

Commissioners turn attention to EMS

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton County Commission discussed the county's emergency medical service at its Oct. 31 meeting.

Jane Wyatt, ambulance service director, presented a proposed contract for "employee training" on furthering their education by becoming a paramedic, advanced life support emergency medical service. The county has agreed to pay the education expenses for the emergency staff to become paramedics. The employees who choose to do this will have to sign an employment contract with the county.

Mrs. Wyatt told the commis-

sion that a representative of the state emergency medical service would be on site the following day for inspection, which will include inspecting files and vehicles.

Mrs. Wyatt said she would like to buy new equipment for the ambulances, which she felt important for patients.

The commission approved the request and told her she could buy the equipment.

She said in October, the service had been on 46 calls and eight transfers out of town.

The commission also met with:

• **Diane Becker, economic development director**, who said they would need to schedule

another public hearing for the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan as notice for the first hearing wasn't published twice as it needed to be.

• **Doug Sebelius, county counselor**, who presented an extension agreement by and between the county and Prairie Land Electric. The county has the option to buy land owned by Prairie Land for the proposed site of the new Emergency Medical Service building.

The contract was approved and signed by the commission and clerk.

• **Tom Brannan, road and bridge supervisor**, who gave them a report showing where and which roads have been reworked

with millings. Mr. Brannan said several of the roads needed to be reworked because of last winter. Many of the roads, he said, didn't need much and the roads that did need maintenance only required a load or two of the millings. He said crews are hauling gravel to several sites to help top dress roads before winter.

Mr. Brannan said construction on Road L was to start that day. The project is for the City of Alma, which needs the road repaired so it can access its wells. He said the gravel will be applied first, then as soon as the road is settled and firm, the county will apply millings.

He said mowing has been fin-

ished for the year.

• **Cynthia Linner, county treasurer**, who said the monthly sales tax collection for the county was \$27,469.58.

• **Reggie Beckman, noxious weed supervisor**, who said he has received all the bids back for chemicals. The bids were reviewed as submitted. Mr. Beckman spoke about the quotes as well as the application instructions as labeled. The commission asked him to copy the quotes and present them the following week when all of the commissioners would be there.

• **Troy Thomson, county sheriff**, who said the week would be busy with Halloween and the

military funeral service that Friday. Both the Patriot Guard and the Fred Phelps organization said they would be in town.

In other business, the commission:

• Approved vouchers and payroll for the month.

• Held the final meeting and hearing for the application and submission of the Emergency Medical Service Community Development Block Grant application. Attending the meeting were representatives from Blue Sky Ink of Phillipsburg and Northwest Kansas Planning and Development and Mrs. Wyatt. The commission and clerk signed the documents necessary to submit the grant.

'Clinton' takes campaign to Alma



"Bill Clinton" passed out candy to trick or treaters from Northern Valley Elementary School last Wednesday afternoon. Every year the grade school youngsters have a "Spook Parade" through downtown Alma.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Name change for Fort Hays?

By TOM DREILING
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Should Fort Hays State University change its name?

That became the \$64 question after a name change was recommended by the Committee to Review and Rethink the Structure of the university, a committee appointed by the university President Edward H. Hammond.

"It is their recommendation that we seek legislative approval to change our name to the University of Western Kansas, which more appropriately communicates our location to a national and international audience," Mr. Hammond said.

"It also reflects one of our primary missions, which is to serve the post-secondary educational needs of western Kansas," he said.

(The Telegram would be interested in hearing from current and former students as to their reaction to the committee's recommendation to change the name. E-mail tomd@nwkansas.com.

com, or give us a call here at the office, 877-6908. Any other form of communication would also be appreciated.)



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Harvest Home Festival

Sat., Nov. 10

Northern Valley
Gymnasium-Alma

4:00 P.M.

Fish Pond, Sale of Baked

Goods and Fancy Work

5:00-7:00 P.M.

Soup Supper—

Chili, Chicken Noodle,

Vegetable Beef,

Oyster

Large Selection of Pie

FREE WILL DONATION

7:30 P.M.

Auction—

Handmade Crafts, Fine goods,

Soup and Many, Many Other

Items. (Children's Videos in

Lunchroom during Auction)

Sunday, Nov. 11

Alma Congregational

Church

Church Service

10:30 A.M.

Guest Speaker:

Seth Denny

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Revitalization plan gets hearing

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton County Commission held a public hearing to discuss the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan on Oct. 29.

Present for the hearing were Norton County Economic Development Director Diane Becker, County Appraiser Alan Hale and Mindy Harting, appraiser's office staff.

Mr. Hale explained the project and the method in which new construction and remodeling are appraised. Discussion was also held on the payment of current taxes and the dates that property taxes have to be paid.

It's a requirement in the county's Neighborhood Revitalization Plan that people applying for it need to be up to date paying their taxes and

have no delinquent taxes. If that is not the case and there are delinquent taxes, the person owing the taxes can't get the rebate.

They discussed how to let people know about getting applications. It was originally thought that notification would be sent with property tax statements, but it was felt that this might confuse people about the application. Ms. Becker said maybe they should hold a public meeting to explain the plan and the process of application. Sending out a mass mailing was also suggested.

County Counselor Doug Sebelius said he reviewed Kansas Statutes. The statutes did not say what payment methods and application requirements were needed. After discussion, those present felt that maybe the language needed to be

changed within the application before accepting it. Ms. Becker said she would make the changes before taking it to the commission for review.

The commission also reviewed two resolutions needed to apply for Community Block Development grants. The commission previously hired Blue Sky Ink to put together a grant for \$570,000 to build a new Emergency Medical Service building. The commission approved Resolution 2007-14, certifying the legal authority to

apply for the 2008 Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program for the Kansas Department of Commerce and authorizing the commission to sign and submit such a grant. They also approved Resolution 2007-15, assuring the Kansas Department of Commerce that money will be continually provided for the operation and maintenance of improvements to the emergency medical service to be financed with community development block grant money.

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Sat., Nov. 10 The Three Jacks, 8 p.m.
(Another Great Band from Norton)

Sat., Nov. 17 Explosion Karaoke/Dance

Sat., Nov. 24 Ramblin' Andy's Band, 8 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 1 ... The Charles Williams Orchestra
Oldies, Big Band, Country, R&R, 8-11:30 p.m.



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