

Commission names new chairman for the year

By Tom Betz
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Sherman County commissioners elected Mitch Tiede as chairman for the year at their meeting last Wednesday. State law requires the county to reorganize at the first meeting of each year, and County Clerk Janet Rumpel opened the meeting by asking for nominations for chairman. Commissioner Chuck Thomas, the outgoing chairman, nominated Tiede, and Commissioner Kevin Rasure seconded. Then Tiede took the helm and asked for nominations for vice-chairman. Thomas said he would take it if no one else wanted it. Tiede nominated him and Rasure seconded.

The commissioners had rescheduled the meeting to Wednesday to allow members of the Leadership Sherman County class to attend as part of their day on city and county government. Members of the class introduced themselves, including Pat Schiefen of *The Goodland Star-News*, Dean Graber of Bankwest, Jeff Brandt of Scoular Grain, Brian James, city fire chief, Jeris McCoombs of UAP Chemical, Donna Fenner of First National Bank and James Miller of Eagle Communications. Josh Dechant, a city commissioner and credit manager at Frontier Ag, said he was the co-chair of the class this year and that Scott Lockhart of the National Weather Service office had put the day's program together.

Brandt asked how often members of the public come to the meetings. Tiede said it depends on what's on the agenda. "Have you had meetings that were bigger than what this room will hold?" Brandt asked. Tiede said when that happens, they move the meeting from the commissioners' room to the district courtroom on the second floor. Someone asked if the commissioners met once a month. Tiede said they usually meet three to four times on Tuesdays, plus the last day of the month. He said the commission pays bills twice a month, on the 15th and the last day. Another question was if the commission-

er's perceptions of county government had changed from when they ran for office. Tiede said he had asked a lot of questions before he ran, and he has found that the reality is "360 degrees different" from what he thought. "I came in and told Janet that I did not think I could do it," Tiede said. "I have found that government moves slowly. We try to work it out so that all three of us agree, and it sometimes takes a lot of compromise. I do get people talking to me, but Kevin is more visible and gets a lot of comments." "I have had a lot of people come (and talk to me), and I don't mind that," said Rasure, who owns Rasure Lumber, "as long as they do it in a calm manner."

He said he rarely has had a problem with a citizen who has come to talk to him. "I encourage people to be more involved," Rasure said. "We need you to let us know what you are thinking." Thomas said a lot of people call him. Sometimes they have the wrong information, he said, and he can clear up information they have gotten wrong. Another member asked plans to mark the pavement on old U.S. 24. Tiede said the commissioners are considering doing that in the spring, and have been gathering information about companies that can do the painting and what it would cost. Rasure said the commissioners have agreed to do the striping.

Boards agree to have committee investigate unification options

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want to see if we can take outmoded types of government and do something better and more efficient for our people." Vignery said the first step was to gather responses from the elected officials plus City Manager Wayne Hill to see what the top issues might be. Fairbanks said Trevor Linton, a committee member, said some information had been gathered from other Kansas communities. Shields said some information had been received, but Greeley County is the closer one to Sherman County. "We do not have a lot of information from there, but we do have a contact to set up a meeting with

them," he said. "They (Greeley) went through the process and will be consolidated by next year," he said. "They have four doctors in their hospital and must be doing something right. We (committee) are willing to stick our neck out. We know it is hard for the elected officials to say that I was elected and am now saying we do not need two boards. We are interested in looking to this and keep it on a conceptual basis at this time. We cannot do it tonight. As they say the devil is in the details. We will have to work through those and will have to go to the people for their approval of any changes. We want to see if this is something we want to do," Vignery said.

"If not we are wasting our time. The question is what we had 100 years ago something we need today," Vignery said. City Commissioner John Garcia was the first of the commissioners to speak. "I want to thank the committee," he said. "I feel these are imperative issues and that we need to better represent the people. Anything we can do to ease the tax burden is something we should follow up. It appears to be an opportune time to look at the fire department as the county is looking at this for the rural fire. We have to make some tough decisions. Some will be disappointed by the decision and others will be

pleased. We are here to represent the majority. As the numbers go down we need to look at what we can do to accomplish what better serves the people." Billinger said he appreciated having the committee work on this and getting the information. "The school system is smaller, the city is smaller and the county is smaller," he said. "As the numbers go down there are not enough people to spread the tax load and anything we can do to save tax dollars is worth it. I think we should look at every option. It isn't like it always was. If you are not moving forward you are moving backward." Tiede said the number of people

is dropping, but the number of miles of road are not dropping. Thomas said even though the number of people is dropping the governments have to maintain the same infrastructure and find more efficient ways to pay for it. Fairbanks said she wanted to see the two commissions get together and start the process. "I do think this is something we should do," she said. "From what I have heard the people are all for it, but I want to know more and see if the people of the community will support this." Dechant said he felt a majority of those interviewed for the Shine on Sherman County program were in favor of investigating this.

