

Pickup bids cause purchasing policy change

By Tom Betz
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 The Sherman County commissioners opened bids from three dealers on Tuesday and after voting one way to purchase the pickups separately, the commissioners held a special meeting and decided to buy all three from the lowest bidder. Butch Vandiver, public works manager, brought in the bids for the commissioners to open. The bids were from Finley Motors, Herl Chevrolet and Dan Brenner Ford. Commissioner Cynthia Strnad asked Vandiver why the county was not looking at 2011 models. Vandiver said he was told by all three dealers the price of the 2011 was higher for the pickups, and they were harder to locate. Dan Brenner was at the meeting and said the cost for the 2011 was a

bit higher than the 2012. He said the government price incentives make the prices much different. The commissioners compared the three bids with Herls \$62,505, Brenner \$60,885 and Finley \$56,708. Commissioner Larry Enfield asked about the money in the budget to purchase the three vehicles. Vandiver said he had checked out the money before requesting the bids. County Clerk Janet Rumpel agreed there was enough money to purchase the vehicles. Vandiver said he was going to get rid of the two three-quarter ton ones and get rid of one red half-ton. He said Rod wants to keep the white one. Strnad said she had an idea to buy one from each of the dealers. Commissioner Max Linin asked

if that could be done. "I can do that for you," Brenner said. "I would have no problem with that." Enfield asked if it would be better if the three were all the same. Brenner said the county has both brands now. Linin suggested getting the two three-quarter ton pickups from one of the dealers and then the half-ton from Dan Brenner. "We have three good dealers," Strnad said. "It would be nice to support them all." Linin said looking at the bids there was not a lot of difference. "That way all are supported," Enfield said. Linin said they could get the half-ton extended cab from Dan Brenner and then buy one three-quarter ton from Finley and one from Herls. All would be 2012 models.

Strnad called Herls and talked to Jim Haigler and told him the commissioners were thinking about splitting the bid and buying one pickup from each dealer. She asked if he would be okay with that. Jim said it would be okay with him and he would let Jay Herl know. Strnad then called Finley Motors and talked to Steve Sitton and asked him about splitting the bid to buy one from them. Steve said it was okay with him and he would talk to Danny Archer. Coming back to the motion to purchase the pickups Linin made the motion to buy one from each dealer, seconded by Enfield. The motion passed unanimously with Strnad voting in favor. Later on Tuesday, Commissioner Enfield called *The Goodland Star-News* office to say the commissioners were going to hold a special

meeting to reconsider the pickup purchase. He said he had a discussion with Archer, who did not feel it was right as he had the lowest total bid on all three pickups. Enfield and Vandiver went back to the courthouse to review the bids and discovered quite a difference in price on the three-quarter ton pickups, with Herls being about \$2,000 higher than Finley. Enfield said they found Finley had bid on a regular cab half-ton instead of an extended cab pickup because of some confusion in what Finley was told. Linin joined Enfield at the courthouse and Strnad was called on the speaker phone. The commissioners discussed the situation and agreed they had acted hastily on the first motion. The commissioners voted to rescind the first motion and to approve a motion purchasing all three pick-

ups from Finley Motors. They had Finley adjust his bid to include the extra \$1,900 for the extended cab. With that addition Finley Motors was the low bidder at \$58,608. Enfield said the commissioners agreed to change the bidding procedure in the future to try to avoid such a situation. He said the idea is to have the bids come in a few days before the commission meeting and open them in the County Clerk's office with Vandiver, Rumpel and a third person who could be a commissioner to be a witness. Once the bids have been opened they can be faxed or e-mailed to the commissioners to give them a chance to review the bids before the next meeting. The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday.

The Hunt family to preform at Colby College on Sunday

What do you get when you mix world-ranked step dancing, champion fiddling and a charming, amazingly talented family? The answer: a high-powered, energetic and refreshing experience with the Hunt Family! The Hunt family will present a program at 2 p.m. Mountain Time on Sunday in the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center. The Hunt Family performs Celtic, bluegrass, inspirational and original music, offering a unique blend of diversity to each show. In addition to fiddling and step dancing, this amazing family of nine also plays guitar, bass, keys, drums and mandolin. The Hunts have performed from Scotland to Ireland to Canada and all over the United States. They have opened for the Virginia Symphony and performed for Queen Elizabeth during her most recent visit to the United States. They have played at performing arts centers, festivals and schools across the country, and entertained audiences for three years on four main stages at Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

The Hunts offer educational workshops in strings, fiddle, guitar, songwriting and Irish step dance. They have made multiple appearances at the World Championships of Irish step dancing in Scotland and Ireland, and debuted on the Tony Danza show. The goal of their school shows and workshops is to educate participants and promote the arts while instilling a passion for music, song and dance. This family show performance is presented by Western Plains Arts Association, and admission is by season ticket or at the door: Adults, \$20; Students, K-12, \$10. Special group rates of \$5 per student are available for groups of 20 or more with prior arrangement. The Hunts have produced and recorded five CDs: "Table for Two," "Dance in the Field," "Be Thou My Vision," "Christmas with the Hunts" and "Hearts Held High." They have authored and published "101 Sizzling Tips for Excellence on the Violin and Fiddle Book" and they have produced "The Hunt Family" on DVD.



Quickbooks file frustration answers

For those of you with large QuickBooks files who have been frustrated by the limited effectiveness of the Cleanup Company Data function, I have good news for you. I received my QuickBooks 2012 software a couple of weeks ago, and it looks like Intuit finally got it right. They've renamed the function Condense Data but kept it in the same location under the File menu. In addition to the Condense Data function, Intuit added lots of other features in the 2012 version. To learn more, go to <http://quickbooks.com/pro/whats-new/>.

jamie morphew
 • business tips
 This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting, sponsored in part by Sherman County. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphew at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

Applications accepted for assistance program

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is accepting applications under the Water Right Transition Assistance Pilot Project Program until Tuesday, Nov. 15. The transition program is a voluntary, incentive-based plan that permanently retires privately held irrigation water rights in exchange for payment by the state of Kansas. It is intended to help restore aquifers and recover stream flows in critically depleted target areas. The designated target areas include Rattlesnake Creek sub basin, Prairie Dog Creek basin and six "High Priority Areas" of Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4. The program rules and regulations, target area maps, application forms and other details are posted on the Division of Conservation website at <http://www.sec.ks.gov/node/11>. "Water Right Transition Assistance Program provides irrigators an opportunity to stabilize water systems while being compensated at market rates," Steve Frost, Kansas

Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation Water Conservation programs manager, said. "It works well for producers who are interested in estates or trusts, or looking for ways to generate cash flow from one area of a farming operation. Even just portions of water rights can be retired, and dryland farming is allowed after the transition." The transition program is designed to help meet State Water Plan goals regarding aquifer depletion levels and stream recovery, as well as to maintain interstate compact obligations and avoid water right impairment issues. The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation administers the program and Groundwater Management Districts and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources assist with the implementation. For more information, contact Steve Frost at (785) 296-8964 or steve.frost@kda.ks.gov.

corrections

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