

Heating, air conditioning plans near bid stage

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Plans to replace the boiler with 17 forced air furnaces and accompanying air conditioning units is in the final design phase and should be sent out for bids in the next week.

Sherman County commissioners have been working with Jim Richmond of Energy Solutions Network of Nederland, Colo., about designing the heating and air conditioning system for the Sherman County Courthouse, and at a meeting on May 17 Richmond said he was about ready to send the design plans out to bid. The plans will include replacing and upgrading the lighting in the courthouse as part of the total project.

The commissioners contracted with Richmond to get a complete design product that could be sent out to bid both with a number of local contractors and others from around the area who have expressed interest in the project. Richmond said he would like to do as much as possible with local heating, air conditioning and electrical contractors. He asked the commissioners for a list of local contractors for each system to include on the bid lists.

The boiler in the basement of the courthouse has been red tagged, and cannot be turned on this fall, and the commissioners want to get the project moving to be able to heat the courthouse in the fall and have air conditioning for the summer.

Richmond said there are two old boilers in the basement, and with the asbestos problems his suggestion is to abandon them in place and work around them.

He said the plan is to do the project in two phases with the first phase this summer being installation of ductwork in the crawl space under the first floor. This would install the furnaces for the west side of the building, another furnace for the second floor and three furnaces on the south end. The air conditioning units would be put outside the north side and others to the left of the back door to the courthouse.

He said it would be best to get that phase going as early as possible, and have the existing air conditioning running this summer.

He said the second phase would be the third floor. He said he is trying to utilize existing duct work, and would put in two high efficiency furnaces to create two zones. On the north end he looked at the building and there is an old bathroom that might be used for three furnaces.

Commissioner Max Linin asked if Richmond was planning to replace all the air conditioning units.

Richmond said the plan is to have 17 furnaces and the same number of air conditioning units to allow for individual control and better efficiency.

Linin asked how many air conditioning units the courthouse has now.

Two, Richmond said. He said the load on

the various zones will be helped by having the smaller units. He said the furnaces are 98 percent efficient and the air conditioning is rated at 16-20 percent efficient.

Linin asked why the air conditioning units are rated that much different than the furnaces.

Richmond said all air conditioning units are rated at 20 percent, but it depends on which furnace they are paired with. He said it is known as a SEER Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked if the transoms will have to be replaced.

Richmond said the system will have return air ducts and will work with the existing transoms and even when the doors are closed.

Strnad said that was a problem with the existing system because with the doors closed the air would not move.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said he could see an advantage in going with the multiple systems that if you lost one it would only be a portion of the building.

Richmond said the systems will make the whole building more efficient and as the sun goes across the sky the need for heating or air conditioning is not the same as the day changes and only a portion will be running where needed.

The existing boiler was about 53 percent efficient where the furnaces are 98 percent efficient.

On the lighting Richmond said he went

through the entire building with William McKnight and has a number of fixtures picked out to be bid on. He said the lighting part is ready to go, but has to get it laid out with the duct work. The lights are not going to be surface mounted as they are now, but will be recessed into the ceiling he said.

He said the last part is having a structural engineer look over the plans because they will be putting holes in for duct work and vents. He said he did not feel there would be a problem, but need someone to check the building plans.

Enfield wanted to know when they could send the plans out for bids.

Richmond said a couple of weeks as the project was more complicated than he had thought.

"We need to get this done," Enfield said.

Richmond said he felt getting the crawl space furnaces in would be the first phase and the third floor would be phase two. He felt they could get more than half the work done in the basement during the summer and the new systems can come online as needed.

He said then the third floor will be done and ready when heat is needed.

The final phase will be the second floor, and he said it will have to be partially evacuated during construction.

He said they should be able to work around the scheduling, and there is not much work in the courtroom, but they do need to

put a return air duct in the corner.

On the roof would be holes for exhaust and incoming vents for three furnaces and five air conditioning units on the roof.

Enfield asked about the existing roof and if there are leaks.

McKnight said it is a rubber roof with rock on top, but it is a flat roof. He said the warranty runs out this year.

Richmond said the roof does not appear to drain well. He suggested the county consider putting on a roof to get a bit of slope from eight inches on the west down to six inches on the east to give it drainage.

Enfield asked Richmond to guess on the cost of a roof.

Richmond said he thought it was about 6,000 square feet.

Enfield said he was sure it would be about \$100,000 or more.

"Need to think about it since we are putting holes in the roof," Richmond said.

Enfield asked if the roof will handle the load of the air conditioning units.

Richmond said he did not see a problem as they are using residential size units.

Strnad asked how long the units should last.

Richmond said 20 to 25 years is the expected life.

Linin asked if there might be grant money to help with the roof.

Richmond said there might be as it would add insulation. He said it would pay for itself in energy savings.

Dialysis application runs into problems at state level

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Regional Medical Center application to open a dialysis clinic has been submitted to the state and federal offices the hospital board heard on Monday at their monthly meeting.

Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly said the application was sent in early May. He said from prior discussions the real hurdle was expected to be getting through the regional Medicare office in Kansas City. He said it turned out the Medicare office has been easy and the officials have said verbally they will approve the priority exception.

"They apparently agree there is a need," Jolly said.

He said at the state level Charles Moore, of the health facilities

branch of the Department of Health and Environment retired on May 13. Jolly said he got a letter apparently from Moore saying the state would approve one of the exceptions the hospital had requested and would not approve three other exceptions requested.

