

Additional grant funds awarded for water main project

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 21 April 2011 21:14 -

By Tina Kitt

The Wauneta Breeze

It will be a busy few months addressing water infrastructure in Wauneta as the final hurdles are cleared for an expansive series of waterworks projects.

David Blau of Miller and Associates was on hand at last week's Village Board meeting where he informed local officials that additional loan funds of \$151,000 and grant funds of \$30,200 had been secured to cover the cost of replacing water mains in east Wauneta.

This money, combined with the original loan request of \$160,800 and grant of \$40,200 from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, will cover the total combined costs of \$352,000.

Of that amount, \$201,000 will cover the costs of the arsenic mitigation project which will include the use of variable frequency drives on Wauneta's three existing wells as well as the control and SCADA System upgrades needed to coordinate the computerized system.

The \$281,600 loan is repayable over 20 years at a 2.1 percent interest rate.

The \$70,400 grant portion of the funds, referred to as principal forgiveness, represents 20 percent of the total project cost of all aspects of the upcoming water system projects.

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“I was very excited to see they had approved the additional principal forgiveness,” said Blau.

The Village Board okayed an amended loan agreement last week, with the new agreement including the additional funding for the water main project. The cost of this project is pegged at \$110,900 plus the added costs of contingencies and extra engineering fees.

In a special meeting Monday night of this week the board approved additional fees for Miller and Associates related to the newly expanded project.

Now that all contractual agreements have been inked, Miller and Associates will send out a surveying crew to assess the Wauneta project and begin the bid-letting process.

At present the Village is operating on just two of its three wells due to the “looping” issues in east Wauneta.

Officials would like to see work begin on this project as quickly as possible before summer water use demands create problems.

Johnston sworn in

Page Johnston was sworn in as a Village Board member last week after he was appointed earlier this year to complete the term of the late Ted Grimm.

Johnston will serve as commissioner on the boards on which Grimm served — Park, Pool, Trees; Cemetery; County Landfill; Ambulance Policy; Power Pool Rep; and the Safety Committee.

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He will no longer serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission due to his recently attained role as a member of the Board of Adjustments on which all Village Board members serve, acting on recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Village will advertise the opening on the Planning and Zoning Commission to see if there are community members who are interested in serving on that commission.

The board said they would also like to seek applicants in appointing a replacement for Grimm on the Park and Tree Committee. Grimm served on that committee with his wife, Joyce. Anyone interested in serving on either the Park and Tree Committee or the Planning and Zoning Commission should speak with Village Clerk Evelyn Skelton or a member of the Village Board.

Further business

In other business the board:

- Approved a returned check policy.
- Discussed the payment process for expenses related to the library weatherization project which is being funded in good measure with a matching-grant from the USDA.

The Village Board also met in special session and held a public hearing to discuss a zoning issue on April 18. Coverage of that meeting will be included in next week's Breeze.