

City agrees to purchase two airport hangars

By Tom Betz
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Two existing hangars at the Goodland airport will become city property under a purchase agreement approved by the city commissioners on Monday.

The agreement would turn ownership of two hangars owned by the First National Bank over to the city for \$450,000.

Discussion of adding a hangar

at the airport was brought up in the spring and the city tried applying for state money to purchase the two existing hangars. The state did not include either hangar in the airport project approval list.

The commissioners had held a couple of closed door sessions to discuss possible purchase of property over the past month.

City Manager Doug Gerber said it was a personal property exchange

where the city gives First National Bank \$450,000 and they give the city the title to the two hangars. The city already owns the property the hangars are sitting on as part of the airport.

“We feel it is important to have the right landlord in place to keep Eagle Med in our community,” he said.

Gerber said he and Mayor Josh Dechant negotiated the deal, and the bank board has approved the sale.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the leases with Eagle Med are to be transferred to the city.

Gerber said he had not contacted Eagle Med, and wanted the action to be official before he made that contact.

The transfer of title is to be closed by Sept. 30.

Daniels said he felt it is important to contact Eagle Med and let them know the city is going to take the

hangars over and wants to be sure they stay.

Commissioner John Garcia said he agreed and that the city needs something in writing.

Vice-Mayor Rick Billinger said it should be a new lease between the city and Eagle Med.

“We have the money for this,” Daniels said.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the money is earmarked for airport

improvement.

Billinger said it was several months ago the airport board came to the commission and proposed the city build a hangar.

Garcia made a motion to approve the purchase contract. Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded.

The vote was 3-0 with Billinger saying he had to abstain because of his involvement with First National Bank. Dechant was absent.

Commissioners explain reason for property tax increase

By Tom Betz
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Monday, Sept. 13., the Sherman County commissioners heard complaints about the county roads and a question about the reason the county is faced with raising property taxes for next year.

The County Commissioners will hold their budget hearing at 8 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 4.

“Larry (Enfield) about your first question about the taxes part of the problem we have,” said Commissioner Chuck Thomas. Correct me if I am wrong, he said to County Clerk Janet Rumpel, the way the valuations are set up for farmland the real

value has increased over the past 5 years, but according to the state formulas the taxable valuations has been dropping so we raise the mill levy and your taxes don’t really go up because of the way they determine the farmland valuation.

“The formula is so out dated it is pathetic. They are taxing grassland like wasteland. That is part of our problem. You know as well as I do everything costs more each year but our revenues decrease because of the way they value the farmland. Then your house in town is where you get screwed. because the value of houses is determined by recent sales. They use sales as a valuation

for your house.”

“So is the tax on my land going to go up too now? Enfield said.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said, “If the value went down it might sort of be a wash, but as many mills as we are going up it is not likely. It is going to go up.”

Rumpel said she could look at Enfield’s legal description and determine what the 13 plus mills would do based on last year and then add the increase to that.

Thomas said the biggest problem is because of the way they figure farmland. We used to go from \$500 an acre for dryland to \$1,000, he said. The value has almost doubled, but our

valuation has not gone up with it.

“The landowners are getting a bargain,” Commissioner Max Linin said.

Enfield asked how many extra dollars does the county need next year over what you had this year.

Rumpel said it was about \$900,000 in difference.

“So \$900,000 is going to have to come from somewhere,” Enfield said.

Thomas said because the county hasn’t raised the property taxes in a few years the county has used up the carryovers.

“Our carryovers are so low because our revenues haven’t kept up with our expenses,” Thomas said.

Max said he feels the figures are more realistic for each department to know what they are getting.

Thomas said the commissioners are not doing any wage increases for anyone. He said they gave a raise this year, but now they are not going to be able to do that. He said

the health insurance benefits will go up this next year.

Cynthia said the newspaper said it was a 3 percent increase, but she figured it was going to be closer to 10 to 15 percent.

“We are at \$1 million in that area,” she said.

“Let me ask you this,” Enfield said, “do most of the departments have a carryover.”

Strnad said, yes, they all have a little bit, but we screwed everybody down so tight that landfill and road and bridge were the only ones that would have any kind of carryover this year.

