

Proposed wind farm seeking county approval

Written by Darci Tomky

Conditional use applications for the proposed Williwaw Goddard Wind Farm were scheduled to be considered at a Phillips County Board of Adjustments hearing Wednesday, Feb. 8, reported commissioners at their Jan. 31 meeting.

The first application is for a 19.8 megawatt wind generation system with 11-12 wind generating towers approximately six miles southwest of Holyoke on the hills known as Fiddler and Goddard Peaks.

The second application is for a 69 kilovolt electrical transmission line to gather the power from the wind farm and take it to the substation on the west side of Holyoke.

After the 7 p.m. hearing held at the courthouse Feb. 8, the Board of Adjustments will give their approval, approval with conditions or denial to the applications and then take their recommendation to the commissioners for their approval.

Kinnie now chairman of commissioner board

After a reorganization meeting in January, commissioner Joe Kinnie is now chairman of the board, while commissioners Bud Biesemeier and Jerry Beavers will serve as co-chairmen.

In last week's meeting, commissioners announced Holyoke is planning to build an all-weather track, including new lighting, at a preliminary project total of over \$500,000. The school is not eligible to apply for grant funds from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), so Phillips County will work with them to make the application for the \$350,000 grant.

Commissioners also reported Sedgwick County has agreed to partner with Phillips County on

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WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification Systems) to replace the paging system for emergency personnel and law enforcement.

This year's Taste of Agriculture was a success, said commissioners, with everyone giving very positive comments about the event. There were around 300-350 people in attendance with around 45 vendors giving a taste of their goods.

Money raised from Taste of Agriculture will benefit the daycare center in Haxtun.

Commissioners approved some purchases in the month of January.

Two 10,000-gallon double wall tanks for two of the three districts were approved at \$19,928 each. Kinnie said this will be a savings in gas funds to the county in the long run. They noted the third district already had underground tanks.

A \$180,745 payloader lease purchase agreement was approved by the commissioners for District 3, including a trade-in for \$45,000.

The Amherst fire hall was purchased for District 1 for \$18,000. It will serve as an extension to their shop as well as a place to store equipment.

Other business

In other business in the month of January, commissioners:

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—approved a contract with McAtee Construction of Sterling for the completion of the enhancement project at the fairgrounds.

—reviewed 24 gas permits for Black Raven Energy in the Amherst area.

—approved a subdivision exemption for Mark and Joanie Groshans west of Holyoke.

—noted re-zoning approval for Glen and Ranae McCallum and Rusty Triplette, both from agriculture to commercial zoning.

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