

New heat, cooling for business



Subcontractor Burlington Heating and Air Conditioning for McClure's Plumbing and Heating of Colby brought in a crane to lift new air conditioning and heating units at Wendy's, 2219 Enterprise Road. The weather and wind cooperated for the work to be done on Tuesday morning. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Operation of dog pound came in under budget

By Tom Betz
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City commissioners heard a report on Monday the operation of the city, county dog pound was about \$4,500 under budget, and the operation was working well.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he felt the dog pound agreement signed by the commissioners last year had been working well. He said there had been some hiccups early, but most of that has been smoothed out.

He said the city has hired Kathy Schermerhorn as an on-call animal control officer, and that has been an additional savings. He said Schermerhorn is paid \$1,000 a month for the animal control officer work.

Included in the commission information was an annual report Schermerhorn had compiled for the first year of operation. The report showed 163 dogs picked up in the city, 47 picked up in the county and 1 dog from Kanorado.

For cats the city had 60 picked up, the county had 6 and Kanorado 2.

The city had one parakeet picked up.

The annual expenses showed a total of \$22,470 with electricity being the largest expense other than wages.

Schermerhorn said the dog food is not costing what they had thought. She said the county had more dogs than they figured, but the city had more cats.

Under the agreement the county pays 30 percent and the city pays 70 percent.

Gerber said one of the questions going into the agreement was how

many dogs came from the city and from the county. He said the city people had felt the county numbers had been under reported in the past and the figures from the pound seem to bear that out.

"I like to easy math," he said, "and I feel the 30 percent is pretty reasonable based on the total number of dogs."

He said the budget estimate for the pound was \$27,000 or about \$4,500 less.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked about the other \$1,000 being paid.

Gerber said that is the monthly payment for Schermerhorn being the animal control officer, and this was separate from the dog pound agreement.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said that means the city does not have a full time or part time dog control officer on staff.

Gerber said that is correct. He said police officers try to capture loose dogs and cats during the day and Kathy is on call. I feel it is working fairly well, he said.

"It is 365 days a year and 24 hours a day," Schermerhorn said.

Mayor Josh Dechant said he was pleased to see the lower cost, and that he did not see a problem unless someone wanted to change something it will renew in July.

Gerber said that is correct, and the reason for bringing it up is that if the city wanted to make a change it has to be sent to the county 60 days in advance.

Schermerhorn said if the city and county are agreeable she feels it has been working well and is good for the animals.

Dechant said he felt it was working and to leave it as it is.

Schermerhorn said she did not see a need to keep it at \$27,000 based on the amount spent in the first year. She said the \$4,500 could be left in there from the first year as a cushion in case the electric rates or dog food goes up.

She proposed dropping to a lower rate.

City clerk Mary Volk said the agreement goes until August.

Dechant asked if the agreement amount would drop to \$22,500 at that time.

Rasure said he felt it was a good gesture on Schermerhorn's part, but he did not want to lower it at this point with only one year of operation. I feel it is better to keep it the same in case there is an increase, he said. I do not want to see it go up and down.

Daniels said he felt it was a generous offer, but agreed he did not want to get to the same time next year and need a big increase.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks, who helped work out the agreement said she felt it was good to have the report because they were making a guess when the agreement was drafted. She said she would not want Schermerhorn to undercut herself.

Schermerhorn said with new vet in place she is doing well.

Gerber said they had worked well by Gary Smith as well.

He said the commissioners did not have to make a decision on the matter that night, but could ponder it a bit.

County reviewed agreement with city, county dog pound

By Tom Betz
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Sherman County commissioners reviewed the city, county dog pound report at their meeting on Thursday, and felt it was working well.

Kathy Schermerhorn was at the meeting to review her report.

County Commissioner Cynthia Strnad made a copy of the report for Commissioner Larry Enfield. Commissioner Max Linin was absent because of a the death of his mother.

Strnad said she felt the number of dogs was lower than she expected, but a bit higher on the county side.

Enfield said it looked good to have a savings of \$4,500 in the first year.

Strnad said she felt it was working well, and did not see any need to change things.

