



COLBY FREE PRESS

Council rejects fire truck bids after objection

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

All bids for a new fire rescue truck were rejected during the Colby City Council meeting earlier this week.

Bob McLemore, fire chief, was at the meeting to review or answer any questions about the bids, saying that the current fire truck is not safe and has not passed safety inspections for the last two years.

The money for the truck was encumbered from the 2003 budget expenses and two bids were received at the end of December — one from Emergency One at \$118,500 and the other from Amtech at a cost of \$112,635. Both companies bid a 2004 vehicle and both were not local businesses.

Jim Tubbs, the newest council member — who was appointed by Mayor Warren Hixson after councilman Todd Barrows moved from the area — asked if the local dealerships were included in the bidding process.

McLemore said that because this was a specialized apparatus with specific specifications for the body compartment and exactness needed in mounting the chassis, it had been the practice of the city to bid both parts together and through dealers such as those contacted.

When it comes to other items, McLemore said, for instance city dump trucks or other city vehicles, it was his understanding that these items are bid locally.

“What we have been doing works,” McLemore said. “Every fire truck we have bid has always been in a whole package.”

However, Tubbs said he believed this was just one more example of the “laxness” with the bidding process.

“Our first attempt should be to

buy here first and foremost,” Tubbs said, “because that’s how our community survives.”

In clarification about the body and chassis, a representative from Amtech was available to answer questions. He said it would not be a problem for his company to mount a chassis (from another bidder) onto the body. As for warranty, the representative said Amtech would not cover the chassis, but would the body.

Although, he believed the chassis would probably be under warranty with the dealer selected.

After some discussion, a motion was made and approved to reject all bids on the fire rescue truck and bid the two parts out separately (body and chassis), which would then allow local automobile dealerships to compete in the bidding process as well.

In other council business:

- Charlotte Linsner with the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter in Hays, although not present at the meeting, requested the city give the shelter a \$750 donation. Armstrong said that two years ago Linsner had brought this issue forward and the council at that time could not come up with extra money. In the 2004 budget, there is also no inclusion for money to help the shelter. The council denied Linsner’s request, but Bev Eicher on the council said she would like this revisited since the city does have domestic violence problems. Eicher said this is a serious problem and the shelter is a place for these women to go.

- Armstrong gave the council a policy to review on disadvantaged business enterprise, which will be also reviewed by the airport board. A recommendation is expected to be brought back to the council at the Tuesday, Feb. 3 meeting.

Framing the future



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Ron Kogler, Wheat Lippelman and Kevin Helus worked today to put up the framework for the new Colby Public Works building. Work started two weeks ago. The concrete floor was poured last week and the building’s outer shell should be completed by the end of winter. The new building is just south of the current building, which is at 195 N. Sterling Ave.

Death penalty discussed

By BILL DRAPER

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — The man who presided over the last four executions in Kansas says he sees no need for a moratorium on the state’s death penalty.

“The rationale completely escapes me,” Charles McAtee said Wednesday during a telephone interview. He was director of penal institutions in 1965, when the state executed four convicted murderers within nine weeks.

Opponents of the death penalty urged legislators Wednesday to place a two-year moratorium on imposing death sentences and executing those who already have been sentenced to die.

Tim Emert, an attorney from Independence, told the Senate Judiciary Committee that no issue was as troubling to him during his eight years as a senator as deciding where he stood on the death penalty.

Emert became vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee soon after taking office in 1993 and was on the committee the next year when the Legislature reinstituted capital punishment.

“I came to the conclusion the only vote I could live with was a ‘no’ vote on the death penalty in Kansas,” said Emert, who was elected to the Legislature as a Republican. “I could not, in my mind, be pro-life and pro death penalty.”

McAtee said the Kansas death penalty law allows too many years to pass between the time a capital crime is committed and when a person is executed.

“Today there’s a guaranteed, built-in eight to 10 to 12-year delay between a heinous crime and the carrying out of punishment,” said McAtee.

“By that time you have all the candlelight vigils where people pray for the poor soul of the defendant and forget the poor souls of victims.”

Kansas Cattlemen’s Association gears up for convention

BREWSTER — The Kansas Cattlemen’s Association said today its 2004 Annual Convention and Trade Show will take place in Dodge City at the Civic Center on Feb. 6-7.

The association is headquartered in Brewster.

Those attending will have an opportunity to interact with representatives from various entities in the cattle industry, through speakers and booths at the trade show, according to information provided by the association’s executive director Mike Schultz, Brewster..

Registration will begin at 12 noon on Friday, Feb. 6 followed by the

convention kick off at 1 p.m. with Dr. Dan Upson, Professor Emeritus, Kansas State University, the speaker. Upson’s topic is, “Animal Drugs and the Human Element.”

A water quality workshop is scheduled for the second session, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment representatives will be on hand to discuss these issues.

Dr. Roger McEowen, Kansas State University, will wrap up the afternoon session with his discussion on “Legal Issues in the Cattle Industry.”

