

Crowd hears about Greeley County unification

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Topeka, and the intergovernmental relations study committee was suggesting financial incentives for cities and counties who look at unification and ways to penalize those who do not.

"If you were laying out Kansas today would you create 105 counties," Moser said. "This was one of the first things brought up in Topeka."

Thon said one state senator has a map suggesting there be 30 counties.

"With the shortfall the state will be trying to push the costs back down to the local governments," he said.

Moser said when Greeley County began the plan for unification "we felt we would be better off doing what we wanted rather than being forced. We know if there is a combination of counties the chances were the government was not going to be in Tribune."

He said the home rule legislation they have in place gives them a good base to work from and should make it more difficult for the legislature to force the unified county to make future changes.

"We want to best utilize the resources we have, and hope to eventually see some cost savings," Thon said.

Thon has been elected as the at-large member of the five person board of supervisors who officially take office in January. He said the five supervisors have been working hard this year to go through all the city and county policies, resolutions and ordinances to get them cleaned up and prepared for the new start in January.



Greeley County Attorney Charles Moser (left), Alan Peter vice-president of Colorado East Bank in Tribune, Brock Sloan city engineer and Tribune Mayor Bill Hamann were the Greeley County unification

study group members who spoke at the Shine On Sherman County Government Alliance Committee open forum held Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Peter said the plan was to combine the city and county and they had one year to get the plan done after a bill passed through the legislature creating the study group.

He said as they have gone through this they have been told several times that Greeley County had two

good things going for them and those were they had already combined the emergency services and fire departments and had combined the law enforcement where the city contracts with the sheriff for police coverage.

"We were told we had a leg up

because of the cooperation of our city and county boards over the past 15 years," he said.

Moser said one of the first things they did was send out a survey, and that when it came back the figures indicated that a unification plan would not pass.

"Once people learned about the plan and got through the misinformation those numbers turned around," he said. "The biggest thing we had to do was dispel all the rumors from the coffee shops."

Moser was asked why they went ahead after receiving the negative

survey results.

He said the study group forged ahead because they felt they had not developed a plan to really present to the people.

"We are too stubborn to quit," Peter said.

"We worked hard to make the process as transparent as possible," Moser said. "We let people feel like they were part of the process, and that we would consider their ideas."

Sherman County Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked how many people attended the public forums and if they were satisfied with the number of people.

"Ineverwas," Moser said. "Sometimes we would only have 20 or 25 people. The one thing was it was not always the same 20 people."

"It is not the quantity," Peter said. "If those at the forum are convinced they will sell the plan. We could see the issues evolve. We knew there were lots of people who did not come but were already in favor of the unification."

Greeley County voters both in the rural area and the city approved the unification in November of 2007. Moser said the bill from the legislature required a double majority from both the rural and the city, and said Greeley County was the first county they could find anywhere in the country where they had gotten the double majority to approve the unification.

"The day after the vote people on the streets of Tribune were smiling and saying how great the day was," Moser said. "You knew what they were talking about and how proud they were of what the county had come together to accomplish."

County commissioners asked to attend public forum

By Pat Schiefen

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At the last county commission meeting for the month of November on Wednesday, Nov. 26, the commission was asked by the government service alliance committee for Shine on Sherman County to attend final public forum on Tuesday.

After a presentation by David Branda from the Sherman County Historical Society on the water damage to the basement wall of the

Ennis-Handy House. The original house had bricks laid on dirt and no footing in place. The commissioners voted to donate \$7,500 for the repair work. Commissioner Kevin Rasure withdrew from the discussion from a conflict of interest.

The work on the Ennis-Handy House would include a bill from Mike Yarger for dirt work to repair the wall for \$7,000 to \$9,000, McClures for sewer work and Ginn's Masonry for the footing.

The commissioners decided to give full time employees a Christmas bonus of \$150 and part time for \$75.

The commissioners agreed to pay a third or \$400 for a survey from AV Recording and Audio of what is needed for recording and playing back court cases if a replacement for retiring court recorder Paula Keller is not found by the state. Scott Showalter, replacement for retiring district judge Jack Burr, said

Cheyenne and Wallace Counties would pay the rest of the \$1,200. Sherman County can record but has no speakers. Wallace County has no recording equipment.

It was decided by the commissioners to approve a request for \$100,000 from the health care service fund for capitol improvements to Goodland Regional Medical Center. The improvements include a security system, flooring and a surgical autoclave.

Building manager William McKnight said they had started on the parking lot in the rear of the courthouse.

Sheriff Kevin Butts presented the bids he received on a roof for the sallyport. The commissioners decided to eliminate the skylights and have a clear span with no beams and lights. Butts said he would talk to the contractors.