"I think they told us by supporting us in raising \$12 million to fix the roads," he said. Rasure said he applauded the committee and feel we need to push forward. Rasure said it would be good for the committee to bring the facts back and have a more public forum to let the people hear about what has been learned. Daniels said he was interested, and felt it was worth looking into the options. Shields said they would let the city and county know when the committee will be meeting with Greeley County in case any of the commissioners are available to go with them.

Lease payment made after delay questioned

LEASE, from Page 1

on Wednesday he was upset that it was not paid. Now we know it is not paid and he wants to wait. "We will make the payment," Tiede said. "Curt asked as a courtesy to wait and I said we would do that." "That is not Curt's signature on the paperwork," Rasure said. "Should we get rid of the department heads," Thomas said. "Are we not the ones in charge," Rasure asked. "Yes, but I think Curt should have some input," Tiede said. Tiede said he would call Way and talked to him on the phone. Tiede called Way and without putting the call on speakerphone told Way the commissioners wanted to go ahead and make the grader lease payment.

When he finished the phone conversation with Way, Tiede said he would not be coming because he was in a meeting, but that he agreed the money would come out of the special machinery fund. Rasure made a motion to pay the bills and that no money was to be moved into special machinery without commission approval. "I feel we need to have the final say on what goes into the special machinery fund," Rasure said. "I am not comfortable with that," Thomas said. "I will second that motion," Tiede said. "We are going to talk to him, but he cannot make a move without our approval." Tiede asked for those in favor and the vote was unanimous. The commissioners will meet in special session at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.


School board supports task force for future needs

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could look at the changes in a phased program. "The teacher problem is not going to go away anytime soon," Wilkens said. "One thing we were told it that the working environment was more important than the money. That teachers want a better environment to help educate the kids." Board member Andrew House said he thought the task force was a good idea. "This is something that has to be addressed," said board member John Hendrich. Board President Dick Short said he thought it was good and that it appeared it was a consensus of the board to move forward. Angelos asked if there was any specific direction from the board about selecting the task force members. Short said he thought there would be volunteers from the board and the community. "I think some people will call you," Philbrick said.

have to look at what we are facing." Board member Jane Philbrick said she agreed that they have to start looking at the future. "I think we have to look at these," board member Chuck Wilkens said. "High energy costs are hitting us and I don't see them going away." Board member Leann Friedrichs said she liked the procedure Angelos had laid out. "When you can't cash flow something has to change," said board member Amy Sederstrom. "In business you have to get more efficient," Wilkens said. "We have five buildings and it is hard to staff five kitchens." "It is a hard decision," Angelos said, "and you have to take time to look at the effects on our people." Philbrick said the problems are not going to go away, and the board

could look at the changes in a phased program. "The teacher problem is not going to go away anytime soon," Wilkens said. "One thing we were told it that the working environment was more important than the money. That teachers want a better environment to help educate the kids." Board member Andrew House said he thought the task force was a good idea. "This is something that has to be addressed," said board member John Hendrich. Board President Dick Short said he thought it was good and that it appeared it was a consensus of the board to move forward. Angelos asked if there was any specific direction from the board about selecting the task force members. Short said he thought there would be volunteers from the board and the community. "I think some people will call you," Philbrick said.



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The Goodland Star News and the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors welcomes McB's Motor Company & McB's Sales

After 43 years, the friendly little service station on the corner of Cherry and 17th Streets has changed hands again. Originally owned by Duane and Barb Neitzel from 1964-1971, The Goodland Champlin, as it started out, offered gasoline and repairs. It changed hands when Bill Bishop took the reins from 1971-1998 and called it "The Corner". Bill brought in the wrecker service in addition to the gasoline and repair shop. In 1998 Virgil and Jackie Baumfalk took over and brought in the big truck wrecker service. The name changed only slightly when Virgil took control and is now known as McB's Motor Company with a sign above the doorway that says "McB's Corner". In September of this year, Butch and Gretchen Smith purchased the business and have vowed to keep the name. Butch will continue all the services that have been added through the years and said with a smile, "hopefully, down the road we'll reopen the back shop for full-service repairs". Gretchen, Butch's wife,

