

Bridge

Continued from Page 1

solicitation of formal bids for the deck resurfacing and repair of Bridge B-01 Kennebec bridge (Bowman Bridge). The Bowman Bridge has been included with the solicitation of bids for six Coffey County bridges to realize a cost savings realized from bidding more than one bridge. Blackburn said the city will own the contract on the Bowman Bridge and will have the authority to direct the contractor. The public notice soliciting bids for the bridge project is printed in today's issue.

The council tabled a motion to allow BG Consultants to be the inspector for the bridge project.

City Clerk Regina Kewley gave a brief electric department update, due to the absence of Electric Superintendent Alan Schneider. Schneider recommended the advancement of Dallas Birk from Apprentice III to Apprentice IV and a wage of \$22.60 per hour, effective Feb. 22, which the council unanimously approved.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Danny Hawkins updated the council about problems related to the department's new truck. When it initially arrived it lacked some options, such as running boards, that had to be installed at Crow-Moddie Ford. Hawkins when filling the truck with fuel, gasoline started to run on the ground, which apparently was caused by a faulty module that could take up to two months to fix. Also, the brake lights were not working. Hawkins said Crow-Moddie Ford already sold the city's trade-in and they do not have a loaner truck available. The council directed Hawkins to contact some other dealers.

Hawkins said water and wastewater employees have been training, which has been going very well, especially with the new hires. Crews repaired two water leaks since the last meeting, one at Eighth and Hudson streets and the other at Osborne and Martindale streets.

Street Superintendent Mark Davidson said they have been adding rock to alleys, cutting shoulders on gravel roads, replacing signs, providing ice control, and cleaning ditches in the southwest part of town.

Police Chief Doug Jones said city court was held Feb. 13 for the last time at the courthouse. Municipal court will not be held during March and it will return to city hall in April. Jones said officers have been working several burglaries involving guns and prescription pills. On Presidents Day, they participated in ALICE training at the schools. Officers were working a sexual assault case where the suspect confessed just prior to the council meeting.

Parks Superintendent Kevin Boyce said they have been doing building and equipment maintenance most of time. He sent bid information to dealerships for a new truck and soon he will be gathering quotes to purchase flowers in the spring. New blue "Welcome to Burlington" banners were installed Feb. 18. The maroon banners were approximately 12 years old and started to come apart at the seams. Since he had been asked a question earlier about the veteran banner at Veterans Park, Boyce told the council the steel banner of Floyd Robinson, Vietnam MIA, is displayed year round.

The council approved Claims Ordinance No. 2020-03 in the amount of \$262,172.43 and Payroll Ordinance No. 2020-04 in the amount of \$86,863.59.

Planning and Zoning Clerk Jimmy Hugunin has been working with the Coffey County Housing Authority concerning two nuisance properties inhabitable due to fire last year. He said they are close to being able to clean up the property on Alleghany Street. On Hudson Street, Hugunin said the brother has petitioned to get ownership of the property.

City Clerk Regina Kewley said the 2019 audit is scheduled for May 7.

The next Burlington City Council meeting will be 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 4.

ADVERTISE WITH
The Coffey County
Republican
(620) 364-5325 ext. 108
IT WORKS!

CANDIDATE VISITS



Mark Petterson/The Republican

Jake LaTurner meets Feb. 10 with a group of Coffey County Republicans at Diners' Kafe to discuss his campaign for U.S. Congressman in the Second District. Steve Watkins, a Republican, currently holds the seat. LaTurner said it is not normal to have a primary against a seated elected official. "I don't trust him to do what he is going to do," LaTurner said. "I believe we don't have a lot of leaders in politics ... if you lay down on the tracks to get something done, you get rewarded for it." LaTurner covered seven points in his Contract with Kansas: to co-sponsor a Constitutional Amendment for term limits on members of Congress; to protect our country, including building "the wall"; to balance the federal budget with no tax increases; to fight for work requirements and drug testing for welfare recipients; to fight for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; to fight to ensure Kansas is always represented on the Ag Committee; and to live and raise his family in Kansas. LaTurner currently serves as Kansas State Treasurer. He served as a state senator from 2013-2017.

Awards

Continued from Page 1

from all phases associated with a HEMP for the everyday public to be able to protect their property. Developing real solutions to potentially devastating problems is core to EMP Shield's mission.

EMP Shield first contacted the Kansas Small Business Development Center in July of 2018 because they had heard about the upcoming Encountering Innovation conference. Within hours of being assigned to work with Tom Byler as their tech coach, Carty and Peter Keegan, general manager of EMP Shield, were sitting in his office, eager to get to work on whatever they needed to do to succeed at Encountering Innovation. The team headed Byler's advice and also took full advantage of every opportunity at the conference. The significance of the company's technology, and the management team's ability to back up its claims, were well-received by the tech scouts and was such a positive experience that the team attended again in 2019.

