

Board needs OK to get maps

By VERONICA MONIER
The Airport Board needed to know what kind of base should be used for the apron project so plans could be completed.

Airport Board Chairman Ivan Kingham told the city's Finance Committee Monday afternoon that B & G Consultants, the firm hired to engineer plans for the project, gave the board two options.

He said the first was a five-inch concrete base over compacted earth and the second was a five-inch concrete base over a four-inch cement-treated base. The estimated costs were \$137,932.05 for the compacted earth base and \$156,662.55 for the cement-treated base.

He said he hadn't yet received the maps and plans on how everything would be laid out. He said preliminary maps were given to the board, but were sent back before he saw them after corrections were made.

Mr. Kingham said the engineers recommended the cement-treated base. They also gave an estimate for an additive alternative on hangar approaches, which would include construction of a drainage area. That would cost \$39,951.20 for a total of \$215,028.25 for the compacted-earth estimate and \$45,891.20 for \$239,698.75 for the treated-cement estimate.

In either case, the board would need approval from the Kansas Department of Transportation to have constructed drainage, rather than natural drainage.

"Personally, I'm a little more inclined to go with the cement underlay because the engineer recommends it," he said. "But it's up to the city and county."

Councilman George Jones, who is on the Finance Committee, said he agreed and that the difference in price would pay for itself in the

long run. Mr. Kingham said when the decision was made on whether to go with the compacted earth base or the cement base, B & G Consultants would send the final plans.

Councilman Jerry Hawks, also a committee member, said the minutes of the last airport board meeting suggested they were ready to go out for bids and wanted to know if it was true.

Mr. Kingham said it was not, and they wouldn't be ready for bids until May.

County Commissioner John Miller, who attended the meeting, wanted to know if they were definitely going to get the grant funds from the state. The state money should pay for 90 percent of the project making the city and county each liable for 5 percent, or about \$12,500 each if they approve the project.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the state money was there to use if the project was approved. He said the city had budgeted for the project, but heard the county hadn't.

Mr. Miller said the county didn't put it in its budget, but the money was available from economic development funds.

Mr. Hawks said he would take the information to the city council and recommend the concrete base.

Mr. Miller said, on the county side, nothing would be approved until they saw the plans and maps.

"This is not the procedure we want done," he said. "Rob is the appointed go-between because he has more knowledge about these kinds of things and we trust him. He should have seen the maps and plans before they were sent back to the engineers."

Mr. Miller said the county would pay for copies of the maps and plans so everyone would have a copy.



And the show must go on...

Northern Valley Junior High School fifth and eighth grade classes presented their class plays on Monday evening in the Long Island gymnasium. The fifth graders put on a country western musical "Saturday Night at the Op'ry". Pictured at right is fifth grader "Heidi Pearl", also known as Skyler Harris. Members of the eighth grade class (above) presented "Flaky Snow and the Seven Dorks". From left is Joni Hilburn as "Hokey", David Harris as "Sappy", Richie Kersch as "Queasy", Bryce Marble as "Jock", Amy Shearer as "Rashful", Amanda Turman as "Jumpy", Stephanie Tubbs as "Creepy" and Kelsey Kinderknecht as "Flaky Snow".

— Telegram photos by Susie Marble



Storm spotters learn the basics at class

By VERONICA MONIER
Storm spotters and potential storm spotters received a few good tips during a basic class on March 11 in the Norton community room.

The class, sponsored by the National Weather Service in Goodland and Norton County emergency preparedness, was one of many being held throughout northwest Kansas.

David Floyd, warning coordinator meteorologist for the weather service, said the five spotter challenges are to remain safe at all times, assess the storm layout, assess the storm and cloud features, accurately report and learn and have fun.

Storm spotters are volunteers who observe and report severe weather. They help add credibility to public reactions. Anyone can be a storm spotter, he said.

"Doppler radar is a great tool, but it has limitations," he said. "It doesn't sample near the ground

and it can't tell whether a tornado has touched down. Storm spotters can."

Mr. Floyd said a severe storm can produce a tornado, large hail, wind damage that can take down branches and trees, and wind speed of 58 miles per hour or more. He said spotters should report ponding or flooding, dime-size hail or larger, severe wind damage and funnels and cloud walls.

He said spotters who call in should report who they are, what has occurred, when it occurred, how long it lasted and where the spotter is compared to where the storm occurred.

When talking about safety, he told the crowd some catchphrases like "Get inside, don't get fried", "Turn around, don't drown", "Get into your home or get hit with a stone", and "Begin to flee or get hit by debris".

Mr. Floyd talked about different kinds of storms. He said the up-

draft, which implies a cloud formation zone, is where to find the funnels, tornadoes and wall clouds. The downdraft is a cloud dissipater and is associated with rain, hail and damaging winds.

He described the different cloud formations, but said wall clouds and areas where clouds are converging are the ones to watch closely. He said scud clouds can look like wall clouds, but aren't dangerous.

"Things can be misleading and aren't always what they seem," he said. "Spotters need to always pay attention and stay safe. Part of that is always knowing where you are compared to where the storm is. Some good advice is to learn to recognize major parts of a storm and try not to make snap judgments."

Spotters who missed the class in Norton may attend it in Oberlin at 7 p.m. in the Decatur Community High School cafeteria on Monday,

April 19, or in Hill City at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the courthouse.

County wellness fair nearly here

The Norton National Guard Armory will be the site of this year's Norton County Wellness Fair. Activities will go from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, in support of the KQNK Hi Plains Expo.

Kansas Highway Patrol troopers will be on hand to check to see if infant and youth safety seats have been properly installed in vehicles. The roll-over simulator will be on display as well.

There will also be nutrition information available as well as the opportunity to win and/or purchase a radon test kit. This allows families to determine if they are being exposed to a dangerous level of radon, which is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. today. Northwest Kansas has reported numerous cases of high levels of radon in local homes.

The Norton County Health De-

Home ed
Tranda Watts,
Extension
specialist



health-related exhibit that you would like to present, please contact the Norton County Extension service for further information.

The 2004 Wellness Fair is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension, Norton County Family and Consumer Sciences Program Development Committee and the participating agencies in support of the KQNK Hi-Plains Expo.

If you have further questions about the Fair, contact the Norton County Extension office or e-mail twatts@oznet.ksu.edu.

Childhood screening set for March 26

Eisenhower Elementary School will be conducting a free Early Childhood Screening on Friday, March 26.

If you are concerned about your child's speech, vision, hearing, motor skills, behavior and/or rea-

soning, call 877-5113 by March 25 to schedule an appointment.

Children eligible for screening are those from 2 years, 9 months to age 5, but not enrolling in kindergarten in the fall. A kindergarten screening will be held later in the spring.

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