

Auditor to work with county on budget issues

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first couple of years the budget was over estimated and the carryovers did not come in. The expenditures were tight." Bauer suggested that procedurally there might be a better way to let the departments know what is happening. Rumpel said when she starts the budget she goes back two to three years to see what each department has spent. "We have to be realistic on the expenditures," she said. "I go back to see if they have spent that much. I try to be realistic so the expenditures don't use up the carryovers and then have the problem of cutting budgets or raising taxes." Bauer said he agreed with that process because the county really has to estimate the second half of the year. "What you are anticipating in a carryover will affect your tax levy," he said. "The budget only assumes that the cash and carryovers are going to come in like you have estimated." "We always look at the first part of the year to see what the department budgets are doing. I tell Janet I want to be more conservative in the estimating of the carryovers. "Maybe we need to visit with the department supervisors and get a feel for how we are doing that. They have to know they are going to get this money." Tiede said that is important for a department where there is a line item they have not spent, but expect to spend it more by

the end of the year. "I know we are talking about road and bridge," Rasure said. "We do not have a list of things that are being purchased or are expected to be purchased." Bauer said after the departments are given the figures for the first six months it would be good to bring in each one and go over what has been adjusted and why. He said that way they could get into a dialogue about what needs to be done. Thomas said he felt that some of the department people understand the line items better than others, and that is more than just the road and bridge. He said he knows the sheriff has some line items he has problems with. "I think the department people need to be involved," Bauer said, "and the more they are involved the better they will understand it." He suggested having each department come in and go through the preliminary budget to see what the estimates are and what changes are being made. "To have me come and do that will cost you more," Bauer said. Rasure said the departments need to have an equipment list to give to the commissioners to be able to see what is needed and what it is estimated to cost. Tiede said Curt Way, road and bridge manager, has a list and he would bring it to the next commission meeting on Thursday. Bauer said the equipment list used to be done, and maybe it is being done today, but not brought to the courthouse.

Thomas said a lot of the smaller departments don't change that much, but it is the bigger ones like the sheriff and road and bridge that are more complex. Rumpel said she has caught errors in the department budgets and found one in the sheriff's when he did not put enough money in for salaries. She said she sometimes increases estimates in line items as well as reduces some. "My suggestion is to work with what you are doing and maybe tweak it," Bauer said. "What you are doing is good. I think you will end up with a better budget document. I do think Janet has done a good job in that regard to develop a good operating document that does more than provide you with a legal document. "I would be happy to be involved as much or as little as you want. I could come out and meet with the department people to explain what and why we are making adjustments." Tiede said he thought that would help because Janet may explain it one way and he (Bauer) might explain it a different way. "Life would be lot easier if we could do it in the third quarter," Thomas said, "but it can't be." "My thought is you would have Curt come in and we would look at what the first half of the year has been and what he expects to do in the second half," Bauer said. "I don't think it would take a whole day. It might be better and maybe we would adjust things differently once we hear from him what has

to be done and what is available. "It is a good fiduciary process and I think this would improve it. I think it does not need to be overhauled, just tweaked." "That sounds like a good idea to me," Tiede said. Bauer said he could set up a budget calendar that would show each department what is being planned and to let them know we are going to want to have them come in and discuss the preliminary budget for each department. "You can ask them to bring in a list of what they expect to spend especially on equipment," Bauer said. "That is what I asked for at the last budget meeting," Rasure said, "and Curt would not bring in a list of what he planned to spend." Tiede said that would give the commissioners realistic figures and expectation of what they are going to spend. Thomas asked Bauer if he would meet with each department and go over what they have. "I like the idea of doing it mutually," Bauer said, "with the department people. With their help they will have a better understanding and it will be a better budget." The commissioners agreed to have Bauer work with Rumpel and the department people to do the budget process for this year and see if things can go better with better communication. Rasure said he agreed with the idea of Rumpel continuing to do the budget and

having Bauer come to meet with the department heads. He suggested that Rumpel should be paid for her extra time in putting the budget together. "I think what Mark is suggesting is good and I don't have a problem with giving Janet some additional money," Tiede said. "Let's put down a range of \$1,000 to \$2,000 and see what it does and then decide how much to pay her." Thomas said he felt that was reasonable, but would not go over \$2,000. "Are you doing this on your own time or on the clerk's time," Thomas asked. "I take this home and work on it during the day," Rumpel said. "I work extra hours on evenings and weekends." Thomas said he felt it would be good to pay Mark more to come out because the departments need to be able to look at both the previous budget and what is being done for the next year. "They need to justify those expenditures," Rasure said. "That is what I was trying to get through to Curt. We need to know what they are planning to do for the year. Saying they are buying stuff is not good enough." "That is why the carryover for the last six months is so important to the next year," Thomas said. Rasure made a motion to pay Rumpel \$1,500 for doing the budget. "I think that nails it down and I would second that motion," Tiede said. It passed unanimously.