is currently attending Central Community College in Hastings, Nebraska and is studying to be a Medical Lab Technician, or MLT. The lab technician performs the various tests behind the scenes that the doctors rely on when they pull blood or collect urine samples. She is scheduled to graduate in May 2008 and intends to do part of her clinical hours at Goodland Regional Medical Center. Gretchen is also certified in Phlebotomy and can pull blood and then run the tests necessary. She will work for Butch when she can and will offer support wherever it is needed, in addition to running a busy household with 3 little girls; McKenna, age 5, Mia, age 2 and Miley, 8 months. In 2006, the Baumfalks purchased the building across the street that housed several well-known businesses throughout the years. Back in the '60's, it was known to many as Steiner's Drive-in and was famous for their pork tenderloin and shrimp baskets. They also had a tasty drink called "The Green River" that was a popular thirst quencher for many. El Reynaldo's got their start in the building as

well. The building now houses scooters and 4-wheelers which are the mainstay of Virgil and Jackie's business now known as McB's Sales. Virgil retained his car dealership license and has started a snow removal service to keep him busy in the winter. When asked what they plan to do this summer, Jackie smiled and said simply, "travel". "We have kids spread all over and would like to visit them", she continued. Jackie will work for Butch at the station when she is in town. Another familiar face around McB's Corner will continue with Butch; "Smokey" has agreed to stay on and continue to be the backbone of the operation. Contact McB's Motor Company and Butch Smith at 785-899-7375 or at 421 E. 17th at the corner of Cherry and 17th Streets. Contact Virgil for snow removal, RV and boat storage, scooter, snowmobile and 4-wheeler sales or to inquire about any vehicle or piece of equipment he has on his lot at 785-821-4132.



Stop by and say "Hello" to the new owners!
McB's Corner

Goodland Regional Medical Center February Consultant Schedule

ALLERGIST**	Jeffrey Rumblyrt, M.D.	February 18
CARDIOLOGIST	Barry Smith, M.D.	February 13 & 27
CARDIOLOGIST	Vijay Subbarao M.D.	February 28
CARDIOLOGIST**	Babar Ali, M.D.	February 25
COUNSELING SERVICES		
Thursdays by Appointment		
DERMATOLOGIST	Charles Ruggles, M.D.	February 7 & 28
DIETITIAN	Sarah Linton, RD, LD, CDE	Monday - Friday
EARS, NOSE, THROAT	Alfred N. Carr, M.D.	February 1, 8, 22 & 29
ENDOCRINOLOGIST	Gerald Poticha, M.D.	February 7, 8, 21 & 22
GASTROENTEROLOGIST	Jeffrey D. Huston, M.D.	February 18 & 19
GENERAL SURGERY	David D. Beck, M.D.	February 7 & 21
GENERAL SURGEON	Jeffrey Cross, M.D.	February 14 & 28
GENERAL SURGEON	David Melniczek, M.D.	May 29
GYNECOLOGY	Laura Rokosz, M.D.	February 6 & 13
NEUROLOGIST	Steven J. Gulevich, M.D.	February 1, 6 & 27
OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY	David Forschner, M.D.	March 19
ONCOLOGY	Gary Doolittle, M.D.	TBA
ONCOLOGY/HEMATOLOGY	Martin Rubinowitz, M.D.	February 5
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	Brian Joondeph, M.D.	February 20
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	David Pfoff, M.D.	February 5, 12 & 19
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	Ronald Wise, M.D.	February 15
OPHTHALMOLOGIST**	William Clifford, M.D.	February 11
ORTHOPEDIST	Tim Birney, M.D.	February 11
ORTHOPEDIST	Armond Hatzidakis, M.D.	March 3
ORTHOPEDIST	James Holmes, M.D.	February 18
ORTHOPEDIST	Edward Parks, M.D.	February 25
ORTHOPEDIST	Raj Bazaz, M.D.	February 11
ORTHOPEDIST	Kevin Nagamani, M.D.	February 7
PSYCHIATRIST	John C. Faul, M.D.	February 1, 6 & 15
PODIATRIST	Erik Ouder Kirk, D.P.M.	February 13
PODIATRIST	Daniel Mallett, D.P.M.	February 27
PULMONOLOGIST	Ken Weisiger, M.D.	February 4 & 21
RADIOLOGISTS	Professional Radiology Services	
WEEK DAYS		
SPEECH THERAPY	Lisa Paxton CCC-SLP	Monday - Thursday
SUBSTANCE ABUSE DIR.	Fred Waters, CADC III	Mondays
UROLOGIST	Darrell D. Werth, M.D.	February 26
UROLOGIST	Wallace Michael Curry M.D.	February 12
UROLOGIST	Kevin McDonald M.D.	March 11

**For an appointment with the Allergist please call 1-888-849-8424
 **For an appointment with Dr. Clifford please call 1-800-526-3937
 **For an appointment with Dr. Ali please call 1-888-625-4699 select option 4