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Commissioner Miller asked him to do so.
"Go ahead and make a request," he said. "We don't have to do anything today or tomorrow. Make the request and see what we will need to do."

Mr. Brannan said he would also start checking to see what the cost of replacement posts would be.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Mr. Brannan had talked to Rich Meyers, who wants to close a road on his mother's

farm property. Mr. Brannan said that she owns the land on both sides of the road, which deadends on her property, and he sees no problem with the closure as long as the proper procedures are followed

- Heard that prairie dogs are moving into the landfill area and Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald wants to get rid of them before they cause any damage to the pits.

- Asked Mr. Archibald to get either hard tires or foam-filled tires for the machines that only work

at the landfill because the work is so hard on the tires they wear out quickly.

- Learned that Sheriff Troy Thomson will not be getting a new light bar for his vehicle because of the cost. The sheriff said another light bar is having to be replaced so he is putting his off until next year.

- Discussed a table-top emergency preparedness lesson the county helped with last week. The practice session, Sheriff Thomson said, is required by the county's emergency preparedness plans.

Mowing, spraying: no easy solution

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(for fuel.)" Mr. Brannan told the commissioners. "At this rate it's going to cost a quarter million dollars for fuel next year."
"We just need a way to use less fuel,"

The commissioners suggested that mowers and road groomers are cheaper to run than road graders but said they understood the problem.

However, Mr. John Miller said, it is absolutely imperative that the roads get mowed and in good shape before Memorial Day, especially the ones going to the county's cemeteries.

Mr. Beckman said that the county mowed 2,912 miles of road last year at a cost of \$23.35 a mile or about \$68,000. He noted, however, that that is about four mowings a season on the same stretches of road. The commissioners were wondering if it would be cheaper

to have the weed department just spray some of those roads once killing weeds and grass.

Mr. Beckman said that the cost of spraying depends on the chemicals being used. A load of chemicals will do about 13 miles of roadway on both sides, he said. Last year he used 50 loads. The cost was a little over \$16,000 for chemicals and labor, he said.

He said that his crews could spray more roadway but will have to cut back on spraying for musk thistle. He also said the chemicals will not kill the grass and it could get pretty tall.

Mr. Beckman warned the commissioners that weather conditions can cause the chemicals to be effective or not. If it's too dry or too wet, chemicals aren't as effective. Commissioner Miller agreed but said that a three-chemical combination once instead of mowing four times should be cheaper.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said that he thought the county should use the more expensive chemical combination to get residual weed killing rather than having to spray the roads twice. He said the county needs to keep the intersections clear for visibility and safety whether they get mowed or sprayed or both.

Mr. Beckman agreed but noted he has to be careful about what chemicals he uses. Most of them won't affect wheat or corn, he said, but some will cause crop damage in milo and ruin soy bean crops for up to three years. Mr. Miller agreed that the farmers have some chemicals they use on their fields but the county isn't allowed to use them on roads.

Mr. Miller suggested they pick a 2-mile stretch to be mowed and a similar stretch to be sprayed so they can see the difference and judge the effectiveness and cost.

Long Island man elected to board

The board of directors who oversees the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program has undergone a leadership change and elected three new board members, two from the Norton area.

The new members elected to the board were Raymond Flickner,

Wichita, an officer of the Zions Agriculture Finance Company; Terry Nelson, Long Island, a farmer and stockman/swine production owner; and Irwin Porter, Quinter, a farmer with Porter Farms. The program has an all volunteer board of directors.

Its President Jack Lindquist said, "Board members promote the program, construct and evaluate the curriculum, assist in raising funds and set policy for the program and organizational structure."

In addition, Lindquist announced the program's officers for 2008-09.

They are Jim Bassett, Dover,

chairman; Lance Woodbury, Garden City, vice chairman; Clark Boyer, Kingman, treasurer; and Carolyn Harms, Derby, secretary. KARL is a non-profit, intensive two-year study and training program.

