

# Committee offers help on consolidation options

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
 The resignation of 12 city firemen brought up the idea of combining city and rural fire brigades, and members of Shine on Sherman County offered their help at a joint meeting of city and county commissioners Tuesday.

During the joint meeting, the city commission agreed to loan the emergency rescue and hazardous-materials spill equipment to the county until new city firemen can be trained.  
 County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said that would handle the

short term, but wondered what needed to be done for the long term.  
 "In the long term, I do think Alan Townsend brought up a good idea," Mayor Rick Billinger said. "I think we could do better with a consolidated department of some kind."  
 County Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he thought the city should put a proposal together and bring it to the county.  
 "I think it needs to be a joint effort," replied City Commissioner Josh Dechant. "I think it should be a team effort, not just us coming to say what we want."  
 "Rick brought it up," Thomas

said. "I agree we need to look at this."  
 Darin Neufeld, an engineer with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who was a candidate for county commissioner last year, said he was a member of a Shine on Sherman County task force on Government Consolidation. He said consolidation was one of the things that came up in the strategic planning process.  
 "We would be willing to be part of a team to help develop recommendations to bring to the bodies to benefit the county," Neufeld said.  
 Rural Fire Chief Alan David said

the two departments have different needs.  
 "We do pump and roll," David said. "We have equipment to do that. The city trucks do not do much of that."  
 "If we had hydrants out in the county, it would be sweet. We call Cheyenne County and Wallace County to get help with the county fire needs."  
 City Manager Wayne Hill suggested it would be good to do some cross training to make the departments more of a team.  
 "We need to know where we are

going," Rasure said. "We are not addressing the long-term issues. Where do we go in the future?"  
 "I would like to see us look at that as a commission."  
 "You have identified all the reasons to have one fire department rather than two," said Townsend, also a member of the Shine on Sherman County task force.  
 Neufeld said the task force is just getting organized and has asked for representatives from the city and county to be involved with the planning. He said right now the city and county clerks are involved.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby asked if the task force is going to make decisions.  
 "This committee does not make any decisions," Neufeld said. "All we do is compile the information and bring it back to these two commissions."

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## Rural fire to take over rescue runs

**RESCUE, from Page 1**  
 concerns as Gleason about the training and qualifications of the new city firemen.

"I have been here a long time," Winston said, "and I have 29 years experience. What Bruce said is exactly what it is like. We have evolved into more realistic training, but again I would have to support what Bruce said. Training is good because it gives you a plan. The best training is experience."

"I know you would rather have someone who knows what they are doing if it is your family or friend out there," Mayor Rick Billinger admitted.

Billinger suggested that the city could loan the county the rescue equipment until the new city firemen finish their training.

"I think the county should take care of the county and the city take care of the city for the time being," Thomas said.

County Fire Chief Alan David said he would like to have the county buy hydraulic rescue equip-

ment, and that he had called Don Spangler from Weis Fire and Safety, who brought equipment out last Friday and gave the rural firemen six hours of training.

"If you are getting trained and getting some of the guys who are leaving the city," Billinger said, "maybe we can loan you the city equipment until we get our people trained. I feel a little more comfortable if you are going to hire some people from the city."

Butts asked about handling hazardous material spills, which have been covered by the city firemen.

Hill said the new firemen would be trained on hazardous spills, but that it would not be done by Monday.

David said the rural firemen have been training on hazardous materials, and that they could take over those calls in the county.

Daniels made a motion to loan the city rescue equipment and hazardous material to the county until the city firemen are trained. The motion was modified to include having an inventory of the equipment bor-

rowed by the county and signed by both City Fire Chief Scott Gilmer and either David or deputy fire chief Chris Bauman, and that the city would be responsible for replacement for normal use. The motion was further revised to have the inventory and handing over of equipment after noon on Monday.

The proposed revisions were to be presented to the county commission today when the members meet to canvass the primary election ballots for Kanorado mayor.

"As a citizen of Sherman County I feel we have gotten a lot of bad publicity through this," Gleason said. "I am saddened it has occurred, but I am glad the two entities can come together to get this solved. I talk to a lot of people who are concerned, but not many people will say anything."

The city commission scheduled a special meeting to hold an open forum on the fire protection for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. The city commission will meet at 5 p.m. on Monday to review the status of the fire department as part of its agenda.

## County purchases rescue equipment

**COUNTY, from Page 1**

Commissioner Mitch Tiede had to leave the meeting, but said to call his cell phone if they needed his vote.