"We have a new director," Jolly said. "He has been around a long time, and our architects have put together a letter to explain the changes we are requesting. Hopefully we have an agreement that the plan meets the intent of the guidelines even if it doesn't meet the letter of the guidelines."

"We may need some help to get them to see a bigger picture."

He said if they can clear this up the clinic construction can begin soon. In other operational reports:

• Jolly said the hospital aircraft was back from Phase 1, 2, 3 and 4 inspections, but Thursday had a fuel controller fail. He said a mechanic is looking at this.

Brenda McCants, board chairman, asked if the hospital was using a charter plane in the meantime.

Jolly said they will be charting through the week. He said the hospital pilot Dave Marlow is not flying the charter, but is monitoring the repairs.

• Jolly said the legislature adjourned with all kinds of things in disarray, and there has not been a decision from the state supreme court on tort reform.

He said the Medicaid match will change in July. It has been 70 percent federal and 30 percent state, but will go down to 42 percent federal and

58 percent state. "This will put a lot more stress on the already stressed program," he said. "I feel our rates are in tack for this calendar year."

• Another big issue was the Kan Ed program that provides Internet access to hospitals, school and hospitals. He said there were efforts to kill the program that has been at \$10 million for 10 years. He said the opponents to keeping the program were telephone companies, and wondered if they were in line to take over the Kan Ed backbone and would then turn around and sell the service at a much higher rate.

He said Rep. Rick Billinger came by and Jolly talked to him about the program. He said there were some interesting arguments that it is subsidized and hospitals are getting rich on the program. "I told him I

doubted anyone was getting rich and it probably was less than one percent of what they are underpaying our Medicare," he said.

Jolly said he told Billinger the program has run efficiently, and changes would hit the rural hospitals harder than anyone else. "Over the next year I suggested to Rick we get together and talk to the representatives about how important this is," he said.

McCants said it was good it was on hold for a year.

• Jolly said on recruitment the hospital had a second site visit from a physician candidate. He said the person was well received by the physicians, and her visit was productive. He said they are waiting to get information together and will probably give her an offer.

He said there are a couple of other visits coming up and will have a vacancy coming up in the emergency room. He said he has talked with Centra Health in Denver about the search for a person to share between Burlington and Goodland to replace Larissa Coon. He said the discussion is to base the person through Allied, but be based out here and live and work between the two hospitals.

In looking for a medical director for the dialysis unit he said the University of Kansas has one or two who want to know more about the clinic and will include Dr. Doolittle in a teleconference call. Jolly said they hope to reach an agreement similar to the oncologist we have now, and be able to offer a nephrology clinic.

Stop throwing away your money!
ADVERTISE WITH US!

The Goodland Star-News
1205 Main, Goodland, KS
(785) 899-2338

Bird City Times
Box 220, Bird City, KS
(785) 734-2659

THE NORTON TELEGRAM
215 S. Kansas, Norton, KS
(785) 877-3361

The Country Advocate
155 W. Fifth Colby, KS
(785) 462-3963

Colby FREE PRESS

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, KS
(785) 475-2206

The Saint Francis Herald
Box 1050, St. Francis, KS
(785) 332-3162

**We'll help you sell your stuff!
Call us today!**

Why Not Travel to Denver for Your Dentistry?

*Especially when we'll pay for your hotel! **



As a mature adult, your dental needs are more complex. If you have a healthy smile but want to enhance it, Dr. Barotz is known for his exquisite cosmetic dentistry including **perfection in porcelain veneers** and **Invisalign** clear orthodontics. If you have serious concerns about the health of your mouth, or have loose or missing teeth, Dr. Barotz, with his 30 years experience, can provide **Total Dental Solutions** which will eliminate the need to be referred from doctor to doctor to doctor if you want to save your teeth, beautify them, or replace missing teeth with bionic dental implants. Call us today for a complimentary consultation.

Barotz Dental provides:

- **Laser Gum Therapy**, which eliminates the need for cut and stitch gum surgery for patients with gum disease who want to save their teeth.
- Custom **Drop Dead Gorgeous Dentures** which provide denture wearers the same exquisite cosmetics provided for people with natural teeth.
- **Dental Implants** to lock down or eliminate dentures or replace one or more missing teeth.
- **No Fear Sleep Dentistry** if fear has been keeping you away from the dentist.

Your care can be completed much faster since it is all done by one doctor in one location.

Immediate appointments available.

Call today for your complimentary consultation!

BAROTZ DENTAL
Total Dental Solutions

Charles Barotz, DDS
303 16th Street Mall, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado 80202

Visit DenverDentist.com or call us at (303) 532-1151

**Hotel stay included for patients with extensive treatment.*

Light the way to a cure

Keep the fire of hope burning by purchasing a luminaria candle in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten this dreaded disease.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF SHERMAN COUNTY

Friday & Saturday – June 3 & 4
7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
at the High School Track behind Vo-Tech

Complete this form and send it along with your donation to:
The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Avenue, Goodland, KS 67735

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Daytime Phone: _____

Please join us for the luminaria ceremony at 9 p.m.
\$10.00 per luminaria please!

In honor of _____ In memory of _____
 In honor of _____ In memory of _____
 In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to: The American Cancer Society