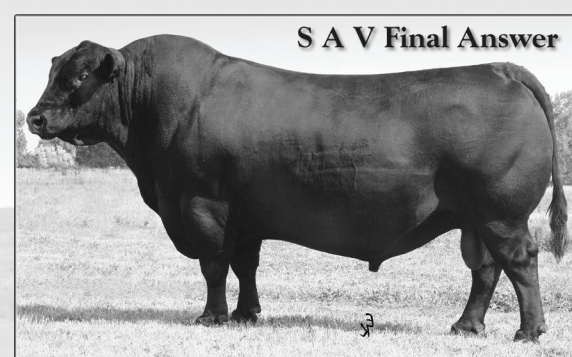
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