"I guess I am in favor of the county purchasing our own equipment," Tiede said as he left.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked Duell and David if they had any other purchases planned. Duell said the fire board had approved making the final \$28,000 payment on a fire truck bought two years ago for Kanorado.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked what the extrication equipment would cost. David said it was going to run about \$80,000, including gear to work on new hybrid cars.

Thomas said that would leave about \$50,000 for the rest of the year, and asked David and Duell if that would be enough. David said he thought it would because there is a separate budget item to cover payments to the firemen for each run.

Rasure asked how rural firemen would be paid for rescue runs. David said it would be the same \$22 as they are paid for a fire run.

The chief handed commissioners a list of everything the county would be purchasing, with a total cost of \$80,736. He said the equipment would be purchased from Weis Fire and Safety a Salina firm.

Rasure asked if the list was all the equipment the county would need.

"This is the basics to do what we need," David said. "This is not the extra want-list stuff we could add."

Rasure asked what the city has. David said the city has the four tools without the hybrid car attachment.

Rasure asked if the county department has enough men to cover rescue calls.

David said he has equipment for up to 20 firemen, and has 14 on the roster. He said four city firefighters have asked to come over to the rural department, and there is at least one other person who wants to join.

He said they would send six people on each accident rescue call, carrying the equipment on the new fire truck.

"We are supposed to have a fire truck on the accident scene in case of a problem," David said. "We have two vehicles, a truck to carry four people and two on the new fire truck."

Thomas asked if the equipment could be lease-purchased. Don Spangler, a representative from Weis Fire from Hays, said the equipment could be bought through a lease-purchase program. He suggested the county might check with the banks here to see if they have a better interest rate.

Thomas asked if people could be billed for an emergency rescue.

David said there are some times when you can bill for extrication and hazardous-material spills.

"We could get set up with them to bill and recover some costs," he said.

"The city does not charge?" Rasure asked. David said that was correct.

Rasure said it would be good to call Tiede to give him the figures.

"It kind of takes me back a little bit," he said.

Rasure called Tiede and put him on speaker phone. Thomas told Tiede about the list of equipment and the price of \$80,736.

"That would give the firemen everything they need to do rescue calls?" Tiede asked.

"Yes, it includes four tools," Rasure said.

"It sounds like a lot of money," Tiede said. "I think it is a good deal."

Spangler said the equipment could be in Goodland by Friday. He said he would help with the training and could have a trainer come to Goodland to do a class.

Rasure asked if the city firemen could be invited to the training. Spangler said that could be done.

Duell said there were a whole lot of issues to be ironed out about combined city and rural fire department.

"I think we need to do a lot of thinking before we get things mixed together," he said.

## SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY**  
 9:30 a.m. ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Qualifying Mexico City  
 10 a.m. CBS College Basketball Texas at Kansas  
 ESPN College Basketball Big Ten Wildcard Game  
 11 a.m. NBC Gymnastics American Cup  
 12 p.m. CBS College Basketball Teams TBA  
 ESPN College Basketball Big South Championship  
 ESPN2 College Basketball Syracuse Orange at Villanova Wildcats  
 FXSP Women's College Basketball ACC Tournament Semifinal  
 1 p.m. NBC Golf Honda Classic  
 1:30 p.m. ABC College Basketball Teams TBA  
 2 p.m. ESPN College Basketball Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs Rutgers Scarlet Knights  
 ESPN2 College Basketball Atlantic Sun Championship from Johnson City, TN  
 2:30 p.m. FXSP Women's College Basketball ACC Tournament Semifinal  
 4 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball Southern Conference Championship from Charles-

ton, SC  
 6 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball Ohio Valley Conference Championship from Nashville, TN  
 7 p.m. ESPN College Basketball Pittsburgh Panthers vs Marquette Golden Eagles  
 7:45 p.m. HBO World Championship Boxing Miguel Cotto vs. Oktay Urkal; Edison Miranda vs. Allan Green  
 8 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball New Mexico State Aggies at Nevada Wolf Pack  
**SUNDAY**  
 10 a.m. CBS College Basketball Kentucky at Florida  
 ESPN PBA Bowling 64th U.S. Open from Brunswick, NJ  
 10:30 a.m. NBC NHL Hockey Teams TBA  
 NBC NHL Hockey Avalanche at Red Wings  
 11 a.m. ABC Arena Football Dallas at New York  
 FXSP Women's College Basketball ACC Tournament Final UNIV F'bol Liga Mexicana San Luis Potosi at Toluca Diablos from Bambonera  
 11:30 a.m. ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series Countdown Mexico City  
 12 p.m. CBS Missouri Valley Basketball Championship From