“To make it more realistic so when you come in to look at a budget,” she said, “they are more in line and any extra money we shifted to the general fund.”

“The only place you can shift money from is the general fund,” Enfield said, “and that is the only one that ought to have a carryover.”

Strnad said that is sort of what we have done this year.

“We scrutinized everyone last year,” Thomas said, “and if they had something in the budget we questioned we would ask if they were going to do that the next year if they said they were not sure we had them take it out. Because of that we did not have the carryovers this year.”

The commissioners talked about what it would take to do the courthouse improvements and Enfield asked if there were any grants to help with that. He said he saw where Wallace County and Thomas County were getting some federal money for projects.

Cynthia said the county was lagging in that and the programs Enfield was talking about were all over for this year. She said one of the companies the county is talking to about the courthouse work has said they have a group within their company that can assist in looking for grant money.

Vote questioned in complaint

COUNTY, from Page 1

emergency vehicle designation up until the vote last Monday.

“Obviously the people in District 2 were not concerned that they were not being well represented.

“As far as ex-commissioner Tiede’s comments about my employment in Denver that is irrelevant. I work 24 hours a week in Denver. I missed meetings in 2009 not based on my employment. I missed one day of work.

“Meetings I did miss in 2009 were because I had opportunities to travel overseas to Europe and several other countries in the world and I felt that was appropriate. I am not confined to Sherman County if I am a commissioner.

“In this year I have not missed a single meeting due to my employment in Denver, and I think Mr. Tiede is completely out of line in that paragraph. I object strenuously to that.

“I would be willing based on the conversation Bonnie and I had Sunday that under the state law passed in 1993 I was probably not a valid commissioner last week when that vote was taken. I will not argue that point.

“However, I have delivered to you on Saturday – I had picked up from a comment made to me in the community that I was not a valid commissioner despite what the

county attorney and I thought – and as of the week of the 12th I do have a lease on an apartment at 321 Broadway Ave., and I am a registered voter in District 2.

“I feel I meet all the requirements to go forward. I never received notice prior to today that I was not a valid commissioner. I believe I have covered that and the complaint up to that point.

“However we want to handle that I do not care, but I feel at this point I meet all the requirements and I feel that I did nothing wrong during the time because I did have legal advice. I will accept the fact our decision perhaps didn’t fit the statutes.

“At this time I am going to move off this table to give them (Thomas and Linin) an opportunity to get to the business of the day, and I am going on the record that if I get a chance to make the motion to fire Curt Way and Steve Goodman - If I get the chance to do it again I will. But I will not go there today, unless after we talk to the attorneys in Topeka I can.”

A question from the audience asked what happened about the motion and vote last Monday.

Strnad said she thought it would be void.

Selby said she did not think that was true, but that is not what the commissioners were dealing with at that point.

“We know fairly certain that last

week Cynthia was not authorized or did not have the power on that day to do what she did,” Selby said. “We are trying to see what we can do to move ahead. It could be worse. This isn’t the end of the world, and we are trying to address is appropriately. My whole focus is the best interest of the county.”

Strnad said she was in agreement with Selby, and was not disagreeing with Selby that she was not a valid commissioner last week because the state law is very clear.

“My biggest concern now is I have fulfilled what was required,” she said, “and have never been removed from the office prior to the complaint. By the time the complaint came the lapse had been taken care of. I believe that is one of the issues we are going to talk about with the county insurance carrier.

A question was asked from the audience about what the difference was between these two guys getting fired and Daryl West getting fired. The person said if you are going to put these guys back in won’t you have to back up.

“No,” Thomas said.


“That is a different situation,” Selby said. “If Cynthia had not been involved in the most recent termination there would be no problem.”

No - Thomas said


Strnad said the vote on West was 3-0 so it would not have mattered if she had been there or not.

GHS Cowboys of the Week


Based on positive academic performance, attendance improvement, positive attitude or random acts of kindness, the student nominees this week are: Cassie Battistoni and Taylen Smith.



