

# Tech College names liaison to Sherman County

By Tom Betz  
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With an eye toward improving communication between Northwest Tech and Sherman County, the college has named a board member to be a liaison contact.

Dr. Ed Mills, college president, and Dick Short were at the county commissioner meeting on Tuesday to announce that Short has been named the liaison to the county.

Dr. Mills said at the August college board meeting the board did a reorganization and named Short as assistant treasurer. He said the board made other assignments and named Short to be liaison to Sherman County.

"We do not know what might be coming," Mills said, "and felt this was a way to improve communication."

"I am honored to be assistant treasurer," Short said, "and to be asked to do what I can to help."

Mills said the change gives the college a 25-member board - the largest in the state - and feels Short will be a good connection between the county and college.

He handed each commissioner and County Clerk Janet Rumpel an invitation to the upcoming fall conference to be held the morning of Friday, Oct. 21. He said it will be a morning only event, and will include a representative from Gov. Brownback's office to talk about the Rural Opportunity Zone. Apple representatives and other speakers are planned for the program, he said.

Commissioner Larry Enfield asked about the proposed grant to remodel the county telephone building.

Mills said the college did not get the grant, but that Diane Stiles is reapplying.

He said the college enrollment is at 473, and believes this to be the largest enrollment of the decade. He said this was a 23 percent increase over last year.

He said he has had some good notes from the Board of Regents.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked if the increase will help keep the existing state money for the college.

"I would not say that," Mills said. "We keep adding programs to bring in students and keep the increase go-



Workers are putting in forms and leveling ground for the Crop Production Services storage building in the Goodland Industrial Park west of Finley Motors. Downtown workers are beginning the process of laying the foundation for a building behind the existing Kansasland at 13th and Main.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

ing. We want to get to over 500 next year. Our capacity is about 600.

"We are looking for new ideas. The state hasn't sent any money to us. We have a flat amount, and probably no increase next year. All we can get is from the students and grants."

He said the athletic programs are going well, and the board has added women's wrestling for a spring.

"We are trying not to be hidden over there," Short said. "The college has lots of good things going, and we want to get the building on Main."

Mills said the scholarship investment program has been huge and he appreciates the county's help.

Strnad said the county will have the 17th Street building available after the first of the year if that would help the college.

Mills said he would keep that in mind, and thanked the commissioners for their help.

In other business the commissioners:

- Held the public hearing on the county budget for next year. The published budget shows a decrease in property tax of 3.478 mills from

69.445 down to 65.967. The total county assessed valuation increased from \$63,441,645 to \$65,695,753 (\$2,254,108). No one appeared to question or discuss the budget. After the hearing Strnad made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Commissioner Max Linin and approved unanimously.

- Three Goodland High School students came to ask the commissioners to waive the transfer station fees for their upcoming Clean Up Day to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 9. The students were Justin Cates, Tyler Fisher and Katelyn Coon. The commissioners said they thought it was a great program the students do to help clean up yards of many elderly people in town, and agreed to waive the transfer station fees.

- Approved a revised contract for the health supply trailer as presented by Gary Winter of the Regional Homeland Security Council.

- Acknowledged receipt of \$479 for Conservation Reserve Program land out by the transfer station and \$1,381 for land at Soldiers Memorial Park. Received a check for \$25 from Gary Crouch for a fire burn.

- Approved emergency vehicle designations for Matt Miller, Justin Dole and Chris Zimmerman. Linin made the motion to approve, seconded by Enfield. The vote was 2-1 with Strnad voting No on the principle the emergency vehicle designations are not necessary.

- Appointed Neal Schritter as Grant Township Treasurer.

- Discussed the recording equipment for the courtroom, and Strnad said she would talk to Judge Scott Showalter to see if he has contacted a local person about bidding on the project. A question was asked if the county has money for this project, and Rumpel said it would come out of capital improvement where they have \$231,314. The project is estimated to cost around \$10,000.

- Approved neighborhood revitalization projects for Melvin and Marsha Sieck for a 60x200 building; for Gary and Nancy Wright for an 80x0115x20 building behind Kansasland; and for Northwest Kansas Technical College for a new house at 1307 Broadway Ave.

