

# County, city find compromise on power plant calls

**By Tom Betz**  
 nbetz@nwkans.com  
 A county commissioner and a city commissioner stepped up Tuesday to find a compromise solution to a potential problem dealing with the central dispatch and the city power plant.

After a lot of discussion and a variety of options Crissy Conger, director of central dispatch, agreed to test a single on-call phone number to respond to calls for the power plant from midnight to 7 a.m.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant said the request to have central dispatch take the calls from midnight to 7 a.m. was because of an upcoming retirement, and that could allow the city to save some money.

County Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he understood the questions by Conger about handling the calls, but felt it was important for the city and county to find a workable solution. He suggested the city have a single cell phone that would be carried by the on-call power plant person, and that would be the phone number the dispatcher called if there was an emergency.

Conger agreed it would be possible to try the system on the understanding that once the dispatcher has made an attempt to contact the city employee it would no longer be a dispatch responsibility.

The question about handling the power plant overnight calls was raised in May by Power Plant Superintendent Rod Blake, who had asked Conger to consider handling the calls because it is no longer necessary to have a person at the power plant on a 24-

hour basis. Conger responded to Blake that she did not feel it was the job of the dispatchers to handle the calls for city departments, and did not want to add this burden to the one dispatcher who is on duty overnight.

In her memo to Blake on May 21, Conger said, "My department's sole purpose is emergency communications. Once I agree to expand outside that responsibility for one department, I have to do so for all other city and county departments. I can foresee this becoming a huge burden on my one dispatcher who works the hours mentioned above.

"Additionally if an emergency situation is occurring and we receive a call of a downed power line at the same time, there may be a delay in our ability to get the on-call electrical person notified..."

Blake went to City Manager Wayne Hill who then talked to County Commissioner Kevin Rasure about the request.

Rasure met with Conger and asked her to reconsider handling the power plant calls.

Conger said she would think it over, but did not feel it was something the dispatchers should handle.

On June 5 a power plant employee called central dispatch and said he was going home and there would not be someone coming to man the power plant. The power plant employee and the dispatcher tried to come up with an on-call number or person to call in case there was a problem.

There was no problem that night, but

there was some confusion because there was not any prior notification of the situation.

Dechant said this was a one time event, and that things were back to normal at this time.

The next morning Conger confronted Blake and asked what was going on. After talking with Blake, Conger went individually to County Commissioners Chuck Thomas and Mitch Tiede complaining that Rasure had told the city that central dispatch would handle the power plant calls.

At Tuesday's meeting Conger asked for a closed session on the matter.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he felt it was a personnel matter and should be handled in closed session.

Rasure said if it involved him as an elected official he wanted it done in an open session.

Conger explained she had told Blake she did not feel handling the power plant calls was within the dispatch center responsibility, and suggested the city look at an alternative like an answering service or having S&T forward the calls.

Hill and Blake went through the city records and found in the past year there had been 22 calls for the power plant from midnight to 7 a.m., and 16 of those had been calls directly to central dispatch, and six of the 16 came in a two hour period during a snow storm.

Conger said she did not have a problem with the incoming calls, but did not want to take on any calls for the city departments

because she was afraid it would lead to an expanded list of calls they would be expected to handle.

"I assumed they were going to go another route," Conger said. "Then it was on Tuesday, June 5, that Julie Crottinger was working dispatch, and she received a call from power plant saying the next shift was not coming in and to transfer phones to dispatch.

"I was kind of at a loss. I tried to call Blake and he said that Wayne had said that it was OK. He indicated that it was approved from a higher level."

"I did not think it was that big of an issue," Conger said. "Blake said Hill had told him that Rasure had said to go ahead."

"I did not demand you do it," Rasure said, "I asked you to think about it."

Conger agreed Rasure had not told her to do it, and had asked her to reconsider the proposal.

"I cannot have people come in and run over me," Conger said. "I feel it falls out of our emergency service calls."