St. Louis  
 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series Telcel-Motorola Mexico 200 from Mexico City  
 1 p.m. FXSP College Basketball Boston College Eagles at Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets  
 NBC Golf Honda Classic WGN MLB Baseball Pre-season Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs  
 1:30 p.m. ABC NBA Basketball Lakers at Suns  
 2 p.m. CBS College Basketball Duke at North Carolina  
 3 p.m. FXSP Women's College Basketball PAC-10 Tournament: Semifinal  
 3:30 p.m. ESPN2 Women's College Basketball Teams TBA from Site TBA  
 5:30 p.m. ESPN2 Women's College Basketball SEC Conference Championship from Duluth, GA  
 FXSP Women's College Basketball PAC-10 Tournament: Semifinal from San Jose, Calif.  
 6 p.m. ESPN NBA Basketball New Jersey Nets vs Philadelphia 76ers  
 7:30 p.m. ESPN2 College Basketball West Coast Conference Tournament: Semifinal #1 from Portland, OR

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**A family comedy**  
 By David Foxton

**March 2 at 7:30 pm CST**  
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 In Frahm Theatre  
 CCC campus  
**March 4 at 3:00 pm CST**  
**2:00 pm MST**  
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 A WPAA-sponsored event

**Ticket prices:**  
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**Advance tickets for March 2 & 3 available at campus bookstore**  
 460-4670  
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**Lower and Lower**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14				15				16						
17			18					19						
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59								60				61		
62								63				64		
65								66				67		

**ACROSS**  
 1. Sticks up  
 5. Big bash  
 9. Scissors sounds  
 14. Continental coin  
 15. Author Bagnold  
 16. Fortuneteller's card  
 17. Be particular about formalities  
 20. Apt. feature  
 21. Cleveland's lake  
 22. Halloween color  
 23. Like much of MTV's viewership  
 25. Fourth down option  
 26. Grand \_\_\_ Opry  
 27. Dipstick wiper  
 28. Pint, to a quart  
 32. \_\_\_ acid (protein component)  
 35. Cut off  
 37. Lav, in London  
 38. Don't play for a full year  
 41. Lyricist Gershwin  
 42. Gogol's "\_\_\_ Bulba"  
 43. Palm leaf  
 44. Put up on eBay  
 46. Black or chocolate pooch  
 47. Relative of ante-  
 48. Hard to grasp  
 50. Ballerina Moira  
 54. \_\_\_-Matic (classic tabletop baseball game maker)  
 57. Neighbor of Cambodia  
 58. "The odds \_\_\_..."  
 59. Be a slacker  
 62. Burns partner  
 63. Division word  
 64. Weigh down  
 65. Hacienda drudges  
 66. Like excellent corned beef  
 67. Author Silverstein

**DOWN**  
 1. Bowling alley button  
 2. Protruding navel  
 3. "I" for animals  
 4. Business partner, perhaps  
 5. Babe Ruth's given first name  
 6. Sandy's owner  
 7. Mature nits  
 8. Suffix with cannon  
 9. Howard of Sirius radio  
 10. Football's "Broadway Joe"  
 11. Spinach is rich in it  
 12. Beer \_\_\_ (bar game)  
 13. Eyelid woe  
 18. Distribute, as cards  
 19. Red cosmetics  
 24. "\_\_\_, Nanette"  
 25. Blacktops, say  
 27. "Drying out" program  
 29. To boot  
 30. Bird on a Canadian dollar  
 31. Warmly affectionate  
 32. Buyer's caveat  
 33. Mucky stuff  
 34. Slanted: Abbr.  
 35. Like an alley cat  
 36. Update, as a computer screen  
 39. Soap maker's need  
 40. Surface figure  
 45. Like a sinker  
 47. Particle with zero mass  
 49. Some jackets or collars  
 50. Year-end temp  
 51. Big Indian  
 52. Chip away at  
 53. James Dean persona  
 54. Assault from Moe  
 55. Mah-jongg piece  
 56. Move, in Realtor lingo  
 57. Without company  
 60. Zilch  
 61. Ernie of the PGA

**The crossword puzzle brought to you by:**