

County has one active COVID-19 case

As of Monday, Aug. 10, Coffey County has one active case of COVID-19. The Coffey County Health Department has announced four recoveries and no new cases since Wednesday, Aug. 5. Two recoveries were announced Aug. 7 and two were announced Aug. 10. The county has had a total of 67 positive cases of COVID-19, eight deaths and 58 recoveries.



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Death Notices Page 3

- Beverly Combs, 85 Mary Rossillon, 75 Louis Trear, 93

Average Gas Prices

Table with columns for Kansas and Nation, and rows for gas prices per gallon and cents.

Lake Levels

Table with columns for Lake Name, Lake Elevation, Normal, Inflow (cfs), and Release (cfs).

Public Notices Pages 6, 7, 8 and 9

- Coffey County Treasurer - Notice of 2019 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes. Coffey County Fire District No. 1 - Notice of Intent to Dispose of Two Trucks. Estate of Ival L. Trimble - Notice of Hearing of Petition for Informal Administration. Lakeview Drainage - Notice of Budget Hearing. Coffey County Treasurer - Quarterly Report. Coffey County - List of July Warrants. Frog Creek Watershed - Notice of Budget Hearing. Spring Creek Township - Notice of Budget Hearing. Rock Creek Township - Notice of Budget Hearing. Stringtown Cemetery - Notice of Budget Hearing. Altamont Cemetery - Notice of Budget Hearing. Coffey County - Invitation to Bid Culvert Pipes. Lebo-Waverly USD 243 - Notice of Budget Hearing.

Index

Table with categories and page numbers: Chamber Page, Classifieds, Community, Courthouse News, Deaths, Devotional, Opinion, Public Notices, Record, School, Sports, Weather.

The official newspaper of Coffey County

Burlington, New Strawn, Lebo, Gridley, LeRoy, Waverly, and Hartford. Lebo-Waverly USD 243 Burlington USD 244 LeRoy-Gridley USD 245

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

City clerk to retire; 2021 budget OK'd

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — The City of Burlington has begun the search for a new city clerk. Regina Kewley announced at the end of the Aug. 5 Burlington City Council meeting that she will be retiring, effective Oct. 1. Her last workday will be Sept. 14. Kewley has worked for the city for more than 33 years. She has been the city clerk since 2007. Mayor Stan Luke has contacted the League of Kansas Municipalities about the

upcoming vacancy. The city council — Jerilyn Curtiss, Dallas Scothorn, J.J. Jasper, Lewis Lenard, Thomas Tschantz and Sharon Hall — unanimously approved posting the city clerk position until filled. "It's been a pleasure serving the city and it's been enjoyable to work with my co-workers," Kewley said. Her report to the council included submitting \$2,497.30 in delinquent utility accounts to the Kansas Setoff Program for collection. The Kansas Department of Commerce officially notified the city by letter that a \$132,000

grant had been awarded through the Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Supplemental program. Burlington was among recipients that received a total of \$7 million in funding made possibly through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. No public comments were made during a public hearing on the city's proposed 2021 budget. After closing the hearing, the council unanimously adopted the budget as presented. As it stands now, Burling-

ton residents will be taxed at 40.684 mills, which is unchanged from last year. At 40.684 mills, the owner of a \$100,000 home will pay \$467.87 for the city portion of their property tax bill. The tax rate could change slightly based on the city's final valuation, which is determined Nov. 1. The city's valuation increased \$20,723, to \$16,939,406. The amount of 2020 ad valorem tax to be collected will be \$689,161, down \$4,103 from last year. The city has a \$12.7 million budget and \$10.2 million in outstanding debt. Just over 3.3 mills are levied for bond

and interest payments.

Public Comments

Burlington USD 244 Superintendent Craig Marshall once again thanked the City of Burlington for the donation of the old city hall building, which has been remodeled for use as the school district's central office. A ribbon cutting will be held soon; however, the date had not been set as of the council meeting. Marshall acknowledged a number of city employees who were helpful during the transition period.

See City, Page 14

Burlington USD 244 BOE adopts budget

Katie McMurray Reporter

BURLINGTON — The Burlington USD 244 Board of Education adopted a budget for the 2020-21 school year Monday, Aug. 10, during a 74-minute budget hearing and regular monthly meeting. The hearing and meeting were the first events to be held at the district's new central office location at 301 and 303 Neosho Street.

During the budget hearing, which lasted just over 19 minutes, Superintendent Craig Marshall gave an overview of the budget. The overview included information on the general fund, capital outlay fund and supplemental general fund. There was also an opportunity for USD 244 patrons to express concerns and ask questions related to the budget. One question was asked by Kathy Freeman, a teacher in the district and member of Burlington Unified Teachers Association.

"Under the capital outlay expenditures on the budget hearing page that was online, it states that the district plans to levy the five mills again this year but that the district spent 6.147 last year," Freeman said. "So, if we're setting at five mills, how is it that we spent more than what we were budgeted for?"

While valuation was indicated to be a factor, Marshall said it was also related to money that had been saved up.

"We have spent more than we received that year because we had saved money up over the years, like for our roofing projects or other types of projects," Marshall explained.

Board Clerk Tracey Moerer also contributed to the explanation.

"The other piece of that is we always have budget authority. So yes, we did spend more mills than we brought in last year — and honestly I think that's the first time in the history that I've been in the dis-



Katie McMurray/The Republican

The Monday, Aug. 10, budget hearing and regular monthly meeting of the Burlington USD 244 Board of Education marked the first time the district has held a meeting at its new central office, located within buildings at 301 and 303 Neosho Street, Burlington. The buildings, having once housed the Burlington City Hall, have been renovated for the school district and now have new offices for several district administrators and administrative personnel and, in 303 Neosho Street, a new meeting room for the board of education.

trict that we did that — but we are still within budget authority. Budget authority, I think, last year was somewhere around \$5 or \$6 million. We did only spend about \$3 million, which is still higher than our five mills. Really we have four mills because the one mill is making up for the science renovation. Yes, we did go well above, but we were still within our legal maximum to spend there. We didn't have any kind of budget violation, but we ob-

viously can't continue at that pace. So we were within our authority but it was kind of a year that kind of stands out."