Airport board suggests lease to build more hangar space

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been able to respond to needs was when Eagle Med needed a hangar to locate their service in Goodland and the First National Bank was able to house them. Dickey said he has had a number of people tell him: Thank God for Eagle Med.. I never thought our airport was that important. I didn't know what you were doing out there, but I am thankful that Eagle Med is here." John Collett, airport operator for the city, said with the larger and more expensive planes that are flying and landing in Goodland the hangar space is needed. He said when they were using the barrel hangar it was being used to hold lots of transient planes. He said since it was lost to them some of those planes have had to move to other airports.

Collett said a recent example of having to shuffle planes was when an organ donor plane had to stop in Goodland because of bad weather they had to have a place to get the plane in out of the weather. Larry McCants of the First National Bank and an airport board member said the Eagle Med facility in Goodland is the busiest one the company has. He told the commissioners he was suggesting a municipal lease to build a hangar about 80 feet by 120 feet with 24 foot side-walls. He said he would estimate the cost of the hangar around \$250,000 and figured it could be paid off at \$30,000 a year over seven to eight years. "I would propose that it be a multi-use facility," McCants said, "to give us the most flexibility in how it is used and to do it as simple as possible. We could use it for a

variety of things if we build it. "If we (city, banks) do it we do not lose the \$150,000 we get each year from the FAA for airport upkeep. We could take that money and use it to upgrade our taxi-ways, ramps and crosswind runway. We need to convert those to concrete. "I think this would be money well spent." Hill said if the federal money was used to build the hangar the uses are more restrictive, and the city is restricted in what kind of fee could be charged for storing one of the big expensive planes. Neufeld said the city can't make money on the project if federal grant money was involved in building it. He said waiting for three to four years to do other maintenance of the runways would put the airport behind. Mayor Rick Billinger asked what

the city was spending now and what was in the budget. City Clerk Mary Volk said the city budgets \$125,000 each year for maintenance, and a separate amount of money to match the federal grants. Commissioner Josh Dechant asked about other projects at the airport. McCants said he does not expect the hangar to be a cash cow or make a profit. "I think it is like the runways they won't cash flow," he said "It is an investment in our future and give us a facility for the future. It would give us the benefits that barrel hangar give us for over 70 years." Commissioner John Garcia asked if the estimate of \$250,000 would be the full cost. Neufeld said it was the estimated cost of the building and it would

probably cost an additional \$65,000 for the door. He said the high side walls are to allow door clearance for some of the newer planes to fit inside the hangar. Garcia said it sounds like a good plan. Billinger said he agreed and with the money in the budget it appears

the city would not have to raise taxes to cover the payments. Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she feels the airport is an important asset and has to keep it moving forward. "Sounds good to me," said Commissioner Dave Daniels.

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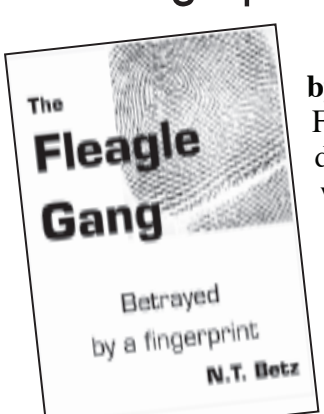
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Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt



True crime from the roaring 20s, **The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint**, begins with a brazen daylight bank robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men died, and the robbers escaped — until forensic science caught up with them through a fingerprint.

The bank robbery and national manhunt story was big news more than 75 years ago. We recently found that an old time radio program "Gangbusters" aired a program on Jake and Ralph Fleagle in 1937. There are many old stories about the robbery and the gang, but none cover the events like this book. Book reviewers say this is a great read for true crime history buffs.

The book includes over 100 photos and documents taken from court files plus maps of places where the gang robbed banks and scenes where the murders of the doctor and cashier took place.



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Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of The Goodland Star-News, has spent more than 45 years in journalism and living on the Great Plains.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the robbery/murder case which hinged on a single fingerprint found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI plays a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid forensic evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals. The Fleagle Gang robbed banks in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at the **Big Timbers Museum** in Lamar, Colo., the **Holly Library**, Holly, Colo.; the **Fick Fossil and History Museum** in Oakley, Kan., the **Finney County Museum and Hastings** in Garden City, Kan., the **High Plains Museum** in Goodland, Kan., the **El Quartejejo Museum** in Scott City, and the **Colorado Prison Museum** in Canon City, Colo. It is available on-line from the publisher **Authorhouse.com**, Linda Knott's web bookstore **knottjustbooks@spreadtheword.com**; **Amazon.com**; **Barnes and Noble**; **The Tattered Cover** and other major book stores.

Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.

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