

* County talks about plan for runway

(Continued from Page 1A)

owned airport. The county could give the city money, said Mr. Hirsch.

Maybe the county could raise \$50,000 a year for the project through an increase in the property-tax levy, said Commissioner Doyle Brown.

Can the county raise taxes one mill a year and make a donation to the city with that money? asked Mr. Unger. Everyone understands, he said, that this project isn't going to just benefit Oberlin, but the whole county.

Will \$50,000 from the county get the project done even with a revenue bond on the city's side? asked Mr. McEvoy.

At this point, said Mr. Lohoefer, they are just trying to check out all of the options to raise the money needed to match state and federal grants.

Another option is for the city and county to share ownership of the airport and putting a bond issue to a vote of the people, said Mr. McEvoy.

Mr. Hirsch said there is no legal process to fight an increase in property taxes to raise money for the airport. The commissioners could put it in the budget and see how much protest there is, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn. People would have to come in then and tell the commissioners they didn't like it, she said.

This is going to be a long process, said Ms. Grafel, but it is time to start. Mr. Hirsch said it would be OK for a business to give the city or county the money to pay for the bonds, and it probably would be a

deductible for them.

No matter what kind of bonds are issued, said Mr. Unger, someone or some bank has to purchase the bonds. The county or the city has to make payments on them.

Has the city made any commitment on what they are going to do? asked Mr. McEvoy. Ms. Grafel said she isn't sure what they are doing, but the council has said the city can't pay for the whole project.

Mr. McEvoy said it would change the county's options a lot if they knew what the city was doing. He said he would like the county to help in some way.

Mr. Brown suggested that they need to get together with the city and talk about who can do what.

"If we get money for a \$6 million facility," said Ms. Grafel, "and can't come up with half a million dollars locally, there is a problem. We need to help ourselves first before anyone else will."

Mr. Unger said if the county can only do up to \$50,000 without being the owner of the airport, maybe this all needs to go up for a vote.

Mr. McEvoy said he would like to see what kind of fire protection and safety is needed at an airport with a 7,000-foot runway. Surely it is different than what is required now, he said.

The city's engineers could probably get something together on that, said Mr. Brown.

Mr. Unger said he doesn't think any of the county commissioners are against the project or against helping; they just need to get some questions answered and find out what the city is going to do and can do.

* Promoter drops speedway here

(Continued from Page 1A)

Goodland fairgrounds do not.

"These two things generate interest," Salem said. "Fans want to see a show for their money and enjoy themselves while they are at the speedway."

"I have also designed our racing format so it is fan friendly. Instead of starting our races with the fastest cars in the pole and first row, I start them in the last row, which makes the race far more exciting."

"I am going to think things over during the winter, look over the figures and talk to the county and city officials again. I would like to continue to race here in Oberlin in 2008, but every time I race here, I lose money."

"The circuit is growing in other parts of Kansas and in Colorado. Jetmore, for example, packs the stands."

"We put on a great show. Last year, when we first started the series, we started with eight racers. The circuit has grown to 59 drivers this year."

"We plan on expanding into eastern Kansas in the Topeka and Kansas City area, which is a hotbed for racing."

"Norton packs them in. This weekend, the motels in Norton and Oberlin are filled to capacity. Phillipsburg has also reported their

motels filling up.

"When the motels are filled, this makes an economic impact on the community. Fans will spend money in that town."

Salem said the county Fair Board has been great to work with.

The county owns the speedway and the land in Oberlin, but it is in the city limits, said County Commissioner Ralph Unger, so the city has a say on a beer license, but the county commission has a say on what is sold on the fairgrounds.

"There is just a lot of red tape involved with county and city officials and track preparation," said Salem. "We all need to be working on the same page to make it work."

"Everybody wants a win-win situation. In other communities, such as Jetmore and Dodge City, the city and county have subsidized their tracks, with national sponsors which help cover expenses."

"It is a wait and see situation; I am a Oberlin native son. Hopefully, we can iron out some of the problems over the winter."

Earlier this year, promoters Don and Paula Bolt of Jennings left Oberlin, citing much the same problems as Salem. They continued to sponsor races in Norton. *The Oberlin Herald* has left messages for the Bolts on several occasions with no returned calls.

* City postpones work session on wind

(Continued from Page 1A)

"There are just too many things that we felt like we don't know," he said, "so we wanted to ask questions."

The work session will probably be rescheduled for Thursday, Sept. 20, he said, but the council most likely won't make a decision at the regularly scheduled meeting this week.

Sunflower Wind offered the city a contract at the Thursday, Aug. 2, meeting, asking that it cancel its existing power contracts. At the Thursday, Aug. 23, firm brought a new proposal asking for a first right of refusal on power sales to the city.

