

County health director turns in resignation

COUNTY, from Page 1

change positions. Kosmatka said she did not know anyone right now. In other business the commissioners:

- Approved three emergency vehicle designations including one for Keith Mannis, the rural fire chief. The vote was 2-1 with Strnad voting No. She has voted No on all emergency vehicle designations on the basis they are not really needed, and the people do not need to be speeding.
- Discussed getting started on a property tax sale for those properties at least three years delinquent on their property taxes. County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she felt that would include any property with

unpaid taxes from 05, 06, 07 and possibly some in 08. She said she will draft an advertisement for bids for the abstract work. Commissioner Enfield asked when a tax sale could be held. Selby said it will take several months to get through the abstracts and publication requirements, but felt a tax sale could be held in the spring. Strnad said she felt the county should be doing a tax sale every year. Selby said once the tax sale is held it would be good for the commissioners to review the list of properties to see if it is worth doing the tax sale.

- Heard that Brock Abbey has passed the Kansas bar exam.
- Are looking for people to serve

on the Goodland Regional Medical Center Board and High Plains Mental Health Board. The commissioners approved putting an ad in the newspaper seeking applications for these positions.

- Discussed the bills and the amount for indigent medical care and legal fees. Noted that Darrel Schrader has finished his part of the mowing.

The commissioners approved the bills totaling \$87,050.

- Approved the list for holidays for next year based on the list from district court. Strand suggested adding one personal holiday to the list that employees could take during the year. She said they could take their birthday off or some other day as a personal holiday. The motion was approved unanimously.

The holidays for next year include Monday, Jan. 2, for New Years Day; Monday, Jan. 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Monday, Feb. 20, President's day; Monday, May 28, Memorial Day; Wednesday, July 4, Independence Day; Monday, Sept., Labor Day, Monday, Oct. 8, Columbus Day; Monday, Nov. 12, Veterans Day; Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23 for Thanksgiving; and Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 25 for Christmas.

- Approved increasing the mileage reimbursement rate to 51 cents per mile to stay in line with what the state is paying.
- Approved the General Accounting resolution to allow the county to work on a cash basis. This resolution is passed each year.
- Decided not to open bids on

allowing people to pick through the incoming trash for recyclable metals. Enfield said Mark Felzien, transfer station supervisor, had said he does not want to let people search for the recyclable soft metals because of safety issues. Marshall Hatfield, who had approached the commissioners about bidding on getting the recyclable metals said he felt there was a lot of money for the county. The safety concerns are about having people poking around where they could get injured and put the county at risk. A suggestion was made to consider presorting the recyclable metals. Enfield said the county employees could sort that out and allow

people to bid on what is found. Later a closed door meeting was held with Mark Felzien and Larry Webb of the transfer station. After the commissioners returned to open session a motion was made that any metals that could go through the bailer be pulled out for recycle, and any soft metals employees see can be pulled out for a separate pile for recycle. She materials will be sold, and the money goes back into the general fund. Felzien said he would find a way to have a special place to put the soft metals. The commissioners adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next commission meeting will be at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Colby power plant facing catalytic converter problem

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press kbottrell@nwkans.com A federal regulation that goes into effect in 2013 could cost Colby anywhere from \$200,000 to \$600,000. Under a rule passed by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2010, the city will have to outfit the generators at the power plant with catalytic converters to control pollution. Colby City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said those generators are only used an average about 88 hours a year. The city buys power from Midwest Energy and uses the generators only during peak demand, such as the hottest days of the summer when many residents are running air conditioners. The generators provide a backup in an emergency. "We get a better rate because we

can generate in the summer or if the line goes down," she said. This year, the city had the generators running six to seven hours on the hottest days. Despite this low usage, Armstrong said, the city still falls under the Clean Air Act rule. Armstrong said the city got an initial estimate last year that put the retrofit at about \$200,000. However, this week she received a proposed contract from an energy firm, who said they would do the project for \$633,835. Armstrong brought that contract to show Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, who stopped in town last week. "I just happened to get that contract on the week they were going to be in town," she said. Since the proposed contract was so much higher than the initial estimate, Armstrong said she would

seek out other, cheaper ones if the city ends up having to install the converters. Armstrong is hoping there will be an exception made for cities like Colby, but she and the city will start setting money aside this year. Electricity rates would likely have to go up to pay for the expense, she said. Armstrong said members of the Kansas Municipal Utilities Association and the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency met with the EPA to see if they could get an exemption for low-use cities like Colby, but they were refused. According to the EPA, the regulation will decrease the amount of toxins put into the air by 1,000 tons per year. However, the cost of implementation is estimated at \$744 million. In the meantime, Armstrong encouraged Colby citizens to write to

Senators Roberts and Moran and Rep. Tim Huelskamp about the issue. Any effort to get the rule changed would have to take place on the federal level, she said, because Kansas agencies can't overrule the EPA. "The mayor and I are going to write the president," she said. "I don't know if he'll ever see it, but it's worth a try." Roberts' address is 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510. Moran's address is 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Huelskamp's address is 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington D.C., 20515. The power plant recently celebrated its centennial anniversary. It supplied all the cities power for decades when there were no private companies operating in the area. The current generators are not state-

of-the-art, Armstrong said, but they work and they are well-maintained. There are six generators, the newest was installed in 1970 and the oldest

in 1952. Armstrong said she knew of at least 55 other Kansas cities that would be affected by this rule.

matters of record

Sherman County Bastille
The following people were booked into the Sherman County Bastille:

- July 29: Michael Lee Doxon, 23, Goodland, arrested by sheriff's deputy for identity theft.
- July 30: Ryan Lee Doyle, 31, Goodland, arrested by city police for domestic battery - physical contact.
- Bobbie Jo Doyle, 37, Goodland, arrested by city police for domestic battery.
- July 31: Stacey J. Yarbrough, 29, Goodland, arrested by state trooper for violation of protection order.
- Aug. 1: Curtis J. Flathau, 21, Goodland, arrested by city police for disorderly conduct and theft.
- Blake W. Feikert, 34, St. Francis, arrested by Cheyenne County Sher-

iff Office for arrest and detain. Mellanie M. Goodwin, 37, Goodland, arrested by city police for domestic battery.

- Aug. 2: Mandy J. Helstrom, 45, Sharon Springs, arrested by Wallace County Sheriff's Office for disorderly.
- Mark Helstrom, 46, Sharon Springs, arrested by Wallace County Sheriff's Office for disorderly.
- Raymond M. McKaskle, 43, Colby, arrested by sheriff's deputy on arrest and detain.
- Aug. 4: Jeri Merchant, 19, Bethune, Colo., arrested by city police for criminal use of financial card and theft.
- Aug. 6: Andrew Miller, 21, Goodland, arrested by state trooper for driving under influence.
- Aug. 7: Antwon Jones, 33, Both-

ell, Wash., arrested by state trooper for driving while suspended.

- Aug. 8: Avery Pena, 37, Goodland, taken into protective custody by sheriff's deputy.
- Aug. 9: Ryan A. Caille, 29, Colorado Springs, arrested by state trooper for possession of hallucinogenic drug and intent to store.
- Bradley W. Dean, 26, Colorado Springs, arrested by state trooper for possession of narcotics.
- Aug. 10: Dennis L. Wolfrum, 39, Goodland, arrested by city police for domestic battery.
- Angela Delano, 28, Goodland, arrested by city police for domestic battery.
- Lillian Bunting, 19, Goodland, taken into protective custody by city police.
- Aug. 11: Billy Dehoyos, 18, Good-

land, arrested by city police for disorderly conduct and domestic battery.

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