"I disagree," Rasure said. "I think a downed power line is an emergency situation."

"I do not feel it is a good deal for us to be tied up trying to get the on call guy out of bed," Conger said.

Tiede asked Dechant if the city could have one cell phone number for central dispatch to call.

"I think that is a happy medium," Dechant said. "I think we can work with that."

Tiede asked Conger if she could try the single phone number for three-months?

Conger said she would be willing to try the single number, but wanted to know whose fault it would be if when the dispatcher calls the on call person goes back to sleep.

Dechant said he did not think that would be a problem with the city employees, but that once the call was made it was not central dispatch's problem.

Thomas said the city should look into the single number, and then it is the city's responsibility.

After Conger and Dechant had left the commissioner meeting Hill came in and asked about the situation.

Tiede explained the plan for a cell phone for the on call person so dispatch would deal with one number.

Hill said that was a workable deal and a reasonable answer. He said if the city knows there is going to be a storm or the potential of a problem the person at the power plant will not leave.

"We would have someone there in case we had to power up the plant to generate," Hill said.

"On a normal day you don't run the power plant?" Thomas asked.

"That is right," Hill said. "Under our contract with Sunflower Electric we only run if they call on us to run, and then they have to pay us."

Hill said during a recent storm situation the power plant people did a mock drill of starting the plant from dead cold and bringing it up to handle the city. He said it took about 15 minutes to have it up and running.

# Elementary student report cards won't have usual letter grades

**GRADES, from Page 1**

Mull said they were updating the elementary handbooks. All handbooks would have the same bus information in them.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos filled the board in on the end of the year finances. She said all accounts will be zeroed out at the end of June

except the ones allowed by law to have carry over. Those are local option budget, at-risk, bilingual, food service and Dawson grant. They transferred \$232,620 for local option budget to the special education account.

Director Lori Graybill of the Goodland Learning Center said they have 20 students in the pilot

credit recovery program. She had told Superintendent Angelos that most stay all day and are taking it seriously. There are six junior high students.

Superintendent Angelos said the first bids would be let for new locks for the school buildings and possibly some security cameras. She said the cost could run from \$5,000 to

\$20,000. The district is getting \$12,000 from Crime Stoppers for the project.

In other business the board:

- The demolition of the Cobblestone property has started.
- The district's insurance enabled them to replace the stolen items from the technology center.
- Superintendent Angelos said

they had received notice of an increase for the district in liability and worker's compensation insurance. She said they were going to check on other quotes.

- Accepted the resignation of Jon

McLean as the summer weight program coach.

•Hired Donald Raymer as the summer weight program coach.

•Hired Jeffrey First as high school art teacher.

# Old U.S. 24 reopens through Edson, mill work nearly completed

**COUNTY, from Page 1**

better. He said the plan would be to curve the road back to the same location it is on the north end.

Rasure asked when DeBoer would have plans for the commissioners to approve?

"Probably this fall for bid letting," DeBoer said "I will try to get it let for bid so they could get it done this fall, because Venture Paving will be here doing the Eighth Street project."

Thomas asked how much land would have to be bought?

DeBoer said it would be about 20 feet wide.

Way said it appears there are

probably two landowners who would be involved, and said moving the road would improve the drainage and make it easier to maintain.

DeBoer said the power poles would have to be moved, but thought the other utilities should be OK. He said you have to give the power company two to three months to move the poles.

"We need to get things moving," Rasure said. "We need to get the

land purchased and the power lines moved."

About the Eighth Street project Rasure asked if Venture was beginning to stockpile the material.

DeBoer said they were, and are shooting to begin the project by mid-August.

Rasure asked if DeBoer has talked to the landowners along the road.

Thomas asked how many days

the road would be closed for the project?

DeBoer said he thought the contract is for 60 working days.

"It will be closed from late summer to fall," Thomas said.

"That is why I was asking," Rasure said. "I don't know the details, and I need to know when people call."

