

City council accepts bid for Emerson Street property

By Amanda Miller
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The St. Francis City Council met on Monday, Feb. 10, as regularly scheduled. Mayor Scott Schultz was not present. The council heard a bid for the East Emerson Street properties, appointed members to the pool board and the housing authority, as well as heard reports from the administration.

Only one bid was received to clean up the East Emerson Street properties. Brock McAtee offered to clean the lot, remove any existing structures and trees, and have it all completed by July 1. In exchange he said he would pay \$100 for each property, so \$200 total. Once the work is complete, he will receive the deed to the property.

City attorney Mike Day said they could put the deed in escrow until the work is completed. Upon completion, the deed would then be handed over to Mr. McAtee.

Council members all agreed on the arrangement.

Board appointments

The city council appointed the same Housing Authority board members as last year. Carol Rogers, Nancy Schultz, Lynnette Nolan, Richard Grace and Rodney Ritchey will resume their positions in 2014. The Housing Authority is designed to provide affordable housing for low-income senior citizens, but if not filled, then it is rented to low-income citizens over 21 years of age. The Housing Authority board is responsible for snow removal, yard work, and maintenance on the houses.

The swimming pool board members for 2014 are Kevin Lampe, Margaret Poling, Larry Finley, Jenny Busse, JR Landenberger and Bruce Swihart.

Superintendent report

JR Landenberger, city superintendent, began by stating that there

is a new tariff from Praireland Electric. This will mean that the price of electricity will be increasing, so rates will need to increase. At this time he did not know how much.

There have been a few concerns with trash. The city employees have noticed loose trash issues. If the trash is not properly bagged, or is not supposed to be picked up, the city employees have the ability to refuse pick up.

Mr. Landenberger said that there have been ashes in the dumpsters, as well, that were not bagged. When the dumpsters are emptied, this poses a health risk to city employees. It is also dangerous to dump loose ashes into a dumpster for fire safety reasons. If you must dump ashes, please be sure they are completely cool and bagged, said Mr. Landenberger.

E-waste is an example of an item that may not be picked up. As a general rule, anything with a cord on it is considered e-waste. The city cannot pick this up, and cannot put it into the crusher. If a resident sets a vacuum cleaner out, for example, it will be set back. Please take e-waste to the landfill for proper disposal.

Please continue to recycle as much as possible as well, said Mr. Landenberger. especially the cardboard and large boxes that many businesses use.

Finally, Mr. Landenberger said the Scout Hut work has been completed, and looks wonderful. The new flooring is complete, and the girl scouts and cub scouts are currently using it. It is available for rent for events to the public as well. Contact the city office for more information on rentals at 785-332-3142.

Clerk report

Glori Milne, city clerk, said the the Cheyenne County Commissioners plan to attend the next council meeting. They will be meeting with the council at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24.

The Theater Board minutes are on the website for the city council to view, Mrs. Milne said. After some discussion, the council agreed that one member should be present at the board meetings. Upcoming are employee wage decisions. Mrs. Milne said she will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Two grants from the St. Francis Community Foundation were received. The foundation donated \$700 for Art in the Park. Art in the Park is run through the city, but no money comes from taxpayers. It is completely funded with donations or grants. The foundation also donated \$700 toward the Keller Pond River Walk.

Council comments

Council member Carla Lampe began by stating that now that most of the numbers are in for the year 2013, she would like to get the figures before the electrical infrastructure group meets. The group, comprised of Bruce Swihart, Carla Lampe, JR Landenberger, and Glori Milne, is going to meet to discuss the different ways and possibilities of paying for the electrical infrastructure upgrade.

The electrical infrastructure upgrade is already beginning to take place. However, the funding for the upgrade has not been established. Once the group meets, and finds different avenues of how to pay for the upgrade, they will bring back the information to the city council so a decision can be made on how to pay.

Mr. Swihart said he would like to have an initial get together before the group was given figures. He said it might be a good idea to set up some guidelines, and go over the numbers so everyone understands where they are coming from.

Carla clarified that these figures will include the budget, history, cash reserves, payroll, and basically every figure. Bruce and Carla then agreed that they would get the numbers together, and have a small initial get together with everyone in the group. The group should begin meeting very soon.

Next meeting

The county commissioners will be meeting with the council at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, in city hall. The public is encouraged to attend.

Board accepts resignation

By Amanda Miller
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The St. Francis School Board met on Thursday, Feb. 13. During the meeting, the board accepted one letter of resignation, discussed the upcoming open position for the next school year, and approved the 2014-2015 school calendar.

Judy Raile, the Elementary School At-Risk program director, submitted her letter of resignation to the school board. Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said that he was aware that she was planning to retire and she had told him at the beginning of the year. However, she will be missed.

"I really count on her a lot," Mr. Schiltz said.

Mrs. Raile's departure means that the At Risk position will be open. Mr. Schiltz said that he would ideally like to see the position filled by someone with training in kindergarten through grade 12. Currently Mrs. Raile holds the training to do kindergarten through sixth grade.

The At Risk Program is extremely important to have at the grade school, Mr. Schiltz explained. The primary role of the program is to help with reading

in kindergarten, first and second grade.

The school board agreed to have Mr. Schiltz advertise for a kindergarten-grade 12 At Risk program director, and begin looking for one to replace Mrs. Raile next year.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller, board member, asked if there was anyone on staff that would like the position. Mr. Schiltz did not know that there was anyone with adequate training.

School calendar

The school calendar for 2014-2015 has been approved. The upcoming calendar year will have two less school days than this year's.

School is set to begin on Tuesday, Aug. 19. Christmas break will run Monday, Dec. 22 through Friday, Jan. 2.

Spring break will be the week of March 16 through 20.