The Norton County LEPC and Mitigation Planning Committee will be holding a meeting at the Prairie Land Electric Basement on April 22, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. Ben Brake of Brake and Associates will be there to discuss Mitigation Planning and possible grants available to Local Governments and Non Profit organizations.
Norton County Sheriff's Department

School board Five closed sessions held

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for the 2008-09 school year.

The board went into five executive sessions during the meeting, two dealing with non-elected personnel, and the others with employer-employee negotiations.

No action was taken when the board returned to open meeting after each session concluded.

In other action, the board:

- Approved a motion (7-0) by Jennifer Terrell and seconded by Jeff Nielsen, to approve Architectural Drafting and Advanced Multi-Media Technology as alternate courses for fine arts, and Intro to Technology (high school), Animal Science and Plant Science as alternate courses for science for the purpose of meeting graduation requirements.

- Voted 7-0 on a motion by Jeff Nielsen and seconded by Jennifer Terrell, to accept the bid from Scott Evans for concrete work for a total of \$120,052.

- Voted 7-0 to approve a motion by Mark Keilig and seconded by Chris Harting, to approve the proposed agreement between ES-SDACK and the Norton School District for 2008-09 for the Learning Center as presented.

- Voted 7-0 on a motion by Jeff Nielsen and seconded by Mark Keilig, to direct the board clerk to prepare the necessary documents for republishing the 2007-08 budget and hold the hearing on April 29 at 7 a.m.

Superintendent Greg Mann informed the board of the electronic white board demonstrations (held Thursday); that Roof Masters has completed the roof jobs; the Title compliance review is completed, and he commended Mrs. Jane Burton for having all the materials ready for the auditor; reported the workman's compensation modification factor has gone from 1.27 to 1.0; reviewed fuel usage and average costs; and reported the Fort Hays wrestling match, scheduled here next year has been canceled.

Conie Park, representing the Eisenhower Site Council, reported to the board the various activities of the council, noting that the council is working to help the students and the school.

The Language Arts Department, represented by Belinda Thalheim, fourth grade teacher, showed examples of learning tools used in her classroom, and also shared a CD on which her students were singing songs that helped teach language arts skills.

Dr. Kent Stewart was on hand to present his report regarding the major maintenance and capital improvement needs in the Norton School District following his review of the district's facilities. The board will study the report and discuss it further at the May meeting.

Superintendent Mann presented results of the handicap accessibility study completed by Bonnie Werth of LINK, and also of the survey he had completed on the satisfaction level of the special education services being provided by the Norton School District. The board will discuss this further at its May meeting.

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•PUBLIC NOTICE•
NOTICE OF HEARING ON AMENDING THE 2007-2008 BUDGET
Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, April 18

NOTICE OF HEARING ON AMENDING THE 2007-2008 BUDGET
The governing body of USD 211 will meet on the 29th day of April, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. at 105 E. Waverly, Norton for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds. Detailed budget information is available at 105 E. Waverly, Norton and will be available at this hearing.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Fund	Adopted Budget 2007-2008		Proposed Amendment 2007-2008 Budget	
	Actual Tax Rate	Amount of Tax to be Levied	Expenditures and Transfers	Expenditures and Transfers
GENERAL	20.0000	417,573	5,044,534	5,153,009
VOCATIONAL			110,001	113,938
FOOD SERVICE			326,378	373,761
SPECIAL EDUCATION			1,034,308	1,064,926
AT RISK			259,875	288,684

Janice Russell, Clerk

900

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First, **The Advocate** added nearly 1,550 new home-delivered households in Sherman County with readers of the all-new, all-local *Goodland Star-News*.

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The Goodland Star-News
1205 Main, Goodland, KS 67735 • (785) 899-2338

THE NORTON TELEGRAM
215 S. Kansas, Norton, KS 67654 • (785) 877-3361

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, KS 67749 • (785) 475-2206

The Saint Francis Herald
Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • (785) 332-3162