

Road and bridge department asks for new scraper tires

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Floyd Richard and Becky Wilson of the Road and Bridge department met with Norton County Commissioners Monday to discuss issues they are dealing with. Commissioner R.A. Peterson was absent.

Richard turned in a bill from Kansasland Tire totaling over \$7000 for two new scraper tires. The need for tires on one of the scrapers came when a tire was slashed while working a grader ditch. The scraper needs one new tire and one alone would cost \$3450. That is a lot of money Richard said and wanted to know if they should just buy one tire and rotate a back tire from the scraper to the front. Both commissioners Charles Posson and Richard Thomas agreed that this would be the best route to take. Posson questioned how many hours the tire had on it and Richard reported that it only had 1700 hours on it when they can normally get 3500 hours out

of a tire. Richard said that they had an old Bias tire on hand but it wouldn't work for them. He asked what he should do with it and both commissioners suggested putting it on Nex Tech or EBay.

The next thing Richard reported on involved work that will be starting on two bridges along highway 9. After speaking to the state it has been decided that the Norton County Road and Bridge department would do the detours for both projects. "This is a plus for both of us, the state will not have to invest \$80,000 dollars for the projects and the county will get some road upgrading when the detours will be put in." Richard said. The first bridge is a half a mile east of Densmore between roads W4 and W5 and the second bridge is east of Lenora.

Finally, after commissioner Posson mentioned some major washboarding on Armory Drive, the topic of the new packer was brought up. They have been looking at getting a packer to

fight the dreaded washboarding of rural roads. "It would save on manpower and machinery if we had one and it would save us money as it goes," Richard stated. Only one bid was turned in, \$90,000 for a medium sized one and they knew the big packer ran about \$105,000. Posson suggested going ahead and getting the big packer but Richard believed that the medium packer would and could do the job so both commissioners agreed to go ahead with the medium packer for the department. Richard also reported that it was estimated to take eight to ten weeks to get and the company will help with delivery.

After this discussion Wilson informed the commissioners that Matt Rushton had turned in his resignation so she was looking to be filling that position. "That would leave us with one grader short," Wilson said. Posson asked if they had an ad running and she confirmed that was being done.

WIC

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Family Health at Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "We are hopeful that the shutdown will be resolved before it impacts WIC past the month of October, but we must be fiscally responsible during this time of uncertainty. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment understands

the inconvenience of our current situation, and we appreciate WIC staff in their work to ensure that WIC participants receive proper nutrition education and assistance during this time."

WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support and supplemental, nutritious foods to low-income families. The Kansas WIC program

serves approximately 70,000 participants every month, including:

- Pregnant women
- Breastfeeding women through the first year of their infant's life
- Women who have had a baby within the past six months
- Infants under the age of 1
- Children from age 1 to 5.

Hospital

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something is coming up." Stover said. He went on to say that if critical care hospitals are pulled it will leave a lot of uncertainty. There will be new rules and requirements.

As for the financials, the balance sheet has a strong cash position with accounts receivable doing a better job of collecting on bills. "We have a nice bottom line this year," Stover stated. Under the heading of patient revenue for the year to date total compared to last year it is a little over \$155,000 less than last year. In 2012, it was \$2,926,542 and this year revenue is at \$2,771,515. As for operating expenses this year, there was an increase of a little over \$11,300. In 2012 operating expenses was \$1,918,599 compared to this year's \$1,929,899. As for the non-operating revenue, in 2012 the total was \$35,802 compared to \$33,890 this year. That is \$1,912 less than 2012. Based on

the budget figures, the current numbers are very close to what was expected.

Stover then reported on the numbers looked at each month. In the month of August there were 277 patient days with 38 total admissions and a total of 641 hours of observation. There were five new babies, two girls and three boys and 22 surgeries, one was inpatient and the other 21 were outpatient. There were 5,628 outpatient procedures and 997 inpatient procedures and 1687 visits to the clinic.

After Mr. Stover was done with his presentation Rich Miller had these things to say. "We have an agreement with three insurance companies right now and I know that Ryan and the staff have worked hard to stay on top of everything."

Miller also said that as for the critical care hospital close

down, "We know it won't be as many as they say there will be."

In reference to the Affordable Care Act Miller stated, "Since we are on both sides of the issue, it will be interesting to see how it works out since there will only be four plans available." There are navigators to help people through it but the only one Miller knew of was out of Oberlin.

Miller also talked of the renovations to be made. He said that a construction manager was hired and they are still working on a guaranteed maximum price but it will be sizable.

As the meeting came to a close Commissioner Posson said, "It is a very difficult time and you are doing a great job handling this stuff." Miller's reply was this, "We have a lot of good stuff going on and lots of community support."

A hot topic...



In honor of National Fire Prevention Week, the Norton City Fire Department visited students at Eisenhower Elementary School on Tuesday afternoon. The kids watched a video and checked out two of the City's fire trucks. (Pictured) They also got the chance to meet "Sparky the Fire Pup" (a.k.a. Jeff Wolf, Norton City Fireman), who was very popular with the kids.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

West Nile Virus in Kansas

Twelve additional cases of West Nile virus were reported to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in the past week, bringing the total number of 2013 cases to 32. Of the 32 total cases reported in Kansas, two patients have died due to West Nile Virus.

"Cases are on the rise in Kansas. We want to bring this to everyone's attention as we expect an increase in this disease before winter is here, and we strongly encourage the use of methods that prevent mosquito bites," said Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer.

As of Oct. 7, the case count by county in Kansas is: Sedgwick-7, Barton-6, Johnson-3, Sherman-2, Wyandotte-2, Atchison-1, Butler-1, Chautauqua-1, Decatur-1, Ellis-1, Logan-1, Marshall-1, Republic-1, Rice-1, Rush-1, and Saline-1. No other details about the patients or the two deaths will be provided at this time.

West Nile Virus can be spread to people through bites from infected mosquitoes, but it is not contagious from person to person. Although most persons will not develop any illness at all, symptoms can range from a slight headache and low-grade fever to swelling of the brain or brain tissue and in rare cases, death. People who have had West Nile virus before are considered immune.

KDHE recommends the following precautions to protect against West Nile Virus:

When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient on skin and clothing, including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. Follow the directions on the package.

Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.

Make sure you have good

screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.

Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

Cases are most common in the late summer and early fall months. In 2012, 57 cases were reported in Kansas.

Birds are not tested for West Nile Virus in Kansas and KDHE will not be collecting information about dead birds. If you find a dead bird, KDHE recommends that you wear gloves, place the bird in a plastic bag, and dispose of it in the garbage.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides this web page with additional information about West Nile Virus and preventing mosquito bites: www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/.

Join us at our Customer Appreciation Lunch!

Where: Bridges Group
117 N. Kansas Ave
Date: Wed., October 16th, 2013
Time: 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM

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INSURANCE

Welcome New Employees to Norton and Bridges Group, Inc!

Mark Krehbiel joined the Bridges team in January 2013 and brings his knowledge of Financial Services to Bridges. Along with providing Life Insurance, Annuities, and benefit options, Mark works in the operations at Bridges.

Sara Lentz moved back to her hometown of Norton in February 2013 from Des Moines, IA. She currently manages the finances for Bridges in addition to being the human resources director.

Aaron Hale is the most recent addition to Bridges. Aaron moved back to Norton from Lawrence, KS in July 2013. He is working in the Crop, Farm, and Commercial departments.

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