2019 has been a big year for EMP Shield. The company has added over 20 full-time employees, leased a building in Burlington, and, at this time, is in the process of expanding and upgrading the manufacturing facilities with a \$1.25 million fully-automated pick-and-place line for building circuit boards in a clean room environment. After completion of this state-of-the-art facility in the HUB Zone of Coffey County, EMP Shield plans to expand into a second building in 2020.

According to Carty, one of the things that makes the

EMP Shield team so strong is the accountability that, together, they bring to their purpose.

"When we finish a meeting, having gone through our checks and balances, we have tasks to be done, actions to report back on, solutions that we have agreed on. We have a lot of accountability. Everything is purpose-driven and mission-driven," Carty said.

Advisors at the Kansas SBDC round out that team.

"The whole support of the SBDC to us has been impeccable and we are so very, very blessed to have them as an extension and part of our team at EMP Shield and are very grateful for that," Carty said.

To learn more about EMP Shield, visit their website at <https://www.empshield.com/>. You can follow them on Facebook and Twitter, or contact them at (620) 412-9978.

The Sweet Granada Existing Business of the Year for Emporia State University

In 2004, Kim Redeker partnered with her mother, Toni Bowling, and opened The Sweet Granada in the heart of the growing arts and entertainment district in downtown Emporia. Specializing in handmade gourmet chocolates as well as other confections and gifts, Redeker and her team take pride in offering a large selection of gourmet confections made with premium ingredients. Even though Redeker wasn't experienced in chocolate or candy-making, she knew that she wanted a business that would fit into the thriving and energetic downtown area.

The business experienced success quickly and became a popular downtown destina-



Photo submitted

Boxes of chocolate made at The Sweet Granada.

tion. Along the way, Redeker's mother and partner retired and the business became totally owned by Redeker. In 2007, The Sweet Granada was the Emerging Business of the Year for the Kansas SBDC at Emporia State University. Over its first 15 years of existence, the business has experienced continued growth, which required more and more production space. The business has moved its production space twice and its retail space once, and in 2013, landed in its beautiful current location one door south of where it began.

Over the years, Kansas SBDC advisors have helped

the business owners at Sweet Granada better understand the business's production and overhead costs, and profit margins. Recently, with the help of the Kansas SBDC and Jumpstart grant from the State of Kansas, Sweet Granada was able to re-engineer some of its equipment to aid in more efficient and faster production of their signature product, Pop-Choc. This enabled them to increase production by 40 percent with no increase in labor hours. The business has also expanded into online sales and now, Redeker is considering some creative alternatives for her future transition plan in an

effort to preserve The Sweet Granada legacy and ensure the business will continue to be successful for many years to come.

Nearly all of Sweet Granada's goods are made in-house, by the employees, which is a major advantage. The high-quality chocolates stay consistent, and each chocolate has that "made from the heart" aspect that customers love. The Sweet Granada produces nearly 200 varieties of handmade chocolates in addition to Pop-Choc, many varieties of fresh fudge, and a number of other specialty items. "Hump Day" Cupcakes are one of the newest additions to the line-up. Each Wednesday, a different flavor of cupcake is offered, oftentimes produced by guest bakers in the Sweet Granada kitchen. Redeker and her staff are committed to being innovative and are always willing to change for the better.

Redeker has some advice to new business owners; "Stay on the balls of your feet," Redeker recommends. "Be prepared to adjust and react quickly when you need to in order to keep your business relevant, dynamic, and profitable."

Check out Sweet Granada in person at 803 Commercial Street, in Emporia. You may also contact them at (620) 342-9600, or email kimredeker@sweetgranada.com. You can follow Sweet Granada on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter or check them out online at www.sweetgranada.com.

The Kansas SBDC at Emporia State University serves the following counties: Butler, Chase, Chautauqua, Coffey, Cowley, Elk, Greenwood, Lyon, Marion, Morris, and Osage. Contact the team at ksbdc@emporia.edu, or call them at (620) 341-5308.

County

Continued from Page 1

meeting. While not committing any funds, the county commission is supporting the sheriff's office effort to secure funding through the Northeast Kansas Homeland Security Council and Wolf Creek. Rogers plans to meet with Wolf Creek officials, soon, with Haddock also sitting in on the meeting. Previously, commissioners signed a letter of support for the vehicle.

The sheriff's office currently has a military vehicle that will have to be returned to the federal government if the Bearcat is purchased.

Fair Board

Fair Board Vice President Arden Payer requested financial support from commissioners for a 671-foot long, 6-foot tall chain link fence that will run from the chicken barn in a southeasterly direction near the camping spots along the river. Midland Fencing, at less than \$14,000, had the lower of three quotes.

