

Village Board discusses water projects, propane contracts and comprehensive plan

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Friday, 20 September 2013 17:23 -

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

Wauneta's village board members met for their regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

The agenda at the September meeting included discussion and action on the village's two current water projects, a look at propane contracts for the upcoming season and planning for the soon-to-be updated comprehensive plan.

Water projects

The village board approved two final invoices from Miller and Associates of Kearney relating to the Wauneta Water Project–Variable Frequency Drives and SCADA system, one for \$3,407.15 and the other for \$3,370.00.

David Blau with Miller and Associates was present at the meeting and presented the board with a budget summary of the water system improvements. The total budget was listed at \$356,715. Of the budget, \$281,600 came from a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan, \$70,400 from a SRF grant and \$4,715 from Wauneta's sewer fund.

Village Board discusses water projects, propane contracts and comprehensive plan

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Friday, 20 September 2013 17:23 -

The village approved a \$9,810 reimbursement request from the SRF fund for the water project at the September meeting.

Blau indicated the village has \$24,494 remaining in the budget to complete the test wells required in the variable frequency drive project to help eliminate or lessen the arsenic in Wauneta's water.

Discussion of the arsenic levels in the water led to a decision to begin testing the arsenic level monthly, rather than quarterly as is required by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Village Superintendent Bill Bischoff said he felt the monthly samples would allow a better gauge of how the water quality is improving.

Board members decided to proceed with the monthly sampling before beginning the process to test sites for new possible well locations.

Board members also reviewed contractor bids for water main work planned on Cheyenne Street. The only bid the village received was from BSB Construction, Inc. of Curtis. The total bid was \$68,827, which was \$22,347 over what Miller and Associates expected it to be. The board decided to reject all bids at this time and issue a new bid at a later date.

However, the village board did approve purchase of a small tract of land, approximately 585 square feet, from Glen Yoder for the Cheyenne Street Water Main Project.

The board will trade services for the land purchase, the village will build Yoder a driveway approach into his lots.

Bischoff said the purchase of the tract of land will allow the village to straighten the road and

Village Board discusses water projects, propane contracts and comprehensive plan

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 20 September 2013 17:23 -

cut down the bank to make it more manageable.

Comprehensive plan

Village board members approved dispersal of surveys needed for the grant application to help pay for the village's updated comprehensive plan.

They determined a goal of Sept. 30 to have the surveys completed and returned to the village office.

More information about the surveys is available in a separate story in this edition of the Breeze.

Nursing home

Board members reviewed the financial statements for Sunrise Heights of Wauneta, accepted a bid to replace windows at the facility and approved an advertising proposal and a mileage reimbursement policy change.

The nursing home's statement of operation for the month of July, which shows line by line actual spending and income compared to budgeted amounts, shows a loss \$30,002 for the

Village Board discusses water projects, propane contracts and comprehensive plan

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 20 September 2013 17:23 -

month.

Nursing home committee member Page Johnston said the bookkeepers are certain the loss reported on the statement of operations was an error of some sort, possibly an issue with the software.

He said all other financial reports from the nursing home show the facility to be in healthy finances. Board members passed a motion to accept the financials.

Board members reviewed and approved a bid of \$6,279.96 from Western Window and Door of McCook to replace six windows at Sunrise Heights.

Nursing home committee member Page Johnston indicated that local contractors were also invited to submit a bid on the project, but none submitted a bid.

The board also approved an advertising proposal from the McCook Gazette for their "Thumbs up to Business" program.

Sunrise Heights will receive a feature article in the Gazette and Big Nickel, 9 ads and exposure on the Gazette's website and Facebook page for \$499.

Village board members also approved an update to the nursing home's policy regarding mileage paid to employees when a personal vehicle is used.

The policy was updated to allow payment of \$0.55/mile to and from North Platte when employees travel to take their medication aide exams.

Committee member Johnston explained that the mileage to/from exams would not normally be

Village Board discusses water projects, propane contracts and comprehensive plan

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 20 September 2013 17:23 -

a reimbursable expense under the previous policy, however allowing reimbursement aligns with the nursing home's commitment to support further education by staff members.

Board members decided to review propane contracts for the nursing home in committee rather than at the village board meeting.

Other business

Board members approved propane contracts for the fire hall and ambulance barn at the September meeting. They will contract with Wauneta Crossroads to provide propane at the ambulance barn and Wauneta Co-op Oil for the fire hall.

Approved contracts will be for 1,000 gallons at both locations and will secure the contract by paying a percentage down on each. The propane from Wauneta Crossroads will be contracted at \$1.50/gallon and the propane from Wauneta Co-op Oil at the rate of \$1.44/gallon.

Board members also read and passed resolution 2013-03 which will place a stop sign at the northwest corner of North Shawnee Avenue and West Vinita Street.

The purpose of the stop sign is to control southbound traffic approaching Vinita Street.

Superintendent's report

Village Board discusses water projects, propane contracts and comprehensive plan

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 20 September 2013 17:23 -

Village superintendent Bischoff informed the board members that the village crew is in the middle of tree trimming right now. The village crew has been working with Wayne's Tree Service to take care of trees that are too high for village equipment to reach.

Bischoff told the board he had been approached by members of the Wauneta Volunteer Fire Department regarding the 1952 Ford fire truck that is currently housed at the fire hall.

The truck is no longer in service, and the firemen asked Bischoff if it could be moved to another location. Board members approved Bischoff moving the fire truck to the village shop for storage until it is decided what to do with the truck.

Clerk's report

Village Clerk Evelyn Skelton informed the board that the village had received its annual audit package from its audit firm. Auditors will be coming to Wauneta on Nov. 15, 2013. The audit fee will raise \$100 from last year at \$7,350.

The Wauneta Village Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. MT at the village office. The public is welcome to attend village board meetings.