During the regular monthly meeting, the board unanimously approved motions to establish the 2020-21 supplemental general fund at 30 percent of the general fund budget and establish the 2020-21 capital outlay fund at 5 mills and to adopt the 2020-21 budget as presented.

The 2019-20 budget reflects a

.023 mill decrease, from 29.448 mills to 29.218 mills. Capital outlay was unchanged, remaining at 5.0 mills. However, the supplemental general levy decreased .023 mills, from 4.448 to 4.218. The total levy of 29.448 mills will raise \$14,916,315 in ad valorem tax. The district has a \$27, 423,459 budget.

The .084 mill decrease will amount to a \$2.65 decrease in school district taxes for the owner of a \$100,000 home, who will pay \$290.01 for the school

district portion of their tax bill.

In addition to the 5.0 mills for the capital outlay fund and the 4.448 mills for the supplemental general fund, the district is levying 20 mills for the general fund. That levy is mandated by the state.

The school district's assessed valuation increased \$25,756,734 for the general fund and stands at \$509,238,975. For

See USD 244, Page 14

COFFEY COUNTY COMMISSION

County taxpayers to see tax rate decrease

Mark Petterson Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County Commissioners Monday approved the 2021 county budget and Coffey County Fire District No. 1 budget, as published.

No comments from the public were made during a 10:30 a.m. budget hearing, which gave the public a chance to voice any concerns or ask any questions relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of 2020 ad valorem tax.

County Clerk Angie Kirchner offered the only comment during the one-minute public hearing. "I think we've done a great job preparing budgets this year - all the departments and the board," she said. "I appreciate the money you give us to run our offices. Most offices are trying to be as conservative as we can, realizing this is not our money, it is the taxpayers' money and we need to spend it wisely."

The amount of ad valorem taxes collected to fund the proposed budget will increase \$769,452 to \$29.3 million; however, the mill levy will decrease from 52.308 to 51.252. After experiencing a \$7 mil-

lion decrease in the county's valuation last year, the valuation actually increased \$26.2 million this year, from \$545.3 million to \$571.5 million.

For the owner of a \$100,000 home, ad valorem taxes will decrease \$12.14 on the county portion of the tax bill.

You can determine the county portion of your tax bill by multiplying your home's assessed value (.115 x home's appraised value) by the county mill levy (51.252), and then divide that amount by 1,000.

The mill levy for Coffey County Fire District No. 1 will decrease from 1.859 to 1.812 mills. That represents a 54-cent decrease for the owner of a \$100,000 home, who will pay \$20.84 for fire protection in 2021.

The fire district will collect \$1,038,106 in ad valorem tax for 2021, which is \$22,591 more than this year. The district's valuation increased \$26.3 million to \$572.3 million.

Commissioners present for the regular weekly meetings were Chairman Tom Huginin, Don Meats, Bob Saueressig and Fred Rowley. The District 4 seat remains vacant following Cody Haddock's resignation last month.

Coffey County Republican Central Committee Chairman Don Small is awaiting an official letter from Governor Kelly regarding the District 4 county commissioner vacancy before accepting applications and calling a convention of District 4 precinct committeemen and committeewomen to fill the position.

Emergency Management Director Russel Stuke presented a written update of activities within his department during the past month. He said a new ice machine had been installed in the kitchen. The new Ford Expedition arrived at Crow-Moddie Ford, but was not in the correct configuration, so the vehicle was reordered. The reordered vehicle is expected to arrive in November.

Stuke said the Coronavirus Relief Fund Task Force met for the first time last week and decided on a tentative division of the \$1.7 million available in the fund (approximately 50% health care, 20% schools, 10% county, 10% cities and 10% businesses). The task force met again on Aug. 11.

Policy Changes

County Counselor Wade Bowie II presented two changes to the Coffey County Policy and Procedures manual. Commissioners approved both changes:

➤ A revision to Section 30 regarding a vendor gift policy for county employees. If vendor gifts are received they will go to the health department for distribution, at their discretion during wellness events.

➤ A new section creating a policy regarding "Closed Circuit Television" (CCTV) monitoring and recording of public areas for safety and security purposes. Bowie covered various aspects of the new policy and said there is an open records process available to obtain video recordings. IT Director Brad Scheibmeier said the cameras are "live" all of the time, but they only record when motion is detected. The video footage can be stored for approximately four or five months. Bowie said there are 40 cameras and three have a zoom or rotate feature; there are no dummy cameras. Saueressig said he was not against the CCTV policy, but he doesn't like it from the standpoint that cameras are

watching citizens. Bowie said the cameras can be used to clarify a situation and also to be used for a teaching moment. Undersheriff Michael Roney added that the public cameras are not actively monitored.

County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn presented his weekly report, which included an update on construction activity throughout the county.

The following summary figures were presented for the Coffey County Landfill during July: solid waste - 627.05 tons, construction debris - 364.44 tons, special waste - 2.59 tons, metal - 8.59 tons, tree limbs - 3.6 tons, appliances - 4 items, car tires - 234, truck tires - 9, equipment tires - 2.

Commissioners approved four motions recommended by Blackburn:

➤ Change Order No. 2 for project B19-1308M with PbX Corporation for approach pavement repair on Bridge #116 for \$6,210. The new contract price with the change order is \$154,982.

➤ Waiving the county's purchase policy as to advertising,

See County, Page 14