Schermerhorn said the animal shelter volunteer group had added some pens in a separate section.

Strnad said this is for the shelter pens and is not on the dog pound side.

Schermerhorn said the expanded pens need some gravel or rock to help around the area and to be a base in the pens.

Butch Vandiver, road and bridge superintendent, asked what size of material she was thinking about.

She said it needed to be smooth material for the animals to walk and lay down on.

Vandiver said what the county has is 2 inches and not smooth. He said the machines are not set up or smaller at this time. He said he might be able to get some material, but it would have some sand in it.

Enfield asked if this was for small dogs.

Schermerhorn said she was trying to get something that doesn't move.

Strnad said she was comfortable letting Butch and Kathy work it

out.

Vandiver said he would see what he could find.

Schermerhorn said she has wire down and put sand on it, but the wire is coming up and wants something to hold the wire down.

She said the dogs are not there for long as there is a pretty quick turnover.

Vandiver said he might find something with some clay in it that might hold better.

Schermerhorn said she had asked Sheriff Kevin Butts about bringing some prisoners out to help. She said the sheriff told her he could not do that on the for-profit dog pound, but she was going to ask if he could have them help with the volunteer side.

Schermerhorn said she would be meeting with the city on Monday.

Strnad said the Kanorado Co-op had donated a pallet of dog food to the animal shelter last year, and was working on that again.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Group of international tenors to perform at Colby

Three Male Tenors, called The International Tenors, will perform on at 2 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Sunday in the Cultural Arts Center, Colby. Western Plains Arts Association proudly presents them as they perform a varied program from opera to musical theatre to pop.

The International Tenors bring you everything you could hope to hear in a three tenor concert: opera, musical theater, operetta and pop... performed as only true tenors can, with authenticity and a little humor! An incredible show coupled with a multimedia video, the tenors perform on stage with a big screen showing scenes and footage of Italy, Spain, and France... and of your favorite artists. The audience will

almost believe they are sitting in a little café watching a great show in the Piazza... a wonderful little getaway!

The show includes a stirring tribute to the famous tenors of the past: Enrico Caruso, the world's first tenor superstar... Mario Lanza, Hollywood's biggest star in the 1950s and the world's first true crossover tenor... and, of course, Luciano Pavarotti, dubbed the voice of the century. They then perform an animated and fun-loving set of the most beloved three tenor songs and arias! "O Sole Mio," "La Donna Mobile" and the drinking song "Libiamo"... plus a medley of your favorite musical theater numbers, from shows such as "The Phantom

of the Opera," "West Side Story" and "Les Miserables." The International Tenors then switch gears and perform some of the world's greatest pop/opera hits! "Time to Say Goodbye" and "the Prayer" by the world's biggest selling opera singer, Andrea Bocelli; "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban; song selections from "Il Divo" and others. They then bring the show to a powerful conclusion with the song that made Pavarotti a household name... "Ness'un Dorma"!

Admission is by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket, or at the door; adults, \$12, students kindergarden through 12, \$6.

Area orchestra to entertain at Goodland next week

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will be presenting its last concert of the season "Spring Is In The Air" at the Goodland High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 15. Come out and enjoy some great music conducted by Andrew Salvador, the Kansas Federation of Music Clubs Outstanding Music Educator for 2011.

Salvador was selected for this award because of his work with students and his contribution to the orchestra through his conducting

and his expertise in percussion.

We will be playing selections from "A Chorus Line," "A Salute to the Big Bands," "Titanic," "Strike up the Band" and of course, a little bit of Bach and Shostakovich. We promise, you will not be able to keep your feet still as we swing through these selections.

The Orchestra is dedicating all proceeds from this concert to the Vernon Akers family to help offset expenses incurred when Josiah, violinist, required emergency surgery

and subsequent hospitalization.

So, come out and enjoy and forget about your tax day blues with some awesome musical entertainment. Admission is by season ticket or \$7 at the door, \$3 for children and Seniors.

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For more information contact Shelly, Tanya, Tina, Jessie, Johana or Kay at 785-899-2342