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City of Colby officials have noticed certain streets in town need repaired. Colby City County approved about \$300,000 for street repairs during its meeting Monday.

Colby council approves \$300,000 street repairs

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The condition of certain streets forced the Colby City Council to approve about \$300,000 in street repair projects during its meeting Tuesday.

The council agreed to hire Penco Engineering, the city's engineering firm, to work with Chris Bieker, public utilities director, in preparing bid specifications for both mill and overlay and seal coating so work can begin as soon as contractors are hired.

The areas targeted for mill and overlay, which is a process that involves removing the top layer of the pavement using a milling machine and then overlaying the street with a new

pavement material, includes Hill Street from County Club Drive to Franklin Avenue. Other streets planned for this process are Brookside from Country Club to Donelan Avenue; and Country Club Drive from Fourth Street north to the railroad tracks.

Streets selected for seal coating, a process that involves applying hot liquid asphalt to the surface and then covering with a graded aggregate to produce a waterproof membrane, include Terrace Drive to College Drive; Harvey Court to Harvey Avenue; Walker Avenue to Fourth Street to Austin and a small portion of Sixth Street.

Austin Avenue from Fifth to Sixth Streets and Thielen Avenue south of Zelfer are also candidates for the seal coating.

"The streets listed will cost about

\$300,000, plus or minus," said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

"We have \$75,000 in encumbered funds; \$115,000 in the street budget and \$200,000 in the special street budget."

If there is room to add any other street repairs, Armstrong and Bieker wanted the council to consider South Franklin from College Drive to Colby High School.

Bieker said there may not be enough existing pavement in that area, which could mean Penco Engineering would need to test the subsurface.

"Some city streets are in bad shape," Bieker said, "and the cone penetrometer test is necessary before we begin bidding any mill and overlay projects."

New communications towers erected in city

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Keeping in touch during an emergency will be easier for the city of Colby and Thomas County.

Two new communications towers went up Wednesday at the Thomas County Office Complex on Range Avenue. Jim Engel, county emergency management director, said the towers are for radio communications at the emergency operations center in the office complex.

The emergency operations center is where communications for the city and county would go if, for example, the law enforcement center downtown was hit by a tornado.

"It's our backup communications for the county," Engel said.

Mike Albers, technology director with the city of Colby, said the center used to be in the basement at City Hall, but had minimal communications equipment and wasn't readily accessible.

Dispatch could work out of the center, and have access to city files.

Engel said the towers are a project between his office, the city of Colby and the National Weather Service in Goodland.

When Engel was appointed to his job, they were able to get space at the office complex to set up the center the way it needed to be.

He said the city is assisting with the project.

The city helped erect the towers, and will help get antennas up on the towers later in the spring.

"We have a lot of work to complete," he said.

The towers measure 70 and 60 feet high, respectively. They cost about \$60,000, which was paid for with federal grant money.

Two towers were needed because there was not enough space for all the antennas on one tower. Six antennas will be installed the new towers — three on each. Engel hopes to have them up and running by May 1.

"We've still got a lot of work to



Engel



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Jim Engel, county emergency director and city workers erected the second of two communications towers at the Thomas County Office Complex Wednesday. The towers will provide communications in the case of an emergency.

do," he said.

The city provides the communications for the police, sheriff's office and county emergency medical services. The county contracts with

the city to use the communication equipment.

Albers said the office complex is a good site for the antennas because of its location.

Longtime Brewster resident still active in the community

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Born in a box car and uncertain about his name, Brewster's oldest man has some interesting stories to share with anyone who will listen.

Roy Willard Moore, 92, loves talking about his life and is proud of the fact his is currently the oldest man in Brewster.

"I was born in Edson in 1914," Moore said. "I was born in a box car because my dad was a depot agent and the depot had burned down and they put two box cars end to end. One was for the depot and one was for the agent to live in and that's why I was born in a box car."

Moore and his wife, Maxine, who resides at Colby Care Center in Colby, have been married for 65 years. They married Sept. 3, 1942, in Oberlin.

On the way to visit Maxine's grandparents in Aurora, Neb., the couple decided the time was right to get married.

"We were going to get married in Norton, but the bridge washed out and we had to go through Oberlin," he said.

"When we saw the sign that the bridge had washed out we thought since we didn't know anybody in Norton we'd just get married in Oberlin," Roy said.

After arriving in Oberlin, Moore said he looked for someone to marry Maxine and him. "We looked around and tried to find a preacher," he said. "We found a church, but didn't see a par-



Moore



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Willard Moore, 92, chatted with Betty Baird, left, and Roberta Luckert at the Brewster Senior Center during a weekly potluck dinner which takes place each Wednesday. Moore

bakes a pie each week as part of a tradition his wife, Maxine, started before she moved to Colby Care Center seven years ago.

sonage, but then saw a guy by a house and I walked up to him and asked if he was a preacher and he said he was a Presbyterian preacher. He said, 'Bring the little lady right on in here.'"

Moments later they were married, later to become parents of a son and daughter, as well as three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"The preacher was tickled to death with the \$3 dollars I gave him," he joked. "In them days you could get three pounds of hamburger for a quarter and in them days preachers didn't get a lot of money. A box of Post Toasties for a dime and for \$3 he could live a whole week."

Moore said upon returning from their honeymoon in Colorado he opened mail stating he had been called to the war. He said he thought at age 28 he was too old to serve and thought he would be sent home after reporting to the training center.

"They did," he said. "Four years later they sent me back."

When he entered the Army Moore learned his true identity.

"I didn't know I had a first name until I went to the Army," he said. "I told the guy he made a mistake because Roy Moore is my dad's name, but I am Willard Moore. He told me, 'Your dad is not in the Army and remember your name is Roy W. Moore or

you are going to be in a lot of trouble.'"

Moore said his dad was Roy E. Moore, whereas he is Roy W. Moore.

"I can go in the bank in Englewood and people say 'Hi Roy,' but I can go out on the street here and people say 'Hi Willard.' I'm used to it."

A mechanic by trade, Moore was a mechanic in Brewster, as well as Englewood, Colo., and in the Army.

He served as a mechanic and as a diesel truck driver for the 416th Ordinance Evacuation Company, traveling throughout Germany, France, Belgium and Holland from 1942 until discharged Jan. 8, 1946.

Retired for 31 years, Moore said the most

impressonable aspect to his life has been the creation of calculators and cell phones.

He said calculators have come in handy because he quit high school before graduating. Cell phones amaze Moore because they are portable and help people communicate.

"It surprises me that everybody can talk so much and not get mixed up on these cell phones," Moore said. "I think that's the most amazing thing."

Moore said living in Brewster is nice because he knows everybody.

"My hobby is knowing everybody," he said.

"I can't remember their names half the time, but I still know them."

For 15 years, Moore served as vice president of the Brewster Senior Center board, having stepped down when his eyesight deteriorated and now serves as a board member without holding an office. No longer holder of a driver's license, Moore makes his way around Brewster on a golf cart.

He said everyone watches out for him and makes sure he's OK.

"I appreciate the senior center," Moore said. "Since my wife's been in the center in Colby, the senior center has kept me from going bats."

Besides knowing lots of folks, Moore said another hobby is making pies for senior center potluck dinners.

Moore said his wife taught him how to cook and she used to make pies for gatherings. He has stepped up to fill her position doing it. "I thought it would be nice to keep on making pies," Moore said.

"This is Tuesday today, and tomorrow, on Wednesday will be potluck and everybody brings something, so I'll bring a pie."