

# \* County says no to work

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 "To me, the dirt work on the runway was a minimal amount to get the company here," she said.

Mr. Hirsch said state law says that county road equipment can't be used for private purposes. If the City of Jennings owned the land and paid for the dirt work, he said, that would be OK from a legal standpoint.

The way he understands it, said Mr. Hirsch, the city was neither going to own the land nor pay for the work. It was going to be more of a pass through.

Part of the rationale for the law is that there are private contractors who make their living doing dirt work, he said, and government entities aren't supposed to compete.

If the county does the dirt work just because the city has the land for 30 days, said Mr. Hirsch, it seems like the county is trying to get around the statute.

The decision, he said, doesn't mean he or the commissioners are opposed to the project.

Ms. Grafel said she is still trying to keep an open line with the bus and manufacturing company. She said they mentioned going to Norton County to look for possibilities, but wasn't sure if they had.

The development board is trying to raise money to pay for the dirt work for the runway. The company has bought four houses in the county, plus some land between Oberlin and Jennings.

The dirt work for the air strip will cost around \$40,000. Members of the company want it within 15 minutes of the school.

At a Jennings City Council meeting on Thursday, the members voted to pledge \$5,000 to help with the dirt work.



**WITH THEIR THINKING CAPS ON**, Marcia Lohoefer, Greg Lohoefer and Marty Olson took part in the "vision retreat" last week at The Gateway. The three helped come up with five goals for the next 10 years.  
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# \* Goals set for next 10 years at retreat

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 velop and promote leadership and community ownership through intergenerational interaction.

For each goal, said Mr. Woodbury, there will be five action teams formed from people who volunteered to help at the conversation. Each action will have two co-conveners who will

organize them. The two co-conveners don't have to be experts on the topic, he said; their job is more like coaching or facilitating.

Around 50 to 60 people, said Mr. Woodbury, have been asked to be on the teams.

In about 30 days, the steering committee will get back together

and put together a proposal for the state Department of Commerce. The state agency has budgeted \$2,500 for the effort.

From the county, he said, the committee will need to raise \$7,500. The Kansas Health Foundation has committed \$5,000.

That money will be used primarily for Mr. Woodbury's services in

this first year. It will pay for the retreat, advertising, materials, meals and all of the costs in the first year.

It will be about nine months before things will get laid out enough for the committee to start raising money to activate the goals. Mr. Woodbury said the retreat had gone well, with strong attendance and participation.

# \* Board gets money

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 was any money set aside for economic development. The board is asking for around \$10,000, he said, adding that the group is trying to use the money wisely.

The board has subcommittees including: new business start-up assistance, existing business assistance or expansion, working with owners approaching retirement, business financing sources and information, developing a list of sales being lost out of county that could be done here, farm business opportunities or assistance, government program identification or expansion, grant writing or sourcing of grants, development of contact sources for re-locations, work as mentor or assist in the business incubator and develop current list of business sites or buildings. One of the members also wanted to include working with and the promotion of the U.S. Highway 36 Association.

Councilman Jay Anderson said this is about the most active and productive he has seen the development group since he has been on the council. He commended them for a good job.

There is \$50,000 in a community growth fund, said Mayor Ken Shobe.

This is what the fund was set up for, said Councilman Ray Ward, adding thanks to Ms. Grafel and others for making these projects happen.

That money comes out of the city's electric fund, said Councilman Rob McFee. The bus company coming to Jennings is more of a county project. The city's electric fund, including his electric bill, shouldn't help fund that.

The money the board is asking for, said Mr. Lohoefer, is more to help with the purchase of land on the highway and those projects. He said he can't say that the money won't help with the bus project.

The project in Jennings, said Mr. McFee, is a good thing, but there is a perfectly fine airport in Oberlin.

Ms. Grafel said members of the board are asking the Jennings City Council for \$10,000 and asking the county for money, too.

The council approved the \$10,000 from the community growth fund by a unanimous vote.

# Frisbee course is OK'd

The Oberlin City Council approved a Frisbee golf course to be put in by volunteers at Sappa Park after meeting with a few of the young men.

The volunteers have done a lot of planning, said Mayor Ken Shobe. They took the council's suggestions and are ready to move on the project.

The volunteers will dig holes and put in baskets for the course, which everyone will be able to use.

The city needs to be part of the maintenance at Sappa Park, said Councilman Joe Stanley. Mayor Shobe said the city needs a maintenance plan and to know what the crew needs to do.

Councilman Jay Anderson said he asked for a "matters pending" sheet list of city projects weeks ago. The council had one at the first meeting and then had to remind the city crew about it the second time, he said, and this week there wasn't one.

Mayor Shobe said he will talk with City Administrator Gary Shike about it. Mr. Shike wasn't at the meeting Thursday.

The council, said Councilman Ray Ward, brings things up at meetings and if they don't keep bringing them up, the items get dropped. The council needs to see the list at every meeting, he said.

# Hospital facilities filled to capacity

Both Cedar Living Center and Wheat Ridge Terrace apartments, which are operated by Decatur Health Systems, are full.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said she told the people living at Wheat Ridge, an independent living facility, that once it was full they would have a party. Mrs. Doeden told the hospital board at a meeting on Monday, April 17, that she wasn't sure what kind of party they were going to have, but they planned to do something.

This is the first time the facility has been full since it was built.

Cedar Living Center, a nursing home, which is attached to the hos-

pital, is also full, said Mrs. Doeden. She said she wasn't sure if there was a waiting list. It has been over a year since the facility has been full.

With Cottonwood Home Health Care, which helps people with health needs at home, they are weeding out patients to make sure everyone qualifies, she said. The idea is to keep the program to 36.

With Cedar Living Center being full, the board talked about going up a few beds, but that would mean taking back the rooms now used as the fitness center and for cardiac rehabilitation.

Board Member Butch Rittman said maybe they could do a free-

standing fitness center near the hospital, but not attached.

Those in cardiac rehab won't want to get rid of the equipment, said Mrs. Doeden. She said department heads say they are growing out of their space and the hospital needs to grow.

What about fitness classes for the elderly, she asked; where is that held?

Chairwoman Connie Grafel said they meet at the Golden Age Center. There is an instructor and those

in the class can stay over for lunch and cards.

Maybe there needs to be one facility for all of it, said Mr. Rittman, the equipment and classes.

For the seniors, said Ms. Grafel, it is better for them to be at the Golden Age Center because then they only have to go to one facility to do everything. It's just one stop.

The group talked about possibly putting up a gym-like facility across the street or close to the hospital, but made no decisions.

# Emergency services week set

The Decatur County ambulance department will be taking blood pressures, visiting the grade school and helping grill hot dogs for Emergency Services Week starting Sunday.

On Monday, the service will have an ambulance in downtown Oberlin from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. where volunteers will be checking blood pressures for free. Tuesday from 8:30

a.m. to noon, they will take an ambulance to Oberlin Elementary School. Service members will talk with the classes and show them the ambulance.

Around 7 p.m. next Thursday, May 18, they will grill hot dogs at the shelter house at Sappa Park for the community walk sponsored by Decatur Health Systems.

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