

Graphic image part of sign plan

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners continue to examine ways to improve entrance signs, and are considering putting signs out on I-70 to market the city to travelers and looked at more options at the meeting on Monday.

Leon Volk of Commercial Sign of Colby was at the meeting to present some more options and suggestions about the type of sign the city might consider.

He suggested the city consider developing a graphic image for the city and possibly incorporating the Van Gogh sunflower painting as part of the image to be used on the signs.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he felt the city would be wasting money unless they were talking about the Interstate signs rather than the one at the intersection of K-27 and Business U.S.24.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the sign designs have come through various changes. He said when the discussion started the commissioners were looking at signs similar to the one at Pioneer Park to be erected at the entrances and on the Interstate.

Daniels said he could see a sign north and one south of town and the ones out on the Interstate.

Gerber said he would encourage the commissioners to look at updating the red and green sign located at the corner of K-27 and Business U.S. 24.

Volk said he agreed and feels the city needs to establish the graphic



Three proposed signs presented by Leon Volk of Commercial Sign. The proposed signs would be located on the right of way to the west of Orscheln and Herl Chevrolet. The top sign is similar to the one at Pioneer Park and is estimated to cost \$7,625. The second sign would be \$6,085 and the vertical pylon sign would cost \$7,500. The Commissioners are looking at several places to put signs.

image and use it on all the related signs like a brand for the city.

Commissioner John Garcia said he agreed with Daniels and Gerber about doing one north out by the airport and one south to tie in with

the one at Short and Sons.

Volk said the city needs to do something with the sign at K-27 as it needs to be improved and make it part of the over all image.

He said the city could have an official sign within three miles of the city on I-70 and an informational sign within 75 miles. He said the state line would work for the west one and the other could be at Oakley. He said getting the signs on I-70 would take time, but it can be done. He said the Convention and Visitors Bureau may already be paying a land fee for the signs they have and a state permit fee.

Gerber said he felt it was an ideal way to partner with Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Volk said that would be good and he felt other organizations in the city could have official signs. The CVB has one near Edson and he said the Northwest Tech College, Goodland hospital and High Plains Museum might have official signs on I-70.

He said these signs could go a long way to make Goodland visible along the Interstate where the city is competing with others along the highway.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked about using the Van Gogh image and if the city would have to pay Cameron Cross for the use.

Gerber said the contract with Cross was for the sale of merchandise, but felt the city could use the image. He said he would attend the CVB meeting on Tuesday to intro-

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County amends purchasing policy for sheriff, dispatch

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners assured County Sheriff Kevin Butts the new purchase policy was not designed to say his department was not following the correct procedures and were willing to amend the draft of the policy.

Sheriff Butts was at the meeting on Tuesday saying he had heard rumors about a new purchase policy and changes in the fuel cards.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said the commissioners have not signed the new policy, but explained what they were proposing. She read through the proposed policy.

Sheriff Butts said he did not have a problem with what the commissioners were trying to do, but said he would strongly recommend a change for his office.

Strnad said she was suggesting an amendment to the emergency section specifically about the sheriff's office and central dispatch. She asked Sheriff Butts to tell the commissioners what he thought.

"I guess I agree with the purchase orders," he said, "and we do it most of the time and try hard to do that."

"The limit about coming to you for anything over \$500, you don't have authority to tell me to do that. You cannot tell elected officials how to operate their office."

Commissioner Larry Enfield said it was his understanding the commissioners could issue an opinion on a specific purchase, but could not tell Butts what to buy.

"And you cannot tell me what I can spend," Butts said. "I will get a purchase order to purchase what I need."

"I understand," Enfield said, "that we can give what is up to what is in your budget."

"I can tell you that I need something," Butts said, "and if I need it I can go ahead and do it. Ninety percent of this does not apply to my office and you cannot order me to do this."

"What can we do," Enfield said. "We need to do something."

"You can't treat every office in the county the same," Butts said. "Not all offices are the same. They are all different."

"My track record shows I do not do anything out of the budget."

Strnad said Sheriff Butts and County Clerk Janet Rumpel are the best on dealing with the budget.

Enfield said he was impressed about the sheriff's fuel card records when he asked the records could tell him everything he was asking.

Sheriff Butts said he was not going to call a commissioner if he needed to purchase something.

"It is not going to happen," he said. "If you

don't trust me I want you to look at me and say you don't trust me."

Strnad said it was not that the commissioners did not trust him, but were looking for ways to keep more of the county money in the county.

"We understand you may not be able to keep all the money in the county," she said, "but there are some provisions to allow for those things. Some of this is common sense."

"I am asking you to follow the law," Butts said.

"I have no problem following the law," Strnad said.

Butts said he did not need permission to make a purchase over \$500, and the use of the county credit cards for fuel and motel only would not work for his deputies.

"How do I feed my deputies and inmates," he said.

Enfield suggested the sheriff could do what he needs and turn in a reimbursement.

"We do not fill out a reimbursement form," Butts said.

"What do you do now," Strnad said.