Basically, the first right of refusal would allow Sunflower Wind to have the opportunity to match any contract the city receives price for price and term for term, officials

said. The council hasn't made any decision on the agreement.

Originally, Sunflower Wind offered a contract with power sold to the city for 6 cents per kilowatt hour if the city would cancel its other contracts. Today, the city buys power from a the Western Area Power Administration, a federal agency, for an average of 3.5 cents cents per kilowatt hour and from Sunflower Electric, a cooperative supplier to rural electric co-ops, for an average of 8.7 cents.

Sunflower Wind says it will build a wind farm outside of Oberlin to generate power and then sell it to the city. The firm will also sell power on the open market, said Dan Rasure of Goodland.

The rescheduled work session will be open to the public, Mr. Shike said.

Starting out young



DRESSED IN CAMOUFLAGE, Tyler Spetzer, 4, held up a dove while Dillon O'Neill, 6, walked behind him carrying a toy plastic rifle. His little brother, Logan O'Neill, 4, looked for more doves behind him during opening day of hunting season on Saturday. The boys were in Kansas hunting with their grandpa. — Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

Health department buys ID card maker

The Decatur County commissioners approved the purchase of a double-sided photo identification maker for the health department, bought with bioterrorism grant money.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said at the meeting Tuesday, Aug. 21, that she has bioterrorism grant dollars left that she needs to spend. She said she has been looking at a system that makes ID tags for people so that in a disaster, if a road needs to be blocked or something like that, officials will know who to allow in or not.

The card can have a picture of the person on it, said Ms. Gamblin, the department they work for and other information.

There are two choices, she said, either a machine that prints only on the front or one that does both sides. Ms. Gamblin said she likes the double-sided ones because they could print the person's specialties on the back.

The cards need to have some kind of a code on them too, she said, so officials know they are real and not something someone made at home.

The county clerk in Norton, said Ms. Gamblin, was going to buy a signature pad so they could put the person's signature on the ID.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said soon they will need a signature pad for election use. She said she could buy one.

Ms. Gamblin said she has enough money to purchase the system with the signature pad. The commissioners approved the purchase of \$3,499 for the double-sided system with signature pad from IDville, off the Internet.

This is something that would help everyone, said Ms. Gamblin.

She said the department had its yearly immunization audit of 2-year-olds and didn't do as well this year as it has in the past. With only 16 kids in the age group and three who hadn't had all their shots, she said, the department received a score of 81 percent. Last year, said

Ms. Gamblin, the score was 97 percent.

Ms. Gamblin said the Health Department Advisory Board met recently. Two members were unable to attend, she said, but the meeting went well. It was mainly an organization gathering. Ms. Gamblin said they are going to make some policy changes. The next meeting won't be until November.

The commissioners approved a grant application to the state for bioterrorism money for \$3,754. Ms. Gamblin said the money comes from the federal government to the states and then to the counties.

She said that money can only be spent on approved items that would help if there was a bioterrorism issue.

"All the work," said Commis-

sioner Doyle Brown, "that you have done isn't just for the health department, is it, or will you work with Patti Skubal (the new emergency preparedness director)?"

Ms. Gamblin said the work on the bioterrorism work is for everyone and that she looks forward to working with Mrs. Skubal, but hasn't been able to yet because of conflicting vacations.

UsedATUClearance

2002 Polaris 500 Sportsman 4x4, runs great, auto, \$3,495 Independent suspension	2000 Kawasaki Prairie 400 \$1,800 4x4, automatic	2001 Honda Rubicon 500cc, 4x4, automatic \$3,495 New transmission
2005 Honda TRX350 Rancher \$3,200 Electric shift, 4x4	2005 Yamaha Bruin \$3,800 4x4, 350cc, Automatic	2001 Yamaha Warrior \$2,695 Clean trade in - This one is cheap fun!
2003 Kawasaki Bayou 250 \$1,800 Runs Great! Needs Nothing!	2002 Kawasaki Bayou 300 \$2,695 Very clean trade, 4x4	2001 Honda Rubicon \$3,495 500cc, 4x4, automatic, very straight machine
2004 Yamaha Kodiak 450 450cc, automatic, 4x4, \$3,495 Independent suspension	2004 Honda TRX400 Rancher AT 4x4, automatic \$3,995 Extremely clean! Low miles!	2005 Honda Rubicon \$3,995 500cc, automatic, 4x4
2004 Honda TX450 Foreman \$3,995 New tires, 4x4	2003 Kawasaki 360 Prairie \$2,895 4x4, runs good, good tires	2005 Polaris Sportsman 500 \$3,995 4x4, automatic, clean trade

DEVENVY

401 East 'B' St., McCook, NE • 308-345-5200 / 1-800-345-0031
devenymotors@yahoo.com

Internet tonight! Call 475-2206!