- Heard Kaiser Sprinkler has agreed to have their insurance pay for

the Kanorado fire truck that burned up in the fire northwest of town on Tuesday, Oct. 4. It was a Kaiser crew welding in the south field when the winds carried sparks into the wheat stubble and started the fire.

- Held a five minute closed door session with the commissioners and Rumpel on a personnel matter.

- Paid the first half of the months

of the new Kansas attorneys.

Carol Green, clerk of the Kansas Supreme Court, administered the Kansas Oath and Timothy M. O'Brien, clerk of the Federal Court, administered the Federal Oath.

Bar Association President Rachael Pirner, of Wichita, presented the newly admitted attorneys with a complimentary, one-year membership to the organization.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. The next meeting will be 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

## Goodland man among newly sworn-in attorneys

The Kansas Bar Association hosted a welcome reception on Friday, Sept. 30, to honor 190 new admittees of the Kansas Bar, including Brock Abbey of Goodland.

The reception immediately followed the swearing-in ceremony, which was at the Topeka Performing Arts Center.

Chief Justice Lawton Nuss, of the Kansas Supreme Court, presided over the swearing-in

of the new Kansas attorneys. Carol Green, clerk of the Kansas Supreme Court, administered the Kansas Oath and Timothy M. O'Brien, clerk of the Federal Court, administered the Federal Oath.

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# Sherman County Sheriff asks commissioners about raises policy

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Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts was at the county commissioner meeting on Tuesday to talk about recent raises given to the dispatchers, and wanted a clarification on the county wage policy.

He asked about doing the discussion in a closed door session, but the commissioners felt if it was about general policy rather than specific employees, it would be better in open session. Sheriff Butts said that was OK with him.

Sheriff Butts said with the raises approved for the dispatchers they were making more than his road deputies.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said Crissy Livengood, supervisor of the county central dispatch, had made a strong case.

Butts asked if Livengood had come up with the hourly figures reported in *The Goodland Star-News*.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said the commissioners did not see the figures and said it would be OK with her recommendation. He said they had asked if she had the money in her budget and she had said she did.

Butts said he felt he could make it work in his budget to take his deputies up to \$17 an hour.

He asked how the budget hearing had gone.

Rumpel said it had been approved as presented. Enfield said the only thing changed in the sheriff's budget was taking out a raise for the sheriff.

Butts said he was not surprised at that since he had not had a raise for three years.

"I can make it work," he said. "I guess I do not understand the raise policy. My guys put their lives on the line every year."

Enfield said Livengood has to come in and ask because she is not

an elected official like the sheriff.

Strnad said the commissioners had been told the sheriff could do anything as long as it was within his budget.

"I do not say I can do what I want to do," Butts said, calling Strnad "Lady." "I follow the law. I will show you some respect if you will show me some respect."

"Am I right that in your budget you can set your wages anywhere you want," Enfield said. "As long as it is in the budget. It is our understanding the elected officials can do what they want within their budgets."

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said in past years the county commissioners had made a recommendation about raises.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the commissioners passed a resolution establishing a salary range for each classification of employee. She said she was not sure these are going to fit under that resolution.

She said the commissioners had not done a resolution in several years and had tried to adjust it so it does not need to be done every year.

Enfield said some of the figures Livengood had given them came back higher than what the commissioners expected. "We did not have the exact numbers and said we would approve what she recommended."

Strnad asked what the deputies are starting at for wages.

Butts said they start at \$15 an hour.

"We know we want to raise the wages to keep good people," Strnad said. "We have a good benefit package."

Butts said he felt there was something wrong with the dispatchers making almost \$2 an hour higher than his road deputies.

Strnad asked if he could prepare something for the next meeting on Tuesday.

"Yes I can," Butts said, "and show how it fits in the budget."

Attorney Selby asked if the departments can have a print out of what was approved.

Rumpel said with the approval of the budget she will go back and print them out.

With the raises question answered, Sheriff Butts wanted to turn to the question about the sheriff's department changing to 800 mhz radios.

He said the county radio repeater was hit by lightning this summer, and on some days it is working great and others not so great.

