

Village of Wauneta approves One and Six Year Road Plan

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Wednesday, 19 February 2014 23:38 -



This map shows the roads the village plans to improve within the One and Six Year Road Plan. The plan, which was accepted at the February Village Board meeting includes maintenance activities only in the next year. (Courtesy Graphic | W Design Associates)

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta Village Board held the annual One and Six Year Road Plans public hearing prior to the regular board meeting last Tuesday, Feb. 11. Greg Wolford with W Design Associates of McCook was present at the meeting to present the plan and answer questions.

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The new One and Six Year Road Plans includes no new projects. The one year plan includes road maintenance only. The six year plan includes projects on Falls Drive, Legion Street, two projects on Arikaree Street, Valley Street, Wichita Street, Pontiac Street, Shawnee Street, Sioux Street, North Railway Street and a block of Shawnee Street north of the railroad tracks. Wolford stated the current plan is to complete road improvements in the order listed above.

Although there are no major street projects planned for the upcoming year, plans can be modified if changes come up. If changes become necessary the village will have to submit the changes to the State of Nebraska. Board members discussed and accepted the One and Six Year Plan as it was presented.

Turkey problem update

Page Johnston provided other board members with an update on the attempts to rid the village of wild turkeys. Mike Sherman with USDA was in town in January and used pyrotechnics to attempt to scare away the turkeys that have made the east end of town their home.

Johnston said Sherman felt he had made some progress on the issue, but that additional efforts may be needed. The board will take steps to give Sherman permission to discharge a firearm within city limits in case he needs to try shooting the wild turkeys as a step in eliminating or lessening the problem.

Village water

Village Superintendent Bill Bischoff told the board that Andy Kale, a drinking water specialist, has been keeping up on the arsenic level in the village's water. He said there has not been

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enough sampling to see if the Variable Frequency Drives are helping at this point, but that it does not look like they are helping at this point.

Bischoff said the good part of the issue is that the village has filed exemptions with Health and Human Services for the arsenic levels and the village has applied to be considered in a well rehabilitation program. The rehab program would seal the clay layer of the well with concrete. Bischoff indicated that Wauneta is being considered and is at the top of the list for the program.

Another entity is currently doing a pilot program in Haigler where the village provides in-house water filtration units for every home in town.

Bischoff said a representative will attend the next village board meeting to explain both programs.

U.S. Route 6 Tourist Association

The village approved purchase of a membership in the U.S. Route 6 Tourist Association at the February meeting. The association works to increase tourism along U.S. Route 6 and the communities along the highway.

The village's membership will cost \$60 for a two-year membership. Board members also approved purchase of six Historic U.S. Route 6 road signs to alert travelers of the old highway. The total cost of the six signs is \$450.

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Cheyenne Street Water Project

The Cheyenne Street Water Project is now complete, and came in at \$4,000 under the budgeted amount.

The board approved a \$52,130 payment to Interstate Irrigation to pay for the project. Half the funds for the payment will be taken from the village's water account and half from the water building fund.

Ambulance Barn furnace

The village received two bids for installation of a second furnace at the Ambulance Barn. The bids were for different types of heaters and so board members decided to reseal the bids and research the issue further. They will discuss the second furnace for the ambulance barn again at the March meeting.

Chateau Theatre

Village board members approved a draw down of up to \$4,000 from Chateau's investment account after a request was received from the Wauneta Chamber. The actual withdrawal may be less than \$4,000, dependent on the account's balance at the time. One of the stipulations on the account is that funds can not be taken out to bring the balance below \$100,000. At the time of the board meeting the account's balance was \$104,038.76.

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Board members were not aware of the exact project or purpose for which the funds were needed, they believed it was to provide a bit of operating cushion for the theatre. It was also noted that the Women of Today would soon begin a campaign to encourage people to sponsor the theatre.

Nursing home

Village board members reviewed the December 2013 financial statements for Sunrise Heights of Wauneta. The reports showed a loss of approximately \$6,000 from operations. It was explained that the loss was most likely due to a \$11,000 payment for Point of Care electronic charting software that the facility is required to implement.

The good news was that the facility's census is back up. It had been down to 29 residents for two to three months, but is now back up to 34 residents. The maximum number of residents the nursing home can have is 36.

Old business

Board members revisited plans to update the village's comprehensive plan. Village Clerk Eveleyn Skelton said she will be in contact with a consulting firm to provide insights on what to include on a Request for Proposals (RFP) to update the plan.

Skelton and board members worked through clarification issues regarding the previously proposed ATV/UTV ordinance for the Village of Wauneta. Skelton indicated she would implement the clarifications discussed, which included setting the driver's age to 18 and registration fees and penalty amounts, into the draft ordinance. She plans to present the board

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with an updated draft prior to the March board meeting.

The land purchase from Glen Yoder for the water main project is done. The village has a signed warranty deed. Skelton said the real estate transfer just needs to be filed at the Chase County Court House.

Clerk's report

In her Clerk's report Skelton informed the board members that the village's pasture, which is currently leased to Kent Buffington, is due to expire in March. She said she will advertise the lease's availability prior to the March Village Board meeting so interested individuals can submit bids on the lease.

Skelton also told board members the village's audit is complete. Terry Galloway will attend a future village board meeting to go over the audit with board members.

The next village board meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. MT at the village office. The public is welcome to attend village board meetings.