

Recommendation accepted for NECO Wind facility in county

Written by Darci Tomky

Following a conditional approval recommendation for NECO Wind by the Phillips County Board of Adjustments, Phillips County commissioners accepted the recommendation April 19 and granted the final conditional use permit for two projects.

NECO Wind's 30-megawatt wind generation facility, located southwest of Haxtun, is proposing 18 wind turbines in Phillips and Logan counties.

The second project is the transmission line to carry the electricity to the Haxtun substation. The approximate 3.5-mile-long transmission line would lie in Phillips County and is proposed to be underground.

The board reported NECO Wind does not have a power purchase agreement at this time but feels that may be obtained in the near future.

Also during the April 30 commissioner meeting, the board noted they received word that the Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board will consider the nomination of the Evergreen Corner Rural Historic Landscape for the National Register of Historic Places.

The property, located at County Roads 30 and 17 by Haxtun, is owned by Lauren and Jody Heermann.

The State Review Board will meet May 17 to determine if the Haxtun property will become part of the government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture.

The listing of a property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of federal and state projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property.

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A grant application to the Colorado Historical Fund has been submitted by the county, reported commissioners last Tuesday, April 30. The approximate \$92,000 grant would be used to repair the outside windows in the courthouse, install new inside storm windows and tuck-point the chimney.

Commissioners signed and sent a letter of support to Gov. John Hickenlooper for his stance to maintain a stable regulatory environment for oil and gas development in the state.

Last month, the board reviewed a proposed junk and weed control regulation. Commissioners referred the draft to the county planning commission for review and recommendation on May 15. If adopted, it would become part of the county's zoning regulation.

Sales and purchases in the month of April include the sale of a 1992 Chevrolet Blazer to Robert Sieck of Haxtun for the bid of \$555.

The county purchased a drag harrow from Ag Power Equipment Co. for \$1,454 for use at the fairgrounds. Commissioners also approved the purchase of a machine to assist in reclaiming gravel from county ditches from the company The Retriever for \$7,000.

Approval for the purchase of new tires from H & R Tire was given for front-end loaders in Districts 1 and 2. The approximate cost for bias ply tires for District 1 was \$6,500. The price for radial tires for District 2 was \$10,748.

The board donated \$100 to the Relay For Life event in June.

Tanya Lemly, case worker supervisor, recently left the county Department of Human Services. Her replacement hasn't been finalized, and the county is currently advertising for a case worker in the department.

Commissioners noted they approved the operating license for Haxtun Ambulance Service.

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