

Scope of water project expanded to replace 82-year-old mains

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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By Tina Kitt

The Wauneta Breeze

Wauneta Village Board members agreed with Village Superintendent Bill Bischoff that now would be a good time to replace aging water mains abutting new sections of pipe recently put in place near the Wichita Street bridge.

As crews have connected new pipes with the original iron mains near the intersection of Wichita and Arikiree streets as part of a larger waterworks project, the 82-year-old pipes have ruptured forcing repairs. Bischoff suggested that while the streets are already torn up in several sections now would be a good time to replace the aging iron.

“We can add main work for substantial savings,” said Bischoff.

With work crews already in town, noted consulting engineer David Blau of Miller & Associates, mobilization costs won't have to be factored in for the additional work.

Blau joined the Village Board discussion last Tuesday via conference call due to hazardous road conditions across the area early last week.

Blau said Van Kirk Bros. Contracting will remain on site for the additional work while the official details are addressed to allow the change order. He said the funding agency will allow the additional work to be submitted under the original funding application.

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“It would be foolish to leave a chunk of that old line in there right where we’re at,” added Bischoff, noting that the mains to be replaced were installed in 1929 as part of Wauneta’s first waterworks project.

The extra water main work will likely add \$13,000 to \$15,000 to the arsenic mitigation and water distribution project tagged with a total projected budget of \$352,000. Grant funds are covering 20 percent of the project, with the balance included in the Village Budget. An outlay request to pay Van Kirk Bros. \$35,983 for work completed as of Dec. 5 was approved by the board.

In other business the board voted to purchase two used Ford pickups at a total expenditure of \$11,100 to replace other vehicles in the municipal utilities department’s four-vehicle line-up. The pickups include a 2004 diesel F350 four-wheel-drive cab chassis for \$6,600 from Pivot Electric and a 2002 F150 gas-powered supercab from B&D Service for \$4,500.

The pickups to be taken out of service will be sold on sealed bids. “We’re getting two good rigs for a good price,” said Bischoff, noting that the 2004 model retails for \$13,000 and the 2002 for \$7,000.

The issue of Village Dog Ordinances was on the agenda once again, this time after a community member asked that ordinances dealing with barking dogs be enforced. Wauneta Police Regulations addressing barking dogs allow for dogs which habitually bark to be impounded at the owner’s expense for three days following which the animal can be destroyed unless the owner has made “a suitable alternative to the destruction of said dog.”

No action was taken by the board on the dog ordinance issue, but discussion helped identify and interpret some procedures to be followed in dealing with dog complaints. After reviewing ordinances in place in another small Nebraska community, board members noted the importance of making sure dog complaints are not being lodged by neighbors who are disgruntled over matters unrelated to a possible barking dog.

If a formal written complaint is filed, the matter will be investigated, said Bischoff.

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The board also approved Christmas bonuses for employees in line with last year's bonuses with full-time employees receiving \$125 in Chamber Bucks and part-time employees receiving \$60-\$75 in Chamber Bucks. They also approved a \$20 Christmas bonus for library volunteer Lindsay Acton.