Payer said snow fence has been used the past 15 years as a barrier for various fair entertainment events, including the demolition derby and music shows; however, people find ways to jump the fence and some people even cut it. The proposed chain link fence will have three 26-foot gates (two 13-foot sliders). Nine gauge wire will be used and heavy pipe posts will be set in concrete.

Payer received permission from the Burlington City Council to put up the fence; however, the city declined to provide any financial help. Payer also talked to the Coffey County Saddle Club and USD 244 Recreation Commission; neither had a problem with the proposed fence.

Commissioners want to look at the area before considering the request at the March 2 commission meeting.

County Engineer

Commissioners approved the following motions, at the request of Coffey County Engineer Wayne Blackburn:

- Waiving the county's purchasing, as to competitive bidding, due to a government purchasing alliance contract, and to approve the purchase of one Henderson 12-foot RSP snow plow with 36-inch moldboard full trip design and attachments from Henderson, in the total amount of \$11,266.
- Request to advertise and hire up to 11 temporary seasonal employees.
- Solicit sealed bids for seasonal mowing at four locations - Old 50 Park, Rock Creek Cemetery, Hope Cemetery and Strawn Monument (16th and Fauna).
- Solicit bids for cold mix patching material for the 2020 road maintenance.
- Solicit formal bids for one new road sweeper with option of possible trade-in to be determined.
- Extend the warranty on a 2015 model track loader at the landfill. Caterpillar will extend the maintenance warranty 36 months/1,500 hours at \$8,227.10. The track loader

has 2,476 hours on it.

As far as work, crews are making a wing wall repair at Homestead and Third Terrace, burning brush piles and replacing entrances at Quail Meadows and drives on Old Hwy. 50. In the southeast quadrant, 911 signs are being upgraded.

Miscellaneous

Commissioners approved two motions to advertise and hire for positions due to retirement. They authorized the county clerk to advertise and hire for the position of deputy election officer/deputy clerk, until 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. They also authorized register of deeds to advertise and hire for the position of part-time clerk.

Commissioners entered into a 20-minute executive session, with Bowie also present, for the purpose of protecting privacy rights of candidates submitting applications for the economic development position, under nonelected personnel exception to KOMA. No action was taken upon return to open session.

Gallagher Insurance Representative Sally Tatro and Jeremy Gilson presented the board a certificate of excellence for achieving "Best-of-the-Best Performance in Healthcare Cost Control and HR Management" based on an analysis of data from Gallagher's 2019 benefits strategy and benchmarking survey. Tatro read a statement regarding the award, which they said Coffey County is the only client to win this award.

Payroll/Benefits Coordinator Denise Humlicek passed

out a sealed exit interview for the commission's review. She said the latest MedTrax quarterly rebate check was in the amount of \$8,445. Humlicek also said KPERS is offering a 457 Plan, which is another way for employees to save for retirement. Any amounts would be deducted from payroll; there is no cost to the county. Commissioners were OK with allowing KPERS to set up a meeting with county employees.

Bowie is reviewing the McGrath contract for the county's compensation and HR study. He told commissioners he is trying to utilize existing courthouse furniture to minimize the expense of furniture the new office space being used by an employee in his office. He also said all signatures have been secured on the Laura Hawkins settlement agreement, which means the document is now an open record.

Commissioners recessed until Wednesday to sign warrants and address any other county business. The next regular meeting will be 9 a.m. in Room 201 of the Coffey County Courthouse.

Scams

Continued from Page 4

press anything on your phone, that lets the scammer know they have reached a working number and you'll get more calls. Our best advice on this or any other robocall scam is to not answer calls from numbers you do not know. If you

do answer, once you know it's not someone you know, just hang up.

Card Services. The folks from "card services" have been knocked off the top spot on our list after holding it for two years in a row. In this scam, a robocaller will ask you to "press 1" to speak to an account representative about lowering your credit card interest rate. If you do speak to a representative, he or she will try to trick you into giving them more personal information, including your real credit card number. Never give your credit card information to someone over the phone.

Publishers Clearing House. Rounding out the top five is a new addition to our list, the scam involving imposters pretending to be from Publishers Clearing House. It involves scam phone calls to consumers claiming they've won a Publishers Clearing House prize of \$2.5 million or greater. The scammer will claim that you've won the prize, and you just have to pay some amount of money as the "tax" on the winnings to obtain it. In these scams, we've seen that they will ask you to send them the cash by sticking it inside a magazine and sending it through the mail. If you get one of these calls, hang up immediately. Never send money.

More information on how to protect yourself from these and other scams is available on our consumer protection website at www.InYourCornerKansas.org or by calling our consumer protection hotline at (800) 432-2310.