

East Wauneta water project completed under budget

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 24 February 2012 18:52 - Last Updated Friday, 24 February 2012 18:55

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

The highlight of the Feb. 14 meeting of the Wauneta Village Board was the under-budget completion of the water main project. The water project started late last year to replace the 82-year-old mains in the east part of Wauneta is now complete.

The project came in approximately \$5,000 under budget even after the Village decided to replace the main on an additional block on Arikaree street. At completion, the total construction cost of the project was \$105,020.80.

Village Superintendent Bill Bischoff emphasized that Van Kirk Bros. Contracting had done an excellent job on the project and had taken care to avoid unnecessary damage to the streets while completing the work.

David Blau of Miller & Associates attended the Village board meeting to answer the board's questions regarding completion of the project. He added that Van Kirk Bros.' care to avoid unnecessary damage to the streets was part of what allowed the project to come in under budget despite the additional work authorized.

There is one remaining water project still on the table for the Village of Wauneta. The Village plans to put in variable frequency drives to control the amount of water that comes out of the village's wells at a given time.

The hope is that by regulating the speed of water being drawn out of the wells the Village's

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ongoing issue with slightly elevated arsenic levels in the water will be lessened. This project will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting of the Village board.

Pasture lease

The Village-owned pasture located on the south side of Highway 6 just east of the old golf course is due for lease renewal.

Kent Buffington is presently leasing the 27.849 acre pasture land from the Village for \$275 per year, his current lease ends March 31, 2012. The Village will begin advertisement of the available lease soon.

Board members discussed adding the provision that the party who leases the pasture will be responsible for maintaining the fence in reasonable condition. The Village will provide the materials required for upkeep of the fence.

The exact terms of the lease are available at the Village office.

Swimming pool

The Wauneta swimming pool will have a fresh coat of paint this summer. The Village board passed a motion to accept a proposal from J.M. Stevens Painting Co. for \$14,860 to refinish the pool.

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It was noted that keno money can be used to fund the pool project.

Bischoff noted that usually swimming pools require fresh paint every five years but that it had been seven years since the Wauneta pool had been painted.

He credited the quality of work performed by J.M. Stevens for the extra two years before the pool required new paint.

Mosquito fogger

The board passed a motion approving the purchase of a new mosquito fogger priced at \$9,463.30. Until now, the Village of Wauneta has borrowed Imperial's mosquito fogger.

Wauneta's purchase of its own fogger will provide more flexibility on when the Village can be treated for mosquitoes. There is also the possibility for income by treating area towns that do not have their own foggers.

Board member Page Johnston commented that the Village's efforts to fog for mosquitoes has been noticed and appreciated. The treatment has greatly cut down on flying pests in the community.

Other business

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Other business completed at the meeting included a lengthy discussion and executive session on the progress towards the Village's purchase of the nursing home, details are included in a separate article on page 1.

During the superintendent's report it was noted that electric rates took a hike in January. Currently the Village is absorbing the additional electric costs above what is being charged to consumers.

Rate adjustments intended to cover the increased cost of the energy will be brought to the table at the March meeting.

The board accepted the resignation of Esther Einspahr from the Library Board. Sharon Haarberg was appointed as a replacement member of the library board.

The public is welcome to attend Village board meetings.