He said insurance will pay for all but about \$500 of the estimated \$8,000 cost.

He said Jason Moses would be back on Wednesday to talk to the new police chief, Cliff Couch, about the system.

Butts said each deputy would have a mobile radio, and five vehicles would need radios installed.

Strnad asked if there was something the county could do about lease purchase on the radios.

Butts said Justin has given him the paperwork to get started on to allow the county to do a lease purchase.

He said the narrowbanding of the existing system may cause a loss of coverage, and the county might have to add a second repeater.

He said with the 800 mhz all the signals would go out to the KDOT tower at Edson.

Enfield asked Butts to find out if the insurance will give the county the money if they are not going to replace the repeater.

Strnad asked what the timeframe would be.

Butts said he felt the county needs to do this as soon as possible.

Enfield said it sounds like it would not be worth putting money into

the old style and go to the 800 mhz system since most of the area has gone to this system.

Butts said his officers cannot talk to the state troopers because they are on 800 mhz.

The commissioners gave Butts permission to start the paperwork.

At the end of the discussion Butts apologized for calling Strnad 'Lady' and said he knows she is a commissioner, but said he feels she does not respect or like him.

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Weight & Fortune Coin Machines (National Automatic Machine Co.); Fuller - Warren double side Wood Cook Stove (Postal Stewart); 2 - Wood Washing Machines (1 double & 1 single); The Emerson Oats from Wheat Seed Cleaners; Indian Pottery (Matte & Stone Arrow Head); 11 String Symphony Guitar (C.K. Nutsen); Assorted Boxes of Buffalo Chips (fuel for stove); Horse drawn well drilling equipment; Patco Heart-shaped Lighted Sign; Honest Weight Machine (Porcelain); Arcade 10cent 2.R Esco Riding Horse; Wilson Estate Fairchild Parlor Stove; Kitchen Gem double side Range; Riverside Parlor Stove; Coachman & Hall Co. Cigar Cutter; Buffalo Meat Grinder & other grinders; Bank American Change Maker (1900's); High Wheel Fireman's Reel; High Wheel Farm Wagon w/cover; Yell County Arkansas Indian Bowl; 1890 wainscoting Wardrobe; 8 Stained Glass; Church Windows; 3 Single Seat Doctor Buggies; 2 Double Seat Buggies; Miniature Wagons - Houses - Town; Assorted High Back Saddles; 2 - Kitchen Cabinets; Copper Tub Washing Machine; Treadle Sewing Machine; Kitchen Cabinet Bases; Post Office Wall Sections; Post Office Bench; Church Deacon Chair; Train Depot Benches; Oak Stroller High Chair; Bowl & Pitcher; Upright Pianos; Flour Bins; Wagon Seats; Hat Pins; School Bells; Assorted Branding Irons; Walnut dresser; Wash Stand; Folding Baby Bed 1890's; Wood Bowls; Tin w/oak trim Bath Tub; Rope Maker; Pedestal Bathroom Sink; Assorted Walking Canes; Assorted Bow Back Chairs; Buffalo Dental #9 Bellows; Dentist Chair; Wood Pulleys; Assorted Rockers; Bogs Cream Separator; Old School Desks; Churn; Old Mirror; Leather Fly Nets; Old Record Player; Old Radios; 6 ft. Show Case; Barber Chairs; 4 ft. Show Case; Round Oak Table; Pine Cabinet; Assorted Books; Apple Peeler; Sausage Stuffer; Wash Boards; Assorted Dampers; Shoe Lathe; Old Typewriters; Cast Iron Boilers; Cast Iron Kettles; Bachelor Dresser; Oak Dresser; Forge; Sleigh Bells; Brass Basket; Sad Iron; Buggy Lights; Lanterns; Lamps & Shades; Dishes; Scales; Pump Organ; Square Oak Table; Guitar / Mandolin; Ironstone Dishes; Kitchen Cabinets; Butter Churn; Spurs & Bits; Coffee Grinder; Cream Separators; Pumps; Dress Form; Bar Stools (1940's); Ice Box; Old IHC Tractor  
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