Cassie Battistoni, Junior
Nominated by Susan Hall, Jonathan Whisnant
Parents: Jackie Battistoni
Activities: Art Club, Scholars Bowl




Taylen Smith, Freshman
Nominated by Johnny Mercer
Parents: Gary and Deb Smith
Activities: Football, basketball and baseball



These students receive an Activity Period Pass. These students were randomly selected from all nominees and will receive a local food gift certificate sponsored by Goodland Kiwanis Club, special parking, first in lunch line and recognized throughout the community!

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Flatlander Fall Festival ~ September 25th

Sampling Begins at 11:00 am | 11th & Main, Downtown Goodland

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Elite Fundraiser- \$1,000.00

- SunOpta Sunflower*
- Wilkens Truck & Trailer

Cayenne Pepper- \$500.00

- Dinkel Collision
- Truck and Tractor Repair
- Northwest Tech*

Anaheim Pepper- \$250.00

- Cochran Farm Supply
- First National Bank*
- Goodland Coca Cola Bottling Co.
- High Plains Office Supply
- McB's Motor Company
- Plains Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.
- Prairie Rose Floral
- Short & Son Trucking

Jalapeno Pepper- \$150.00

- Ag Power Equipment
- Dan Brenner Ford
- Harvest Moon, Inc., Fred & Jeanie Schields
- Kris Yost - Edwards Jones
- L&W Andrist Insurance Agency, LLC
- McDonalds
- Rasure Lumber Do It Center
- S&M Repair, LLC
- The Scoular Company

Chili Producer- \$100.00

- City of Goodland
- Farm Bureau of Sherman County*
- Goodland Machine

Chili Producer- \$100.00, cont'd

- Goodland Regional Medical Center*
- Herl Chevrolet-Buick Co., Inc.
- JDM Farms, Jim & Darla Mosbarger
- John Golden
- L&L Engine Service
- Millers Home Center
- Napa Auto Parts - Big Twin Automotive
- Peoples State Bank*
- Sederstrom Farms
- Shores Bumper to Bumper
- Sprinkler Supply
- The Insurance Agency
- Vignery & Mason
- Wal-Mart*

Chili Cooker- \$50.00

- 24/7
- Douglas J. Sederstrom, CPA, P.A.
- Gambinos Pizza
- Garcia Furniture
- Gleason Chiropractic
- Goodland Public Library*
- Homestead Realty
- KansasLand Tire
- Kear's Quality Liquor
- Kimmi's Kopy Shop & Design
- McClure Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
- Orscheln Farm & Home Supply
- State Farm Insurance
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- Wane's Carpet & Drapery, Inc.
- Yost Farm Supply

* Chili Cook-Off Team

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Car Show

September 24-26, 2010 - Goodland KS

24th Annual Flatlander Fall Festival

" Show to be held on the brick Main Street between 13th & 15th Sts "



\$ 20.00 Pre-Entry fee includes:

- \$ 25.00 after September 17, 2010
- \$ 10.00 for each additional entry

Friday Activities:

- Car Enthusiasts Social, Registration & Gambino's Pizza at Central School
- 1311 Main St 5:30pm to 7:30pm MT

Saturday Activities:

- Registration 8:00am to 11:30am MT at Central School 1311 Main St
- Continental Breakfast 8:00am MT
- DJ Music
- Show & Shine 8:00am to 4:00pm MT
- Dqsh Plaques for first 200 entries
- Valve Cover Races 12:30pm MT
- 2 Evening meal tickets 5:00pm MT

Sunday Activities:

- Continental Breakfast 8:00am MT
- Show & Shine 8:00am MT
- Fun Walk & Games 9:00am-10:00am MT
- Awards Ceremony 10:45am MT
- Show concludes after Awards

Valve Cover Races

Sat 9/25/10 12:30pm MT

Sponsored by

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Build one prior to the show and enter the races. See our website for rules, regulations and specifications

Goodland's Flatlander Festival Activities

For more information on events or times, please call 785-899-9290 or 785-890-3515 or visit www.flatlanderfestival.com

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Please visit our website or contact us for our Cruise Nights, Poker Runs and other scheduled events during the year



Drawings held during Sunday's Awards Ceremony for the following: Stop Light Set of Wheels Roadster Pedal Car



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