

Courthouse heating system is commissioner topic

Written by April Peregoy

Plans are being initiated to fix the heating system at Phillips County Courthouse after the steam boiler failure in December. Phillips County Commissioners announced during their meeting Friday, Feb. 27, they have decided to issue requests for proposals to evaluate the heating system for the Courthouse before proceeding.

Two engineering firms responded to the request: EMC Engineers, Inc. out of Lakewood and Ennovate Corporation from Aurora. Commissioners said they will complete their interviews with both firms within the following week and will make a decision on which firm to hire.

Commissioners also issued requests for proposals to abate the asbestos in the Courthouse boiler room. Four companies responded including: DLM, Inc. of Brighton—\$16,970; Great Plains Asbestos Control from Kearney, Neb.—\$13,800; LVI Environmental Services of Denver—\$22,090; and Certified Insulators of Denver—\$12,620.

After checking references, the commissioners decided to award the contract to Certified Insulators. They also decided to add asbestos abatement for the utility tunnel around the outside of the courthouse. That will cost an additional \$9,650, but, they said, it should deal with all the asbestos issues in the courthouse.

Commissioners also noted they are hosting the Taste of Agriculture event again, this time in Haxtun. The event will be Monday, March 16, from 5-7 p.m. at Haxtun Elementary gym and cafeteria. It is intended to showcase the various agricultural products produced in Phillips County.

There will be a fee to attend the event, with the money going toward the Phillips County Event Center building. Approximately 30 vendors are currently signed up, and each one will offer a taste of an agricultural product as well as a prize for the drawings held throughout the event.

The commissioners urge the public to attend, saying there will be lots of good food and good prizes. "Last year's event was a lot of fun, and we expect no less from this year's."

Two other county projects were mentioned at Friday's meeting. The first is a donor recognition wall for the new Event Center building. The commissioners want to acknowledge the many donors who have invested in the project, and have asked Phillips County Arts Council if the organization would begin work on its design.

A new mapping system is also currently being worked on for the Communications Center. The county will provide training for road and bridge, the county assessor, weed and pest and planning departments so they can utilize the system as well as the Communications Center. The Assessor's Office will maintain the maps, but each of the other departments will be able to maintain separate map layers for their specific use.

Other business

In other business during February, commissioners:

—appointed Tiffany Weber to Phillips County Fair Board and Ryan Kurtzer to Phillips County Weed and Pest District Advisory Board. Joe Crowder was reappointed to another term of the Weed and Pest Board. Commissioners attended a Weed and Pest Board meeting on Feb. 19.

—approved a request from Holyoke Chamber of Commerce to have the Dandelion Daze festivity on the Courthouse Square June 19-20.

—approved use of the fairgrounds arena by Northeast Colorado Barrel Racers for every other Monday evening from May through September. They also approved use of the fairgrounds arena by 4-H kids riding horses on Thursday evenings from May through July.

—granted a subdivision exemption to Gayln Einspahr for the sale of approximately 5.3 acres to Don McManan.

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—added six individuals as approved drivers in an amendment to the Holyoke Ambulance Service license. They are Jacquelyn Vance, Cynthia Wilber, Loraine Speicher, Kimberly Young, Madelaine Lamm and Phillip Enterline.

—reviewed four oil and gas well permits from Black Raven, formerly known as PRB.