"It depends on what we have to do and when we leave," Butts said. "We have other cards we use outside the county. We use the fuel card when we can because we get tax money back. Otherwise we use the Visa card for meals and other fuel."

Butts said he put training costs on the Visa card.

He said it would be very tough for no purchases outside the county.

Strnad said the commissioners were talking about exempting the sheriff and health department from that provision.

"Absolutely we try to buy as much in county as we can," Butts said.

He said the provision about not using the credit card on line would not work as he does a lot of stuff on line. As an example he said he bought a refurbished radio to the six by six truck and got one for under \$100. He said it was purchased off eBay.

Strnad said the commissioners would review what the sheriff had said.

Enfield asked Butts about the fuel cards with each person's name on them.

Butts said he felt it was senseless. He said each vehicle has a card and the person fills out the log book.

Enfield said that the Kansas Department of Transportation and Kansas Highway Patrol have gone to an individual card with the person's name on them.

"I am not sure you are going to gain anything," Butts said. "What is the name going to do?"

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Motel 6 owners ask about city incentives

By Tom Betz

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The Motel 6 in Goodland has been reopened by A&S Properties from California, and two representatives from the company were at the city commission meeting on Monday to ask about possible incentives to help them improve the motel.

Arvind (Ed) Patel, president of A&S properties and Bharat (Brett) Maru, vice president of operations made a presentation to the commissioners about their efforts and what they are planning for the Motel 6 in Goodland.

Maru said the company owns more than 40 motels in Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Utah and Kansas. He said the company had closed on the Motel 6 in December and had worked with Commissioner Annette Fairbanks on the closing.

He said the company is currently building a 126-room La Quinta Inn in Chino, Calif., and a Comfort Inn in Vernal, Utah.

Maru said the Goodland Motel 6 would have about 20 employees with a general manager, manager,



Lights are back on at Motel 6 on Commerce Road, and plans were presented to the city for more renovation and improvements.

two people for front desk, five for maintenance and housekeeping and others who would be involved from the home office.

He said they have discovered several problems at the motel, and were asking the city about the incentives package to help make some of the improvements.

He said a major problem is the motel has a central heating system that runs on water, and they found water leaking from the sprinkler system, and found everything was in bad shape including finding broken toilet tanks from frozen water.

He said the motel is half open with 40 rooms, and they are planning to make some major upgrades in the next two years. He said Motel 6 is requiring major upgrades to meet new motel standards and to keep the motel chain name. He said they are asking for an extension to complete the upgrades by 2014.

He said part of the upgrade will be to change out the heating and air conditioning and put in individual window units. Other improvements will include the parking lot, lobby and exterior work plus renovation of

the guest room to the Phoenix style, bathrooms and signage.

He asked about the tax abatement program as a way to help fully renovate the property. He said the motel would add people and they would "keep the lights on," which is the Motel 6 motto.

He said the appraised price was \$570,000, but they purchased the motel for much less, and are asking about the property taxes of \$185,000. The estimate for the renovation is \$250,000.

He said as they progress they would ask for the waiver of city permit fees, inspection fees and connection fees. He said they would ask for a special utility rate for a specific period of time.

Mayor Josh Dechant said he was glad to welcome the men to Goodland, and that the city would do what was possible to help.

Maru said the city staff has been helpful and mentioned City Clerk Mary Volk and her staff.

Dechant asked about using local contractors and Maru said they have

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weather report

44°

noon
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 5:23 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:38 a.m.

• Sunset, 5:24 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 31 degrees

• Humidity 41 percent

• Sky cloudy

• Winds south 16-23 mph

• Barometer 30.25 inches

and steady

• Record High today 67° (1947)

• Record Low today -13° (2007)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 68°

Low Sunday 31°

Precipitation none

This month .36

Year to date .75

Above Normal .19 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near

62, winds out of the north at 5

to 10 mph and a low around 31.

Wednesday: Sunny with a high

near 69, winds out of the 10-15

mph and a low around 35.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny and

breezy with a high near 66 and

a low around 28. Friday: Mostly

sunny with a high near 48 and a

low around 22. Saturday: Mostly

sunny with a high near 43 and a

low around 21.

(National Weather Service)

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* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$8.57 bushel

Posted county price — \$8.55

Corn — \$6.30 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.63

Milo — \$6.5 bushel

Soybeans — \$12.58 bushel

Posted county price — \$13.34

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$29.90 cwt.

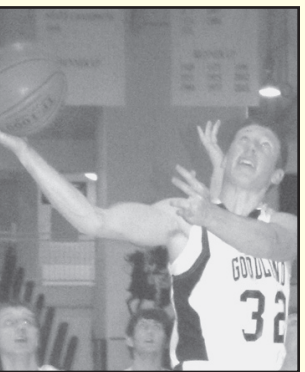
Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$18

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

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Cowboys even record

Cowboy Dillon Trachsel got a pass inside the Oakley Plainsmen and went for a basket in the game Thursday. The Cowboys are in action tonight at Max Jones. See photos, story on Page 12.