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**Dogging It**

**ACROSS**

- "Unleaded," as coffee goes
- Apply sloppily
- Thin-waisted flier
- Pop singer Lavigne
- Sly tactic
- Sax type
- Where a dissection might take place
- Recipe instruction
- Matterhorn, for one
- Pundit's piece
- Simple hydrocarbon
- "The Iliad" locale
- "\_\_\_ Johnny!"
- Computer screen problem
- Caught a glimpse of
- Suitable for all audiences
- Battalion or brigade
- Bell-ringing cosmetics company
- Tripoli's land
- Somewhat, on a score
- Desert formation
- Siesta taker
- Raga instruments
- "Blue \_\_\_ Shoes"
- Less ruddy
- Some H.S. math
- Tapers off
- Hold in check
- PC program, briefly
- Last golf shot, usually
- Basket, often
- Queens, N.Y. tennis stadium
- River of Florence
- Some urban pollution
- Tea leaves reader
- Fireballer Nolan
- Bar, legally

**DOWN**

- "Aba \_\_\_ Honeymoon"
- Devil's doings
- Harvester's haul
- Have a bug
- Knocked to the ground
- "Not a \_\_\_ in the house"
- January 1 song word
- Olympics chant
- Neuwirth of "Chicago"
- The main character in "Requiem for a Heavyweight," e.g.
- "I do" location
- "Goosebumps" author R. L. \_\_\_
- Dermal openings
- Mail ctr.
- "\_\_\_ went thataway!"
- One on the cutting edge
- Mardi \_\_\_
- Fuji outflow
- "This must weigh \_\_\_"
- Cavalry sword
- Be nosy
- David Bowie's supermodel wife
- Oversupply
- "Uh uh"
- Like many summer drinks
- Ran like heck
- "\_\_\_ pig's eye!"
- In \_\_\_ straits
- Nonsensical
- Squash, in a way
- Half a '60s singing group
- Treat like dirt
- Wood-shaping tool
- Brazilian hot spot, briefly
- Have top billing
- Barrett or Jaffe
- Tolling away
- Cozumel cash
- Make ready, informally
- Dryly humorous
- Figs.

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The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

# SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
11 a.m. 3/9 NBC U.S. Open Golf	11 a.m. 25/38 IND MLB Baseball	12 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #9 Teams	12 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #10 Teams	12 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #11	12 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #13	12 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 LPGA Tournament Wegmans
99/39 WGN MLB Baseball San Diego Padres at Chicago Cubs	8/8 NBC U.S. Open Golf	5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #7 Teams	5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #8 Teams	5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #12	5 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #14	2 p.m. 99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox
12 p.m. 22/28 ESPN 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #3 Teams	12 p.m. 22/28 ESPN 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #5 Teams	6 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series Countdown	7 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Colorado Rockies	5:30 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Atlanta Braves	7 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 MLS Soccer CD Chivas USA at Houston Dynamo	6 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Track & Field 2007 AT&T USA Outdoor Track & Field Championships
1 p.m. 8/8 NBC U.S. Open Golf	12 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #4 Teams	6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN MLB Baseball New York Mets vs New York Yankees	7 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Colorado Rockies	8 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Wednesday Night Fights David Banks vs Peter Manfredo Jr.	7 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Friday Night Fights Card	7 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Friday Night Fights Card
2 p.m. 60/79 UNIV Copa Oro Cuartos de Final from Boston, MA	99/39 WGN MLB Baseball Serie Mundial Chicago White Sox at Pittsburgh Pirates	30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Devil Rays at Colorado Rockies	7 p.m. 30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Colorado Rockies	8 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 AFL Football Chicago Rush at Colorado Crush		
3 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch	6 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Busch Series Meijer 300	30/27 FXSP MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Devil Rays at Colorado Rockies				
3/9 NBC U.S. Open Golf						
5 p.m. 22/28 ESPN 2007 NCAA College World Series Game #4 Teams						

The Goodland Star-News  
 1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735  
 (785) 899-2338