

# Salary set for newly appointed register of deeds

By Tom Betz  
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Sherman County commissioners met Tuesday with Billie Hoyt, nominated by the Republican county committee to be the new register of deeds, and set her salary.

The commissioners held a closed-door session with Hoyt to discuss personnel matters for the register of deeds office.

After the session, Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked the other commissioners what they should set as her salary, as she will no longer be an hourly employee.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said Hoyt has been working in the office for 11 years, and he felt they should start her out at a higher rate. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he agreed and suggested a starting pay of \$31,500.

Tiede said that made sense since Hoyt said she is not planning to hire a deputy but wants to try to do everything herself.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel asked when the salary would begin. She said Hoyt is waiting for approval of her appointment from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, but that the

commissioners could determine her starting date.

Tiede asked Crystal Wright, county payroll clerk, about how to switch Hoyt from hourly to salary. Thomas asked if the county has to wait for the official appointment, suggesting they could go back to the beginning of the pay period. Rumpel said Hoyt began doing the job full time on Jan. 1.

Wright said the employees have been paid through Jan. 4, and the next pay checks will be issued on Jan. 28. Rasure suggested starting Hoyt's salary on Jan. 5. With the agreement of the other commissioners, Wright said that would work.

Another question Wright raised was the unpaid vacation on the books for Hoyt. Rumpel said that time is probably due and should be paid. Thomas said he did not understand why the vacation should be paid.

Rumpel said that an elected official does not accrue vacation time.

"When she was a deputy, she accrued vacation," Thomas said.

Wright said Hoyt thought she had 32 hours of vacation, and had planned to take

them before Carol Armstrong decided to retire in December. The commissioners agreed that as an hourly employee, Hoyt was owed the time.

Rumpel said if she was an hourly employee rather than the elected county clerk, she would probably be entitled to 18 days.

Tiede said elected officials are more flexible, and their time off is dictated more by how the office is operating rather than being determined by policy.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard an update on the striping project for old U.S. 24 from Tiede. He said Public Works Manager Curt Way has contacted several companies about the project, including one from Colorado, and was trying to contact one from Nebraska.

Tiede said the companies told Way they need to know the exact length of the road and the no passing zones.

Tiede said they need to contact the state Department of Transportation to help with setting the no-passing zones. He said Eric Oelschlager, construction engineer from the Atwood office, told him the state could help.

Tiede said one question was the quality of paint to use, and one of the firms contacted said he would not recommend using a cheap paint because it would only last about a year, and that to come out each year would cost \$5,000 just to get the crew here.

Thomas said they need to ask for paint that would last three to five years until the road is sealed.

- Approved a neighborhood revitalization project for Chad and Jennifer Hanevik of Kanorado. The couple's house was damaged by a fire last year, and the project would replace the damaged home.

The program allows an owner to receive a tax rebate on improvements made to property. People interested in learning about the program or its rules can contact the county assessor's office.

- Approved a purchase contract with Mike and Jodi Miller for the county health building at \$71,250, with the county paying half of the closing costs of \$341 for a total of \$71,600. With the payment, the county becomes the proud owner of the building at 1622 Broadway, which was built on

a lease-purchase agreement with Miller Construction 10 years ago. The county had agreed to buy the building rather than renew the lease.

- Signed an annual agreement with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas for the \$45,000 for their handling services in Sherman County.

- Approved rental of the 4-H building at the fairgrounds for a benefit supper for George Phillips, who died of cancer recently, on Sunday, Feb. 10.

The commissioners scheduled a special session for 8 a.m. today in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County Courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

The commissioners will meet with Mark Bauer of VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt of Great Bend about the contract for audit services and the county budget.

The commissioners will meet with County Treasurer Iris Scheopner to discuss the investments and get an update from County Attorney Bonnie Selby on when the tax sale will be held.

## Council learns details about following county's policies

POLICIES, from Page 1

a day off two weeks ago. He also had two personal days he could use and said he should have checked "personal day" on his time sheet but checked "vacation" instead. He got a call from the clerk's office telling him he isn't allowed to use his vacation until he is on the job at least six months. It was just a mistake, he said, but it has been turned into a big deal.

The resolution forming the council states that it has the power to "recommend employees, supervise, evaluate and dismiss staff, including the setting of requisite qualifications, duties and compensation for staff and to establish personnel policies, subject to minimum compliance with personnel policies of Sherman County and final approval of the Sherman County commissioners."

The resolution also says the council has the power to "negotiate and acquire, through rent, purchase or donation, real and personal property... subject to final approval of the commission."

Some board members questioned whether the policies put too much restraint on the council and whether the county's hand in council decisions should be limited.

"We can't call the county for approval every time we send someone out of town," said Newell.

Dave Daniels, a city commissioner and former chairman of the council, asked whether the council should be broken off from the county. Daniels said he was with the council from when it was formed.

"The way I understood it," he said, "we didn't want the city or the county to run economic development."

And Daniels didn't seem to understand how getting a purchase order would help.

"When you get a purchase order, it's a surprise then," he said, "or it's a surprise when you get the bill."

Daniels expressed concern that the council's hands would be tied by having to ask the county before buying anything.

Jennings felt some of the calls

he has gotten from the county clerk's office have been about little things that were blown out of proportion.