Before the approval of a claims voucher for \$144,080 for remodel-

ing the county attorney's office. Rasure asked why county attorney Bonnie Selby got to pick her own carpet when the commissioners picked the carpet for the other offices. Commissioner Chuck Thomas said the carpet was included in the contractors bid.

The next meeting of the county commissioners will be at 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning at the Sherman County Courthouse.

Ennis-Handy House wins top 8 Wonder of Sherman County

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(157) six votes ahead of the 11th place Max Jones Fieldhouse (152), and seven votes ahead of Crazy R's that was 12th (151).

Sugar Hills Golf Course was 13th at 137, Vault Creamery 14th at (90), Smokey Gardens 15th (84) and Steever Water and Skate Park (61).

The 8 Wonders of Sherman County was sponsored by the Sherman County Economic Development Council and Sherman County Convention and Visitor's Bureau with each contributing \$500 to get the brochures printed. *The Goodland Star-News* helped with the advertising, gathering the photos and publishing the stories. *The Hays Daily*

News hosted the on line voting and printed the brochures.

Helen Dobbs, Economic Development office manager solicited money from several local people to help pay for an additional run of 5,000 of the brochures to give the offices extra to take to several trade shows in Kansas City, Denver, Wichita, California and for Sampler Fest in Concordia.

Dobbs said she wanted to stay away from the normal business people and so she asked groups who are not usually asked. Support for the additional brochures came from the Sherman County Historical Society, Goodland Elks Lodge, High Plains Museum, Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter, Sherman County Community Foundation,

Carnegie Arts Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Kansas and Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dobbs said she was pleased with the support of the people who nominated their favorite site.

Donna Price, visitor's bureau executive director, said she felt the effort had people talking and involved in the selection process.

"I think it is a positive thing to show people what we have in Sherman County," she said. "We wanted to have enough to hand out at the trade shows as well as to give to people who are visiting our county."

"I think it was great to see the people get involved and pushing their site like the Northwest Kansas

Technical College who put up a page on the Internet and asked people to vote for them."

"We enjoyed being part of the process," said Tom Betz, *Star-News* editor, "and felt the selections were good representations of the positive things about living in Sherman County. Not all of the sites we liked made the top list, but then we would have had to change it to the top 16 or 24 wonders."

"All of the sites nominated are deserving of recognition, and we were pleased with the breadth of the nominations we received both on line and at the Star-News office."

A total of 48 sites were nominated in the first round that led to the top 16 and then to the final 8 Wonders of Sherman County.

Among those sites that did not make the top 16 included Renner Field and the WPA hangar, Goodland Activity Center, the community Nativity scene, Sherman County fairgrounds, old Rock Is-

land railroad, the Iron Mike Mueller grain elevator, Sherman County courthouse, Gulick Park, the old white Eagle gas station and the new archeology site at Kanorado.

matters of record

Goodland Police

The following incidents have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

Nov. 10 — 10:28 a.m., 1209 Harrison Ave., arrested Joschua David Moreno for aggravated assault against Richard Sandoval Jr. Case referred to county attorney.

Nov. 12 — 9:29 a.m., 2510 Commerce Rd, Christie Powell reported theft and criminal use of a financial card.

Nov. 13 — 11:44 a.m., 1300 Arcade Ave., arrested Tammy Kindall

for theft, driving while suspended, no liability insurance and expired license plate. Case referred to city attorney.

8:45 p.m., 727 W. Ninth, Joey Lynette Findley reported harassment by telephone. Case referred to county attorney

Nov. 15 — 2:28 a.m., 1500 Montana Ave., arrested Antonio Ledesma for driving under influence, no drivers license and failure to yield at stop or yield sign. Case referred to city attorney.

2:30 a.m., 1500 Montana Ave., arrested Juan Ramon Lazos Montes

for transporting open container. Case referred to city attorney.

Nov. 16 — 4:30 p.m., 2810 Commerce Rd., Apt. 2, arrested a juvenile and Gary Searle, Jr. for abusing toxic vapors. Juvenile case referred to county attorney, and other case referred to city attorney.

Mark your calendars!

Join us for "Home for the Holidays" & The Taste of Goodland" on December 20th... At the Goodland Activity Center (GAC), 1 p.m. - 3 p.m, MT. Plan to bring your family & friends for a fun afternoon on Main Street!

- Taste the winning recipes from the inserts, "Home for the Holidays"
- Be entertained by the X-pressos & The Barbershop Quartet
- Sample area food and see home-based business & others' products
- Gift ideas for last minute shopping from several of the area's specialty stores!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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