

## Commissioners address GOCO

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

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Great Outdoors Colorado will be very familiar with northeastern Colorado as the Phillips County commissioners announced Thursday, Feb. 28 at their month-end meeting that they have signed three letters of intent for GOCO grants.

In total, Phillips County will be seeking nearly \$480,000.

Holyoke's school district sought out the help of the county commissioners to apply for \$350,000 for the district to completely renovate the current high school track.

This marks the third year in a row that the commissioners have attempted to obtain a GOCO grant on behalf of Re-1J for the purpose of constructing a new track. Last year GOCO only funded nine of the dozens of projects that were applied for, and the Holyoke track missed the cut, as it was the 10th project.

The City of Holyoke is attempting to secure \$110,000 for improvements to be made at the Holyoke baseball facility.

The Town of Haxtun is also seeking grant money in the amount of \$19,152 to make improvements to their baseball field. They are looking to add topsoil to the infield; install a fence; and add a bat and helmet rack, bench backs, a set of bases and equipment to drag the field.

The commissioners have also had a handful of resolutions, leases, licenses, applications and purchases they have handled recently.

Commissioners reported that they passed a resolution prohibiting the use of tobacco and tobacco products on county property and inside of county vehicles.

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It was also reported that Gale Wiebers and Pam Struckmeyer have both been appointed to three-year terms on the fair board. Commissioners appointed Doug Larson to be the community representative for Haxtun's Chamber on the fair board as well.

Land use was also discussed at length during the meeting as a few organizations have applied for permits and leases for Phillips County land.

The county is in the process of leasing the mineral rights of the landfill to Blackwolf Land Services, LLC on behalf of Omimex Petroleum. As of now, the commissioners are working on changes to the initial plan before moving forward.

National Wind, LLC has submitted two conditional use permit applications on behalf of NECO Wind, LLC for a wind farm that will be in Logan and Phillips counties. The second permit is for the transmission line to collect the electricity. There will be a public hearing later in the month to consider the application.

If approved, the wind farm will be located southwest of Haxtun and probably contain between 15 and 17 towers.

## **Other business**

In other business in the month of February, commissioners:

—agreed to contribute \$150 for Holyoke High School and Haxtun High School post prom expenses.

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—approved the purchase of a 1994 Ford 675E backhoe, equipped with all attachments for \$22,000 from Evan Consalvos to be used by all three districts.

—approved an ambulance license for East Phillips County Hospital District for a year, beginning April 1.

Holyoke Enterprise March 7, 2013