

Council approves high bids for farm ground

The Oberlin City Council approved the two highest bids for farm leases on two tracts of land south of town. While the council had received bids for the property earlier in the month, the members asked for more specific proposals, which were presented at its meeting Thursday, Feb. 17. City Administrator Karen Larson handed the proposals out. Each bidder had again been assigned a number so that the council members

didn't know the names. The person leasing the first tract, 86.5 acres of pasture, will maintain the fence, water and weeds, said Mayor Joe Stanley. There was some discussion about whether, if the person leasing the second tract doesn't renew, if the city will need to reimburse them for improvements. City Attorney Steve Hirsch said they don't need to. The tract now has 13 acres of alfalfa on it, said Mrs. Larson.

She said seven people called to ask questions about the property. Four bids were received on the second parcel and three on the first. These bids, said Councilman Bill Riedel, are actually lower than the

first ones. The new leases are for six years, while the current ones were for a year, Mrs. Larson said. The council approved the two highest bids. The highest bids were from Travis

Eskew on the 86.5 acres of pasture at \$18 an acre and Carl Larson for 105.2 acres of crop land at \$135 an acre. The other bids were from Mr. Eskew for the second tract at \$80

an acre, Casey Alstrom for the first tract at \$16 an acre and the second one at \$125 an acre and Mr. Larson at \$15 an acre for the first one.


City needs radiator for the power plant

The Oberlin City Council agreed to move forward with buying a new radiator for the city power plant after the old one finally died. The old radiator, said City Administrator Karen Larson, has been fixed twice. Foreman Dan Castle discovered that the radiator was leaking when he checked it last week. The plant can't be used without the radiator, Mrs. Larson said at the meeting Thursday, Feb. 17, adding that Mr. Castle is trying to get a firm bid, but thought it would cost around \$49,000. Years ago, the city sold another radiator, and the crew had been unable to run all the engines at the power plant at once since then. If it costs a lot more than the \$49,000, said Mrs. Larson, she will come back to the council. The council approved getting bids. Councilman Bill Riedel reported on a recent conference call with the Federal Aviation Administration. He said the agency advised the city to start land acquisition for a proposed new, longer runway.

The city is going to need to do an environmental assessment for the land, he said. The city has one, he said, but this one needs to include hazardous waste. Mayor Joe Stanley said he thought the main problem might be a buried tank from an old spray-plane operation or something like that. Mrs. Larson said federal money comes from taxes off the airplane ticket sales and fuel. The agency has some discretion on whether the city gets the money for any given project, she said. The administrator said she's asked Don Klappmeyer, the engineer with Lochner-Bucher Willis and Ratliff out of Kansas City, to come out quarterly to hold public meetings about the airport, and he had agreed. Mrs. Larson introduced Steve Zodrow, an accountant who had been doing the audit for several years, to the council. He's been hired as the administrative assistant at the city office, she said.

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Planting the Seeds of Progress



The 2010-2011 Decatur Community High School FFA members include, (back row) from left: Dalton Dolan, Josh Ritter, Shane McEvoy, Jeff Shaw, Tyler Bruggeman, Conner McHugh, Jon Samson and Cody Wurm. (middle row) Bret Ashley, Baron Green, Corey Cook, Taylor Macfee, Zach May, Cheyanne Soderlund, Ryan May, Alexis Hissong, Keatra Fisher, Brittany Urban, Jon Rarick, Haley Schiessler and John Carlisle. (front row) Chris Anderson, Greg Shaw, Lacey Misk, Samantha Meitl and Megan Wentz.

2011-2012 NW District FFA Calendar

June 7	Summer Ag Teacher Meeting	Oakley	9:00 am	Feb 11	Meats Contest	Grinnell	9:00 am
July 5-7	SCCL	Rock Springs		Feb 18-25	National FFA Week		
July 31-Aug 3	KAAE Summer Conference	Overland Park		Feb 29	Ag Mechanics/Spring Meeting	Goodland	8:00 am MT
Aug 13-14	District Officer Conference	Rock Springs		Mar 5 or 8	Poultry/Entomology	Hays	4:00 pm
Sept 9-19	State Fair	Hutchinson		Apr 11	District Horse Judging	Oakley	8:00 am
Sept 21	District Land Judging	Norton	9:30 am	Mar 16 & 17	Leader Lab	Junction City	
Sept 24	District Dodgeball Tournament	Plainville	9:00 am	Mar 30	National Chapter App Due	Manhattan	
Sept 28	Area Land Judging	Russell	9:30 am	Mar 29	Livestock Contest	Smith Center	9:00 am
Sept 30	State FFA Roster due			April 7	Livestock Contest	Pburg	9:00 am
Oct 8 or 10	Greenhand Conf./Fall Meeting	Hays or Atwood	9:00 am	April 11	District Livestock Contest	Oakley	1:00 pm
Oct 15	POA Deadline			April 17	Agronomy/Horticulture	Ellis	4 pm
Oct 20-23	National Convention	Indianapolis		April 18	State CDE Regis. Deadline		
Nov 3	Dairy Judging	FHSU	8:00 am	April 24	Livestock Contest	Hays or Cheylin	9:00 am
Nov 3	Dairy Foods & Food Science	Hays	1:30 pm	April 26	Northwest District Banquet	Atwood	4:00 pm
Nov 29	Speech & Leadership School	Quinter	2:00 pm	April 29-May 1	State FFA Contest	Manhattan	
Jan 8-23	Denver Stock Show	Denver		May 4	State Convention Registration due		
Jan 19	Ag. Sales, Job Interview	Smith Center	9:00 am	May 20	SCCL Registration Due		
Jan 21	Ag Ed Speech Contest	Manhattan		May 20	Annual Report Due		
Jan 26-28	Ag Ed Symposium	Pittsburg		May 29-June 1	State Convention	Manhattan	
Feb 9	Selection Day	Russell	4:00 pm	June 12-17	WLC - Kansas Group		

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