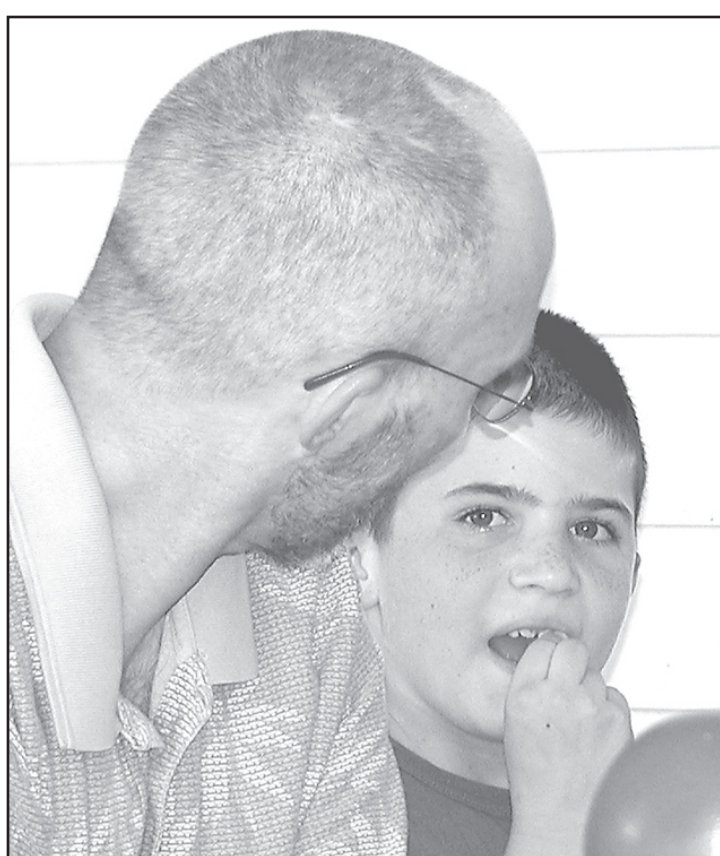




Historic house site for society's ice cream social

Sherman County Historical Society board members Barbara Aten (middle, above) and Marcia Smith served ice cream and iced tea to Vi Tompkins at the society's ice cream social Sunday for members and prospective members at the Victorian Ennis-Handy House. David Branda (right), former president of the society, talked with Mrs. Tompkins' great-grandson Joseph Tompkins, trying to persuade him to try the homemade ice cream. Tompkins thought it would be too cold for his loose tooth.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



City to use \$400,000 to fix streets

By Tom Betz
ntbetz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners listed street projects on Monday to soak up an estimated \$400,000 left on the city side of the joint city-county road program in the next month.

The city staff hopes to gather bids on a list of projects and bring them to the commissioners at a meeting on Monday, Sept. 15, and let them decide which to approve.

Darin Neufeld, the engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates handling the city projects, said the problem is the timing. He said the money has to be spent by Sept. 22, so he would be getting quick bids from asphalt and concrete contractors in the next few weeks.

City Clerk Mary Volk said she had asked Kevin Cowan, bond attorney from Gilmore and Bell of Wichita, about adding Armory Road from Caldwell to Main to the list, and he agreed that could be done.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he was not in favor of doing Armory because it does not get the traffic many other streets have.

"I would rather see us do Caldwell from Eighth and go three blocks south," he said, "or go west on Eighth Street from Caldwell."

"Can we do that?" Commissioner Dave Daniels asked.

Neufeld said anything that is a continuation of the projects in the original bond list could be considered.

Neufeld said he had a few projects that he had talked with Rich Simon, public works manager, and Wayne Hill, city manager, about.

He said repaving Caldwell from Eighth to 17th by removing all the old paving and putting down new asphalt would cost about \$120,000 a block, but doing a mill and overlay

would be about \$50,000 a block.

Another suggestion was to replace the concrete west from the intersection of Main and 17th to Center, plus improve the storm sewer. He said this would cost about \$130,000.

Paving Armory from Main to Caldwell would cost about \$200,000, Neufeld said.

Other areas suggested were Broadway from 17th north to the County Health Department building, and the same type of project at Clark and Caldwell.

He suggested the commissioners consider lining the ditch along Caldwell from Toelkes north past the new drainage tubes to move the silt further north and improve drainage.

Billinger asked why, and Neufeld said the ditch gets filled with silt, which reduces the drainage.

Simon said he would not recommend doing Caldwell south of 10th unless the commission was going to add water-line replacement to the project. He said the city has had trouble with leaks in the line from 10th south to at least 15th Street.

Neufeld said he will ask representatives from the three companies that have done asphalt projects and the three that have done concrete work to come to a meeting and will give them a list of project to work up bids by the middle of September.

He said he would bring bids for each to the commissioners on Monday, Sept. 15, for a decision.

Neufeld said the engineering cost for all these projects would not exceed \$50,000. The commissioners unanimously approved the engineering contract.

Neufeld said the county plans to review its projects after the bids are opened for County Road 14 on Sept. 17.

County to hold special meeting on Road 14 project

By Tom Betz
ntbetz@nwkansas.com

County commissioners will know the cost of the County Road 14 paving project on Wednesday, Sept. 17, and plan to hold a special meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, to make sure the money from city-county road bonds is spent by the deadline of Sept. 22.

Darin Neufeld, the engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates handling the Road 14 project, said the state would open bids on the project on Sept. 17, and he would know the numbers by that afternoon.

He said it would be good for the commissioners to meet that Friday to review the bids and see how close the numbers are to meeting goals for the bond money.

The city and county are scrambling a little to spend about \$1.6 million in bond and interest money before Sept. 22. If the "spend down" goal is not met by that date, the county could have to pay a penalty of about \$180,000 to the Internal Revenue Service under "arbitrage" rules. There is no penalty if the money is spent, said Neufeld, but if it's not, the penalty would have to be paid. That's because the county would have made more interest on the bond money than what the bonds will pay over the 10 years, Neufeld said.

Chairman Mitch Tiede said the commissioners should set a special meeting for 1 p.m. that Friday to review the bids and make sure the spending goal is met.

Neufeld said there is another issue

the commissioners should know about. He said, Kevin Cowan, a bond attorney for Gilmore and Bell of Wichita, told him if any money is refunded to the county, it must be put in a separate account that does not make any interest and the county would need to find a way to spend it on a road-related project within a reasonable time.

Neufeld said there is a good chance the county may get some money back, and he wanted the county to know how it would be handled. He said Cowan told him a reasonable time would be if the money was returned to the county in October, that the commissioners have a project approved before the end of the year to spend the money by spring.

Tiede said one idea would be dressing up the shoulders along County Road 65 (West Eighth Street) west from K-27 to County Road 14.

"We didn't include that in the original project," he said, "but it is something we could consider if we have more money to spend on projects."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said that would be good, adding that they could need some work on Road 16.

Tiede said Curt Way, county public works manager, had talked to Jerol DeBoer, engineer and owner of Penco Engineering of Plainville, about erosion on Road 16, and he said the seeding guy is coming back to work on it.

Neufeld said it might be good to consider putting in some silt fences to slow down the erosion until the grass has a chance to grow.

Depending on the bids for County Road 14, the commissioners are planning to spend their share of the remaining bond money to extend the new pavement south of old U.S. 24 with concrete to handle increased truck traffic. The project is already on the state five-year highway plan, and the county can prepay the state for the project.

corrections

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