The last day for seniors is May 13. Graduation is May 17, and the end of the school year will fall on Thursday, May 21.

These are just the main start and end dates. All the regular holidays as well as parent-teacher conferences and other days off can be seen on the school calendar.

Other business

As well as discussing the opening for the At Risk position, Mr. Schiltz said now may be a good time to discuss personnel, if needed. By law, a school board must notify a teacher in writing on or before the third Friday in May if a teacher's contract will not be renewed. The board usually does contracts around April, said Mr. Schiltz.

After some discussion, the board agreed that they were happy with the new staff. No executive session was called.

Finally, Mr. Schiltz said that with all the snow, it has become evident that the two small tractors are not quite doing their job. He said it would be good to have something a little bigger.

Cody Busse, board president, suggested that Mr. Schiltz look into the pricing to trade something in. Mr. Schiltz thought it would probably cost around \$15,000, but he will look into it.

Next meeting

The next school board meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, at 7 p.m. in the administration office at the high school.

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Public Notices

Property ordered sold by U.S. Marshal office

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursday, February 13, February 20, February 27, and March 6, 2014. (07, 08, 09, 10)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v. Case No. 2-4132-RDR-DJW

DOROTHY SEMLER and
HAYS MEDICAL CLINIC, INC.,

Defendants

NOTICE OF UNITED STATES MARSHAL'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of an Order Of Sale Of Real Estate issued out of the United States District Court for the District of Kansas, at Topeka, Kansas, in the above entitled case, I will, on Friday, the 14th day of March, 2014, at 11:00 o'clock A.M., at the front door of the Cheyenne County Courthouse, St. Francis, Kansas, offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, all of the right, title and interest of Defendants above-named in and to the following described real estate, located in Cheyenne County, Kansas, to-wit:

The West Half of the East Half (W1/2 E1/2) and the West Half (W1/2) of Lot Two (2), and the East Half (E1/2) of Lot Three (3), in Block Thirty-eight (38), in the original town, now City, of St. Francis, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof.

Payment must be in the form of Cash, Cashier's Check, Money Order or Certified Check made payable to the United States District Court and will be accepted as follows:

Less than \$25,000 Entire amount due at conclusion of sale;

\$25,000-\$100,000 10% down with the remainder delivered to the United States Marshal's Service Office by close of the business day;

More than \$100,000 10% down with the remainder delivered to the United States Marshal's Service Office within five (5) working days

The contact person regarding inquiries about the above-property is Kent Colwell, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, (785) 628-3081.

Said real property is levied on as the property of the defendant above names and will be sold without appraisal, subject to any unpaid real property taxes or special assessments and with a three (3) months month right of redemption, to satisfy said Order of Sale

United States Marshal's Office, Topeka, Kansas, this 28th day of January, 2014

CRAIG BEAM
Acting United States Marshal
District of Kansas

Insurance issues discussed

By Karen Krien
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Health insurance issues and the hospital were discussed when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Friday. Both issues were for information and no decisions were made.

Representing the hospital were Judy Rockwood, administrator; Heidi Tice, Shawna Blanka and Roxie Neitzel. They had a printout with statistics and other information.

Mrs. Rockwood said the hospital had purchased a used 2009 Dexiscan machine which measures bone density. Two weeks before the first of the year, the hospital staff had been notified that the service which had been coming to St. Francis would no longer make the trip.

She said Darrel Reed had started looking for a Dexiscan, and had found this used machine, which had been purchased for \$16,000. The machine will be put in the area where physicians used to sleep. That room will also be used when the sleep lab is established the first part of April.

The sleep lab, Ms. Rockwood said, will have two beds, and patients will be in the lab from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. so it will not interfere with the other service.

Ms. Rockwood said the hospital still needed a part-time cook and a full-time registered nurse. Both positions are being advertised.

The county hospital is a critical access hospital. Ms. Rockwood briefly explained that, to be a

critical access hospital, the facility must be located in a rural area and be over 35 miles from another hospital; 15 miles from another hospital in mountainous terrain or areas with only secondary roads and-or be state certified as a necessary provider of health care services to people in the area.

She also reported that the county hospital was one of 22 hospitals in the state to be designated as a "Level Four Trauma Center." The nearest other designated trauma center is Norton. See related article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Health insurance problems

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said he had been contacted by a county employee's spouse, telling that the family had been contacted by a collection agency because the county's health insurance was not paying. Dale Patton said he had experienced the same calls.

For years, Mr. Patton said, the county was recognized for the good health insurance provided to employees. That made up for the lower wages paid. But, today, we can't even brag about the insurance benefits.

They agreed to call Tim Carson, Corporate Plan, the county's health insurance representative. Mr. Carson reported that he would personally take any calls from employees having problems with collection agencies and see what he can do.

Appreciation expressed

Rod Klepper, representing several organizations in Bird City, thanked the commissioners for allowing the items collected in the heavy trash pick up in Bird City, to be dumped at the landfill. He said it was so successful that they plan another such pick up in the fall. They might also have a lighter pick up in the spring.

The county road and bridge crew had spent several hours at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show doing the dirt work for a new building which will be erected.


The last announcement he made was the Bird City Community Club was going to hold a benefit for volunteers including firemen, emergency medical technicians, and any others.

In other business:

- The commissioners approved the ambulance department's insurance write offs of \$2,334.
- Audit proposals are being sought. Adams, Brown, Berans and Ball had submitted a proposal. They will look at other companies.
- Dave Flemming, public works director, talked about buying a loader. He will research the purchase and report back at the next meeting.
- Mr. Flemming asked for 10 minutes executive session to talk about land purchases. No decision was made when they were out of the session.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, in the courthouse in St. Francis.



Working Women Special Section

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