Council OKs smaller policy for city airport

The Oberlin City Council approved a $500,000 liability insurance policy for the municipal airport.

During the meeting Thursday, Dec. 16, interim City Administrator Karen Larson said the council can choose between the $500,000 policy, which will cost $2,377, or one that can pay out up to $1 million for $2,816.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she thought the city should do the $1 million policy.

Under state law, the city only has pay up to $500,000, City Attorney Steve Hirsch pointed out, unless the policy is for $1 million.

With health care costs getting so far out of sight, said Ms. May, she can imagine the costs of an incident easily being $500,000 or more and it being something the city is liable for. Perhaps, she said, the city should have enough insurance to pay for the actual costs.

Councilman Ray Ward made the motion to approve the $500,000 policy, and Councilman Bill Riedel gave the second.

So if the city doesn't have enough insurance and the $500,000 cap is met, then that person is just out of luck, Ms. May said. She said she thinks it's easy to come up with $500,000 in medical bills in this day and age.

With the airport, said Mr. Riedel, the city already has added expenses with the automated fueling system, phone lines and additional insurance. All of this is already an additional $1,000 in costs, he said

"When does the city say enough is enough?" he asked.

"When we say that we finally have an airport that is of this day and age," Ms. May replied.

Councilman Richard Kimble asked what the coverage is now. Mrs. Larson said she didn't know without pulling the file, but it wasn't as much.

At that time Councilman Rob McFee walked into the meeting. Ms. May asked for his opinion.

After hearing both sides Mr. McFee agreed to the $500,000 in insurance, saying he thinks that it's quite a bit. If that's the limit that the city needs and the state says it's OK, he said, then that's what the city should do.

The vote passed four to one with Ms. May voting no.

Final 2010 meeting set

The Oberlin City Council plans to meet on Thursday to sign the final bills for the end of the year and discuss the administrator position, which has been unfilled since Austin Gilley left to take another job in May.

The meeting will start at 6 p.m. upstairs in The Gateway. It is open to the public.

The council normally meets on New Year's Eve or close to the end of the year to wrap things up, but with the city office closed on Friday, the council will meet on the next to the last day of 2010.

Interim City Administrator Karen Larson said the council plans to talk about the administrator position.

Mrs. Larson said the council will also discuss utility credits for the Last Indian Raid Museum and Sunflower Cinema. She said the council might also talk about a utility credit for the new bowling alley.

FIREMEN HELPED ambulance volunteers load a patient Sunday after a father and son were injured when their pickup rolled on the Bohemian Hall Road about 1 1/2 miles west of the Jennings Road. Injuries were minor as both apparently were wearing their seat belts. The driver, Michael Dale Christmas, 27, of Jennings said a deer ran across the road, causing him to lose control of the truck.

— Herald staff photos by Steve Haynes

Wrecks send two to hospital

The fact that it was Christmas weekend didn't keep two members of the Michael Christmas family out of the hospital after a deer ran in front of their truck Sunday.

In another wreck last week, an Oberlin school bus hit a deer, the fourth one for the school district in the last month.

Sunday, Michael Dale Christmas, 27, and his son, Darrian Ray Herrera, 7, of Jennings, both were taken to the Decatur County Hospital after the westbound truck ran into the north ditch, flipped onto its top and landed on the driver's side about 1:30 p.m.

Deputy Jay Tate of the Decatur County sheriff's office said the site is on the Bohemian Hall Road (County Road 340, or K Lane) about a mile and a half west of the north-south Jennings Road.

Deputy Tate reported that Mr. Christmas said a deer had run across the road in front of him and he tried to avoid hitting it. He apparently lost control and the truck ran into the ditch, flipping into a corn field and landing on the driver's side. Both he and his son were wearing seat belts, Mr. Tate said. That may have saved them from more serious injuries.

Family members in another vehicle ahead of the truck apparently saw the crash and came back. They called dispatch for help. When firemen arrived, both victims were out of the vehicle. Mr. Christmas told Deputy Tate he had to kick out the windshield of the 1980 Chevrolet to get out of the cab.

The deputy said no citations were issued. The truck had to be towed to town.

First reports of the crash put the site four to five miles east of the Jennings Road, near the county line. Jennings fire and ambulance crews arrived first and found the wreck west.

Two fire rigs from Jennings, with six firefighters, and the ambulance made the call.

From Oberlin, two fire trucks, eight firemen and two ambulance crews responded. One ambulance returned empty.

In another wreck last week, an Oberlin school bus struck a deer west of town. There were no injuries.

The sheriff's office reported the accident occurred about 7:30 a.m. last Monday, Dec. 20. The 1994 Chevrolet, driven by John L. Stanley, 64, Oberlin, was westbound on U.S. 36 about 5 1/2 miles west of Oberlin. No passengers were on board yet, according to the report.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the district had to send another bus out to get the students on the route.

"We've hit four deer in the last month," he said. "We've been sort of lucky. Only one of them had one student on board."

He said the district staff was able to fix two of the buses, but two had to go to the body shop. The district has been able to juggle buses around to fill all the runs, he said.

"When this one had to go in," he said, "the body shop had just got the other one done."

Some offices to close for New Year's Eve

Several Oberlin businesses will be closed or close early Friday for New Year's Eve and some will close for New Year's Day.

Raye's Grocery will close at the regular time, 8 p.m., New Year's Eve but will be closed on New Year's Day.

Dollar General will be open for normal hours, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., on both days.

Both the city and county offices will be closed on Friday. Financial institutions will be open, with The Bank running on regular hours, Farmers Bank and Trust closing at 3 p.m., First National Bank at 2 p.m. and the Northwest Kansas Federal Credit Union at noon.

Crossroads Express and Ampride convenience stores will be open both Friday and Saturday.

The Frontier Restaurant will be open from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Pizza Hut will open 11 a.m to 10 p.m. both days. Subway will open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday. The Re-Load will be open 11 a.m to midnight Friday and closed on New Year's Day.

The LandMark Inn's Teller Room will be serving a "surf-and-turf" buffet from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday but be closed New Year's Day.

The Oberlin Herald be closed on Friday. The deadline for the Country Advocate this week will be noon on Thursday.

Board looks to honor students

The Oberlin School Board discussed recognizing several students who have received honors at its December meeting.

Board member Dan Nedland asked how the students should be recognized for their accomplishments. They include:

Jordan Dreher, Kiah Blau and Miki Dorshorst, for being honored on the state Class 2A volleyball team.

Seniors Joe Hirsch, Rhiannon Davies, Jacob Helm and Katie Glading, who all received four-year medals from the Kansas Educators Music Association.

Tyler Shields, who was named to the state all-academic cross country team.

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'08 C-IH 3212

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'10 C-IH 7120, 210E/165R
'10 C-IH 7120, 450E/360R
'10 C-IH 7120, 340E/265R
'09 C-IH 8120, 830E/630R
'08 C-IH 7010, 1, 145E/840R
'07 JD 9660STS, 1, 300E/1,000R
'09 C-IH 6088, 825E/575R
'10 C-IH 6088, 285E/210R
'07 C-IH 2588, 1,010E/810R
'06 C-IH 2388, 1,365E/1,015R
'05 C-IH 2388, 2,077E/1,650R
'00 C-IH 2388, 2,465E/1,805R

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'07 C-IH MG305, 2,200 hrs.
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