

Road bond bring money questions

The two-year spending deadline on the \$12 million city-county joint road project will be up Sept. 22, and to avoid paying a penalty to the Internal Revenue Service, nearly all the project money has to be spent by then.

Everything but the county project on County Road 14, expected to cost about \$1.9 million, is done. With the interest from investing the bond money, the city and county have \$1.6 million to spend or they'll face a penalty of about \$180,000 to the IRS.

County voters approved a one-cent sales tax in March 2006 to pay for the bonds to do the road and street projects, and collection began in July 2006.

Sales tax collections have increased, with a total of \$2,097,229 in the first two years. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said that is more than enough to make the twice-yearly bond payments of more than \$427,000.

When the sales tax was approved, city and county commissioners thought that if the sales income increased over the next five years, they could pay the bonds off or reduce them after seven years.

Based on the current increase in sales tax income, said County Commissioner Kevin Rasure, it's realistic to believe the bonds can be paid down after seven years.

The city projects were about 28 percent of the total of \$12 million (\$3.4 million) and the county projects were 72 percent (\$8.6 million). All of the basic city projects are done, coming in under budget by about \$80,000 based on figures from Darin Neufeld, an engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates. Neufeld handled the city projects and the remaining county project on Road 14 between old U.S. 24 and County Road 65.

City commissioners held a special meeting Monday morning to discuss their option, either spending the

money or asking if it could be paid back to reduce the bond expense.

Kevin Cowan, a bond lawyer with Gilmore and Bell of Wichita who handled the sale, wasn't available during the meeting, but the commissioners asked City Clerk Mary Volk to ask him some questions.

They wanted to know if the money could be used to reduce the bond debt, whether the annual payment might change, if the money could be used for chip sealing on contiguous streets, and if so, how far could they go, and whether the \$1.6 million could be put in a reserve account if they went ahead and paid the tax penalty.

Cowan wrote to Volk that any unspent money would go to the debt service account and be applied to the next payment. He said the annual payments would not change. He said the bonds can be paid off after seven years.

He said because of a concern that arbitrage rules might apply to any surplus sales tax money, he created a debt service reserve account for it.

"In a reserve account, the money can be invested without restriction," he said. "In a regular sales tax fund, it cannot be so invested."

"If the extra project money is used for debt service, the excess sales tax money collected over the next year or so will first go to fund the reserve account — a total of roughly \$1.1 million — and thereafter into the surplus fund."

Cowan, on speaker phone with the county and city commissioners during a joint session on Thursday, said he felt the chip sealing might not be a good project because it was not the same type of street repair as was done on Caldwell or 17th Street.

He agreed with a majority of the county and city commissioners it would be better for the city and county to spend the \$1.6 million on additional projects rather than pay a penalty to the government.



Third place 4-H float in the Northwest Kansas Free Fair parade Saturday went to the Country Clovers 4-H Club.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

4-H float top winner in parade

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lege; third, Kit Carson County Fair and Rodeo Queen and Princess.

Antique Vehicles — First, 1955 Holiday Sedan owned by John Mosberger; second, 1958 Chevy Cameo Pickup owned by Bill Cole; third, 1969 GTO Convertible owned by Diane Schindler.

4-H Floats — First, Glendale Livewires; second, Prairie Dale; third, Country Clovers.

Individual — First, Sherman County Star Spangled Scrambles; second, Super Cow; third, Short & Son.

Overall winners — First, Glendale Livewires; second, Paw Wash; third, 1955 Holiday Sedan.

The fair parade is organized by the 4-H Ambassadors, a group of senior members who perform leadership roles.



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Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Republicans have precinct races

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Jeffery A. Mason for committee-man. His wife, Roberta L. Bretz, is unopposed for committeewoman.

In Ward 3, Dawn Jolly is running against Republican County Chairman Roxie Yonkey.

Cora House said she thinks the opposition is coming from the party's "Christian right wing," adding that she and her husband are seen as moderates. Harlan House has run against more conservative candidates in several races.

"We used to be conservatives," she said, "but I guess we aren't conservative enough today."

Vignery said he felt the opposition was coming from people who were more conservative, and that he did consider himself to be a moderate Republican.

"I feel this is part of the political process," Vignery said, "and that it is how people build a base. I am a loyal Republican, but I feel the only minority voice being heard is from moderate Republicans."

"I think in most of the cases where there is a precinct contest, it is the moderates who face opposition from the more conservative part of the party."

The exception to this is Jolly, who works for Dr. Terry Imel, running against Yonkey, and Vignery said he felt that was because Yonkey is seen as an ultraconservative.

Yonkey was not available for comment Monday.

There are no Democrats running for precinct committeeman or committeewoman. The Democratic County Committee generally is not organized, said County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court. All ages are at the time of the ticket.

June 4: Stacy R. Jones, 40, Seibert, Colo., \$181 for being over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Jose E. Mancilla, 45, Sun Valley, Calif., \$216 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

Carlos C. Martinez, 24, Denver,

\$209 for operating a motor vehicle without a valid license.

David J. Powers, 52, Englewood, Colo., \$126 for unlawful acts with vehicles, expired tags.

Nicole M. Richards, 27, Higginson, Ark., \$96 for not having a safety chain while towing a vehicle.

Brian Rippe, 44, Goodland, \$166 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, failure to properly secure tractor.

Bobbie D. Sexton, 42, Helenwood, Tenn., \$216 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, \$216.

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Real Estate Auction

By order of the Federal Bankruptcy Court, Carl Clark Trustee, the following real estate will be sold at public auction.

Thursday August 7, 2008 ^{sale time} 2:00 p.m.

Open House: Wednesday • August 6 • 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Open Sale Day at 10:00 a.m.)

Auction held on site: 516 Sherman - Goodland, Kansas



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Terms of Sale: Down Payment: \$2,000 cash down at close of auction. Balance due at closing. **Taxes:** All 2007 taxes and all prior years, if any, shall be paid by seller. All 2008 taxes shall be prorated to date of deed. **Title Policy:** Title policy shall be at the expense of the buyer. **Purchase Agreement:** All successful bidders will be required to enter into a purchase agreement at the auction site immediately following the close of the auction. **Closing:** Closing shall be on or before September 7, 2008. **Possession:** Possession shall be at closing. **Financing:** Bidding is not conditional upon financing. You must have arranged prior financing. **Agency Disclosure:** Warren Realty & Auction Service and its representations and Carl Clark are exclusive agents for the seller(s) only. **Confirmation:** Seller has 24 hours to accept or reject any or all bids.

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