Friday night, Rotomix is sponsoring a steak feed for attendees.

Immediately following dinner, Jeff Hires, a motivational speaker from the Dodge City area will entertain the crowd.

Saturday’s schedule begins with the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association annual meeting at 8 a.m.

Following the meeting, attendees have their choice of workshops to attend.

Dr. Lynn Locatelli of Twin Forks Vet Clinic in Benkelman, Neb., will give a cattle handling workshop. Simultaneously, Steve Cady of Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) will be speaking on competitive marketing issues and solutions.

Following a luncheon with speaker Larry Steckline, owner of the Mid America Ag Network, a heifer donated by the Pike family will be auctioned off to benefit the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association.

Afternoon sessions include a calving seminar by Dr. Robert Mortimer, Colorado State University, and a Palm Pilot/EID session by Dr. Dale Blasi, Kansas State University.

The afternoon will be wrapped up with comments from Bill Bullard, CEO, R-CALF USA and an R-CALF USA meeting.

The cost to attend convention is \$50 for both days, or \$35 for single

day registration, either Friday or Saturday.

A silent auction fund raiser will take place during the convention and items auctioned off are donated.

There will be a Billy Cook Roping Saddle giveaway donated by Walco International Dodge City, and a giveaway of two halves of beef (processed and delivered) donated by Doll Land & Cattle, Ingalls.

Tickets may be purchased from the KCA office.

For further information on the annual convention and trade show, contact the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association at 1-877-694-2906.

Briefly

Girl Scouts to begin selling cookies

The Colby Girl Scouts will begin taking orders for cookies Friday, said Shannon Koon, service unit manager. The annual cookie drive will continue through Friday, Feb. 6, she said, and many of the favorites will be available, along with a new type of cookie this year, Pinatas. No money will be collected until delivery, which will be announced at a later date. This is one of the scouts largest fund-raising events with nearly one-quarter of the profits staying with the local troops to finance girl-activities, Koon said. In addition to the new cookie, others are: thin mints, peanut butter sandwich, animal treasures, caramel delites, lemon pastry cremes, peanut butter patties and shortbread. In case a scout misses someone, Koon encourages them to call her at (785) 462-6662 prior to the deadline.

Share delivery Saturday

Delivery for this month’s Heartland Share program will start at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, at the Sacred Heart gymnasium. There are still a few shares left and anyone interested can call Gene Griffin, one of the coordinators, at (785) 460-3579.

Tax help available

AARPTax Aide help will be available Mondays beginning Feb. 2 through April 15 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the meeting room at Pioneer Memorial Library and on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Progress Center starting Feb. 5. Help is available to anyone needing tax help with simple forms. For information, call Alvin Volk at 462-2645 or Lela or Don German at 460-3062.

Dennen Field fund raisers planned

The Colby Booster Club is sponsoring a soup supper beginning at 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 30 at the Colby Community Building. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Dennen Field project, said Shawn Stephens, committee member. In addition to the soup supper, there will be a “Lube-A-Thon,” Saturday, Feb. 14, at Kansas Quick Lube with proceeds going to the Dennen Field project as well.

College auditions next week

The drama department at Colby Community College will conduct auditions for the spring play next Monday and Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. in the Frahm Theatre located in the Cultural Arts Center on campus. Auditions are open to students and the community. The spring production will be a full-length, nonmusical play. The choice of the play will depend upon the people who audition. Performance dates for the production are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 22-24. Rehearsals will begin Sunday, Feb. 22. For questions, call Deb Bickner at 462-3984, ext. 300.

‘Cardiac Arrest’ nears

The annual “Cardiac Arrest,” sponsored by the American Heart Association is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Colby Community Building, on Thursday, Jan 29. Arrestees will go before “Judge Heartless,” played by Dave Jennings. Prior to the event, arrestees are busy collecting donations with the goal of making a \$100 bail. This year’s parole board includes Roger Aumiller, Wade Baker, Marla Crumrine, Tracey King, Tina Harris, Rhonda McLaughlin,

Robert McLemore, Marge Miller, Bob Muirhead, Shawn Reinert, Martin Rinehart, Carla Sharp, Jessica Vaughn and LaVon Wagoner.



Could hit 60

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area

Tonight...Mostly clear.

Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest

winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Mostly sunny.

Warmer. Highs around 60.

Northwest winds around 10

mph. Friday night...Mostly

clear. Lows in the lower 20s.

South winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy.

Highs in the upper 50s. South-

east winds around 10 mph. Sat-

urday night...Partly cloudy.

Lows in the lower 20s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy.

Breezy...Cooler. Highs in the

mid 40s.

The numbers

Wednesday’s high, 52

Low this morning, 15

Records for Jan. 22, 77 in

1943 and -17 in 1966

Year ago today, 17 and 15

Month’s precipitation, 0.05

Month’s snowfall, 1 inch

2003 precipitation to date,

trace

Soil temperature, 36

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

