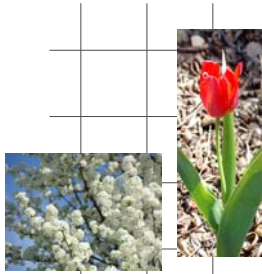


Rice County Rap

Rice County, Kansas

April 27, 2010

Volume 3, Issue 17



April 27 - May 4

Birthdays

April 27
Jennifer McCall

April 29
Sam Wilson

May 1
Roy Pflughoeft

May 3, 2010

DEPARTMENT HEAD CONNECTION

Rice County Noxious Weed and Planning & Zoning Administrator
Levi Beaver

Department Head Connection Rice County Treasurer, Shawna Bieberle

Shawna Bieberle, Rice County Treasurer gave a very informative report. Her department sent out postcard reminders for the second half taxes that are due May 10, 2010. This is the 8th year of sending out the reminders and they receive a lot of thank yous from the tax payers for the reminder. This spurs a start of tax payments steadily coming in. This is a cost savings because the list of delinquent taxes goes down and makes the publication in the paper smaller.

They are in the process of sending out letters to the oil purchasers to garnish the royalty interest checks for delinquent oil taxes. They are also in the process of providing a list of uncollectable personal property, oil, gas and intangible taxes that can be removed from the tax rolls for the Commissioners to approve. The court fees have gone up for these to almost \$50.

Turning to Motor Vehicle, Shawna reported that they are steady in their work. Her report shows in 2008 there were 13,502 transactions and in 2009 there were 13,638. In 2008, registration fees collected were \$704,643.03 with Rice County's share at \$84,593.75. In 2009, registration fees were \$767,044.20 with the RC share of \$86,228.00.

The Treasurer detailed that the state has stopped answering MV telephone calls from the public on Mondays and Fridays. They will take county calls. The state is down 24 positions in the Motor Vehicle Department. The people answering the phone are the same ones that work up titles so they thought they could at least work them up in a more timely manner and get caught up by cutting down on the phone service days.

One area that Shawna is watching closely is the Modernization Fund fee of \$4.00 that is being charged for every registration. That money is to be used to complete the new computer software for the DMV. They have had the same software since 1988. The new is supposed to be implemented July 4, 2011. There have been several legislative bills to sweep that money out of the fund. This is a concern because the current program just is not working. For example, Disabled, Veterans, EMS and Fireman's tags have to be called in to the state to have them move the record to renew the car tag. This means at least a ten minute long distance call. It takes funds and staff time for things like this.

The Treasurer's Office has a list of unclaimed property from the State Treasurer's Office for Rice County Residents. Anyone wanting to check to see if their name is on the list can come to their office and review the list.

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The Rice County Newsletter does not contain the official minutes of the Commission meeting nor does it convey the official county position on issues.



The Ant Philosophy.

Ants' four-part philosophy.

1. *Ants never quit.*

2. *Ants think winter all summer.*

That's an important perspective. You can't be so naive as to think summer will last forever. So ants gather their winter food in the middle of summer.

An ancient story says, "Don't build your house on the sand in the summer." Why do we need that advice? Because it is important to think ahead. In the summer, you've got to think storm. You've got to think rocks as you enjoy the sand and sun.

~to be continued

Rice County Commission Meeting

April 19, 2010

The Commission Agenda this Monday began with Jill Nichols, Rice County Coordinator/Economic Development asking for approval of the final invoice from Kirkham Michael for inspection services for the Cal-Maine project. The invoice of \$3,626.25 was approved and will be paid by grant funds. She reported that the Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant for a Revolving Loan was turned down. The Commissioners moved to keep the \$20,000 matching money in the local RLF account for loans to new or expanding businesses. The E-Waste collection event on Saturday, April 24 at Dillon Nature Center brought in one semi-load and six additional trailers of waste. Tuesday there will be an event in Cowley County at Winfield and Saturday, May 1 will be the Salina collection event. Jill shared that Kansas Keepsakes is having a sale of furniture and scrapbooking items on Saturday, May 15. The Bushton street project has been completed; the Raymond Community Center project is complete and the Chase street project was started this week.

County Clerk, Alicia Showalter reported that the quotes on the repair of the sidewalks will be in on the 30th. Alicia updated the Commissioners on the lightning strike that happened at the Courthouse on Thursday, April 22. There was about \$10,000 in damages to computer and electronic equipment. She brought figures about the Detention Enterprise Fund and the transfer of funds for the payment due June 1. Alicia brought a job description of a new position at the landfill from John Achatz. The Commissioners asked to meet with John next week to discuss this. She reported on the new employee in EMS, Keith Vagts. She brought the contract of completion from Venture Corporation for the Bushton Street project. The Commissioners had not reviewed the project and suggested that John Achatz should sign the document if he had reviewed it. The Commissioners signed a contract transferring road maintenance from the state to the county of K-171 from the north city limits of Bushton to where it meets K-4. Alicia gave the Commissioners a sheet with the amounts of earned leave and how much it would cost to buy it back for exempt employees. The airport leases that were prepared have been sent to the hanger owners. There was a discussion about the budget process and how the Commissioners wanted to handle that this year.

In regular business, Treasurer Shawna Bieberle asked for approval of abatements in the amount of \$653.10.

City of Lyons Administrator, John Sweet came to the meeting to discuss issues pertaining to the airport projects. First was approval of Kirkham Michael Pay Estimate #18 for \$20,033.85 and Smoky Hill Pay Estimate #6 for \$217,217.53. These are for the reconstruction of the existing runway and are 95% paid by FAA grant funds, with the city (25%) and the county (75%) paying the remainder. John asked for an executive session for the discussion of land acquisition. After returning to open meeting, approval was requested and given for a \$20,000 expenditure for business relocation for the land acquisition part of the airport lengthening project.

Noxious Weed Director, Levi Beaver asked for approval for a chemical purchase. He presented four bids for the products and the Commissioners accepted the low bid of \$19,388.20 from the Sterling Co-op.

The Commissioners asked to reschedule the tour of the Stutzman Recycling facility in Hutchinson from this Friday to May 14th at 10:30 am. That is also the day of the retirement reception for Harlan Brown at the Health Department Conference Room from 8 am until noon.

The Commissioners will meet Friday, April 30 at 8 am to review vouchers.



HIGH
ON RICE COUNTY