

Commissioners want to see plans before moving

(Continued from Page 1) authority over the facility, will back themselves into a corner. He said a master plan for the facility is long overdue. "Somewhere back in the 60s somebody should have had a master plan," Mr. Brannan. "People think you're crazy but in 20 years it will pay off." He said that if the county and city aren't careful they will end up with no place for expansion at the airport. Commissioner John Miller said he agreed. He said before anything more is done there should be a master plan as to what goes where and who pays for what. At this time there is room for four more hangers, Mr. Brannan said.

If more are needed in the future, there will be no place to put them unless a different configuration is set up, which should include a place to park planes in front of hangers without having them blocking the taxiway. There is also a problem with an overhead power line, he said. "I've never seen an airport with a power line," Mr. Brannan said. "They're always underground." Mr. Brannan said that he has no problem having his crew working at the airport but doesn't want the city and county to have a problem with expansion some day. Mr. Brannan said he is also worried about a new home going in. The builders plan to put in a two-inch water main, he said. He said he knows there will be a church built in the same area in a few years and a two-inch main will not be big enough to serve both. Also, he said, if any other development is done in the area more water will be needed. He said he's all for development but doesn't want to see a bunch of two-inch mains put in when a larger one is what is needed from the start. "I'm not against growth, but someone has to initiate it so its done right," Mr. Brannan. Commissioner Leroy Lang agreed.

The commissioners decided to ask the property owner and Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson to attend a commission meeting to discuss the problem. Commissioner Lang said that he was worried about stagnant water collecting in a small main and the need for fire hydrants in

the area. He said that he would vote against a right of way across the county road if the property owner would only put in a two-inch main. "Will it be massive growth?" Mr. Brannan said. "No. But there will be growth." "There are a lot of people who want to sell their house in town and move to the outskirts," Mr. Lang agreed. In other business, the commissioners:

- Discussed insurance on an old church in Alma that is being used for storage.
- Mr. Miller said the county should get rid of the building so it will not be liable for the contents, which do not even belong to the county.
- Talked about data backup procedures in the county offices including the clerk's, treasurer's and register of deeds'. Even though the county has no microfilm on a lot of data, most of it is duplicated at state agencies and computer backups are kept at a separate location.
- Held a 10-minute executive session on non-elected personnel.
- Heard from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald that the dirt work on roads at the landfill was started on Wednesday of last week.
- Mr. Archibald said that he is also still working on netting for screens and material to cover the trash each day. Both will be used to keep trash from blowing once the landfill is in operation.
- Learned from Mr. Archibald that the county's household hazardous waste project had been inspected and passed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The crew was pouring old paint into a big barrel, Mr. Archibald said.
- Held a 17-minute closed session with County Attorney Doug Sebelius on attorney-client privilege on non-elected personnel.
- Turned down a request by several county employees to carry over vacation time to next year.
- Authorized a state-required form saying the county will follow state procedures on elections.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said there will be fewer polling places once this goes through because voting machines will be almost be required. But the county has little choice, he said.

Hospital to fix tile in basement ceiling

By VERONICA MONIER
The Norton County Hospital will be doing a few improvements down under. Administrator Rich Miller told the board Tuesday that, although the basement project had been tabled, he would like to do a few of the improvements. Mr. Miller said nothing had been done with the ceiling tile for 30 years and asked for the board's approval to have it redone. He said it will cost \$1,400 to have new gridwork and tiles put up by Amax Co., the company which did the tile work during the renovation project. He said he would also like to install new lighting. He said the hospital's maintenance crew said they could put the tiles in, which would save \$600. Amax, he said, would provide the commercial grade tiles, which the hospital can't get in town, and install the gridwork. Board member Von Fahrenbruch asked if the cost of the labor to the hospital for it's crew installing the tiles would be worth the \$600 savings. "If we're doing it, we want to do it right," he said. "The labor won't be free, just because it's us doing it." Board member Weldon Brooks asked if it would look professional if the hospital installed the tile itself. Mr. Miller said he thought the crew could handle putting in the tile, but not the gridwork. "They know their limitations."

he said. Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton said he didn't think it would break the hospital crew's hearts if they didn't have to install it themselves. Mr. Miller said it would be better to have it professionally installed. The board decided to have Amax do all of the work. In other business, the board:

- Heard from Mr. Brooks that Tuesday's meeting would be his last. He said it has been interesting serving on the board.
- Mr. Miller said the hospital appreciated his four years on the board. He said he had been a faithful and good member.
- Learned from Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton that the hospital had 398 patient days, 48 admissions, four births, two inpatient surgeries, 18 outpatient surgeries, and 1,352 Doctor's Clinic visits in November.
- Heard an update on where the hospital is in getting the Dairyland computer system going from Mr. Carlton. He said the employees are still learning the system and that they are helping each other.
- "We always compare ourselves to Scott City, who also had Dairyland," he said. "But Scott City had a little bit of an advantage. They already had an order entry system before they went live with Dairyland."
- He said Scott City went through the same thing four years when they got their system.



Librarian Mary Luehrs held children spellbound during the preschool story hour last Thursday. Mrs. Luehrs reads to children at 10:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Norton Public Library. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

No parking problem to be revisited

The City of Norton will revisit to problem of parking near East Campus after representatives of the Norton school board attended the council meeting last week. He said he wasn't asking for parking on the north side of the street, but felt that making the block one-way would allow buses to unload safely and still allow for parking on the south side of the street. If the council didn't like either proposal, he asked they at least amend the ordinance to say school vehicles, rather than just passenger buses, because a lot of schools bring Suburbans. Councilman Jerry Hawks said the ordinance was supposed to have been amended in the third reading, but it didn't get changed. Councilman Jerry Jones said he had a school bus driver tell him the no parking was a good deal. He said he's also had numerous neighbors and citizens tell him they didn't see having no parking on that block as a problem.

Mr. Mann said there were maybe 15 times when there are buses on that street. He said the city was taking away parking all the time when there was only a concern maybe 10 percent of the time. It varies from year-to-year, he said, the major problem is during football season. Also, he said, the school isn't the only entity that uses East Campus. Mr. Mann said he understood why the city made the decision that they did. Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she recommended that this go back to committee. The Public Safety Committee will meet at 5 p.m. on Monday. The superintendent was invited to attend. In other business, the council:

- Appointed Curtis Eveleigh to serve on Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Eveleigh was on the board several years ago and said he would like to do it again. The term expires in 2007. Mr. Eveleigh is replacing

Bud Posson, who chose not to serve again.

- Waived the formal third reading and adopted Ordinance No. 1541, which will keep the surcharge on electrical rates.
- Failed to amend the Dec. 1 minutes for lack of a second. Mr. Hawks said he would like the minutes to say that he was opposed to approving the third reading of the no parking ordinance until the school was contacted.
- Heard from City Administrator Rob Lawson that Judge David Baumgartner will not be able to serve as municipal judge because he was elected as the Phillips County attorney.
- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- Heard from Mr. Hawks that the airport board got a request for an additional hangar at the airport. He said the board will be developing regulations for expansion of hangars and developing a policy to be followed regarding expansion.

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