



Bids opened to dig last landfill cell

Six sealed bids were opened when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday. The bids were for digging the eighth cell at the landfill.

The commissioners accepted the low bid of \$89,252 from McCormicks Excavating, Stratton, Colo.

This will be the last cell that can be built on the land.

Bids ranged from \$3.22 per cubic yard to \$1.22. Bids were: Salt and Light Contracting, \$3.22 per cubic yard, total, \$235,575; MJE, \$2.18 per cubic yard, total, \$159,488; McCormick Earth and Power Excavating, \$1.22 per cubic yard, total, \$89,252; Workman

Terracing, \$1.96 per yard, total, \$149,393; Carpert Earth Moving, \$1.35 per yard, \$98,766; Cahoj Earth Moving, \$1.30, \$95,108.

Before accepting the bids, Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, wanted to know if the bids were comparing apples to apples. They agreed that they bidding by the cubic yard and that Penco, the engineering company drawing up the specifications, had figured the yards.

Dave Flemming, public works supervisor, went over some of the specifications with Jim McCormick and the commissioners. The cell will probably be dug by the last of March.

Legislators hold meeting in St. Francis

Kansas State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, 40th District, with Kansas Representative Ward Cassidy, 120th District, will be visiting communities in Northwest Kansas on Saturday, Feb. 23, to seek patron's ideas on issues being addressed in the 2012 Kansas legislature.

Information will be presented from many of the issues being considered and discussion will be held on anticipated issues and their impact on all residents. Everyone is urged to attend.

From 8 to 9 a.m., they will be at Cuppa Joe Espresso, St. Francis Main Street; from 10 to 11 a.m., they will be at Williams Brothers Grocery, Atwood; and from noon to 1 p.m., they will be at the Decatur County Courthouse.

From 2 to 3 p.m., Mr. Ostmeyer and Rep. Couture-Lovelady will be at Town and Country Kitchen, Norton. From 4 to 5 p.m., Ostmeyer and Couture-Lovelady will be at Hanson Memorial Plaza, Logan.

County crew plans road work in March

At the end of the month, the county road and bridge crew will be ripping up asphalt on the "Douthit hill" north of St. Francis. They will also be working on 5.5 miles of the road south of the state shop (Road 14), 9 miles of Road 28 from Road M to D (the Edson Road), and 4 miles of Road 25 from U.S. 36 to Road R (north of Hendricks Grain).

The department, said Dave Flemming, supervisor, will be renting a soil stabilizer and a vibratory sheepsfoot packer to do the work. For two weeks, the sta-

bilizer will cost \$8,300 a week (\$16,600), the packer will cost \$1,830 a week (\$3,660). The cost also includes the insurance.

The total rent of the equipment, he said, will cost \$20,240. The work will be done early enough in the season so we got the equipment for a better price.

The work will take around two weeks, Mr. Flemming said. Because the equipment is only rented for two weeks, we will probably run longer hours and possibly work on Saturday to utilize our weekly rental.



Students see emergency equipment

St. Francis first graders enjoyed a field trip to the emergency building where they were able to see the ambulances and learn how some of the equipment worked.

They were also allowed to climb on the fire truck and some even had a turn at sitting at the wheel of the big truck.

Above, Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, shows the students how the new power gurney works. Students sitting on the gurney were (left to right) Seth Tumbleson, Dawson Rose and Kaylee Moberly.

Right, Reid Raile, emergency medical technician, shows Ian Taylor how the immobilizer works if he were to break his arm.



Herald staff photos by Scott Knebel



LARRY FINLEY, was a blood donor on Thursday. The drive, held at Peace Lutheran Church, collected 40 points. Winners of gift certificates were Harold Madsen, Rick Rogers, Cliff Semler and Hoagie Carmichael.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Board discusses issues with treasurer, deputy clerk

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The matter of bills not paid and the reasons were discussed when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday.

Dolores Jenik, treasurer, was present to talk to the commissioners about the discussion and questions brought up at the Jan. 31 meeting. Dale Patton, commissioner, was upset because the end of the year balance had not been made in a timely fashion. Because bills had not been paid by the clerk's department, there were late statements and the county's credit card had been denied. He said there were business people wondering why they had not been paid.

A heated discussion followed between Mrs. Jenik, Deb Lindsten, deputy clerk, and Mr. Patton.

Mrs. Jenik admitted she had trouble getting the end of year balanced but she also pointed out that in a conference call, she had been told twice, that the clerk could pay the bills. Ms. Lindsten denied that she had heard that - that she could only pay the 2012 warrants.

"I am not questioning your ability. If there is a problem, it is timeliness," Mr. Patton said. "The first report was a negative \$300,000 balance. We are responsible on how we spend the taxpayer funds - are we spending money that isn't there?"

"It's not my fault," Mrs. Jenik said. "I have been fixing problems and yes, I make mistakes but I am fed up with everyone pointing fingers. It isn't al-

ways me that is causing the issues."

"There is no working relationship between the clerk and treasure office," Ms. Lindsten said. "You will not work with me. If the information came from the commissioners, I thought you might take it better."

Obviously, said Mr. Patton, there is communication and personality problems. I expect professionalism out of everyone.

No matter what the problem, said Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, it doesn't help to point fingers. If there is a problem squaring up the books then we need to have our books done on the weekend of the year end.

"It was not my fault," Mrs. Jenik said again.

I am not questioning your work ethics, Mr. Patton said. We have a problem and we will work diligently to resolve it. We need to provide the best services we can.

I just want good professional work ethics between everyone, added Brett Poling, commissioner. I respect what you are trying to do but we have a responsibility.

Mr. Patton told Mrs. Jenik that he was sorry if she took offense. This was not vindictive, he said, it was done for concern of operations. Whether you chose to believe it or not - that is your choice.

Mr. Patton also told Mrs. Jenik that one of her employees was not bondable. For your sake, he said, I hope things go well.