"An audit once a year — I can understand that," he said, "but these calls that we bought three stamps at the post office instead of from the county, that's petty."

Bobbs and Jennings are county employees, and they need to go along with county policies, said board member Jerry Fairbanks — there's no question about that. But maybe the policy needs to be changed, putting dollar limits on this, he said, instead of the county approving all purchases.

The bookkeepers have the problem, Tiede said; they read the policy to the letter, but that's their job. Tiede felt if the council would file purchase orders with the clerk's office and if economic development staff would adhere to the employee policies, including vacation pay, that would solve the problem.

"If you could do these few things to quit ruffling the feathers," Tiede said, "I think it would be fine."

## School board approves plan for one-way street behind West

STREET, from Page 1

to you for your decision."

"I think we need to do the street," board member Jane Philbrick said. "We could do the parking later."

Short asked if the city would need the district to provide an easement for the street or dedicate any land to the city.

Neufeld said no, the 20-foot street would be on the existing city right of way, and there is no need for any permanent change. The engineer also said he did not see a reason to eliminate all the parking on the south side of 11th.

Board member Amy Sederstrom said additional parking would be needed to the east. Neufeld said the project would not alter the grassy area where the Head Start people park now.

Short asked the board if they

were willing to say they want the street and study the parking question. He asked North Principal Jim Mull his opinion as a longtime principal. Mull said it is something that has been needed for a long time, and agreed there needs to be good parking.

Short asked Angelos if the cost of the parking could come out of capital outlay fund. Leann Friedrichs said noted that the district already has a list of projects that need to be done.

"I don't want to forget those other things," she said. "Things come up and we are not getting those other projects done."

The estimated cost of the parking is \$45,000, but Short said the district could save money by waiting.

Philbrick made a motion to partner with the city to open 11th as a one-way from Wyoming to Texas

and investigate the parking costs, and it passed unanimously.

Neufeld said he would get the planning done for the street. He also said that because the district has moved bus unloading from 13th Street to Broadway for unloading at Central Elementary, the city would pave an 8-to-10-foot strip of concrete for a bus unloading zone there.

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### CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

## AUCTION

FOR RHOADS CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

Date: Saturday, January 26, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. MT

(Doors open at 7:30 A.M. day of sale)

Auction location: 330 West 17th, Goodland, KS

Preview sale items 5 to 7 P.M. MT Friday, January 25, 2008

Storm Date: Monday, January 28, 2008

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CAR, TRUCKS, TRAILERS  
SAWS / PLANNERS / JOINTERS  
SHOP AND MISCELLANEOUS

\*Auctioneers note: After 65 years in the construction business, Rhoads Construction Co., Inc. is closing their doors and selling off their remaining inventory. Due to the large volume of items there will be two rings operating at the start of the auction. One will be in the office selling the equipment while the other will start in the shop, so plan accordingly. The second auction site is the last lot North on Cattletrail. The auction at this site will be held immediately following the conclusion of the auction at 330 West 17th street.

Terms of Sale: Drivers License required. Complete payment is due the day of the auction by cash or certified check. Personal or company checks are accepted if accompanied by bank letter guaranteeing the funds. Nothing removed until settled for. Not responsible for injury, accident or theft. All items sell to the highest bidder "as is, where is." Information and descriptions are believed to be accurate but not guaranteed. Announcements sale day take precedence over printed material. TNT Auction, LLC are agents only.



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\*\*The auction at this site will be held immediately following the conclusion of the auction at 330 West 17th Street\*\*

Renner lunch wagon  
will be serving lunch!



The Goodland Star News and the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors welcomes Madd Hatters and Stitch 'n Place

Madd Hatters & the Stitch 'N Place recently purchased the former Blossom Shoppe's building and have moved from their location of four years on W. 11th Street to 1601 Main Street. Richard and Marie commented that their foot traffic has increased exponentially being on Main. Richard is quick to say that they enjoyed dealing with Mike Foust and they had a nice stay in his building on 11th Street.

Madd Hatters offers anything musical and on occasion will take in consignments. He now has the space to offer private lessons as well and has a studio set up for their popular band, "Pieces of Eight". They have the DJ equipment for rent as well and offer our local schools support when it comes to repairing their musical instruments.

The Stitch 'n Place offers custom tailoring, vinyl graphics and embroidery on just about anything from towels to pillow cases to shirts to hats and more. The new building has also allowed Marie more space for her

custom tailoring and on occasion will have a beautiful wedding dress in the process of completion hanging in the back. They also offer alterations if a zipper breaks or a cuff needs hemmed. Marie can order anything new to be designed with embroidery or vinyl graphics. Usually if she has her order in before 2 pm, she can get the shirt, hat, towel or anything into Goodland in a 24 hour period!

Chelli Smith has joined the team and has been a huge help offering support mainly to Marie, but also to Richard as well. Chelli researched the best soy candles and decided to go with the Blue Heron and Saucy Scents lines. She has also started making her own line of soy candles with cotton wicks for a cleaner burn and calls that line The Kandle Korner.

Stop in at the Madd Hatters and the Stitch 'N Place at 1601 Main Street and say hi to Richard, Marie and Chelli. They'll be waiting for you!