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(Neb.)-Dawes County Commissioners Select New Equipment, Weed Superintendent



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/17/2013 01:26 PM

(DAWES COUNTY)-The Dawes County commissioners appointed a new weed superintendent at their meeting on Wednesday morning upon committee recommendation. Chadron resident Shane Cullan will begin work with the county on May 1st. Four individuals had applied for the position. Applications for the part-time weed employee position will be accepted through today (Wednesday) and will most likely be discussed at the commissioner's next meeting.

A public defender hiring committee has been officially assembled. It consists of former judge Charles Plantz, Chadron attorney Marty Connealy, Lacy Peterson, and Dawes County commissioner Stacy Swinney with county attorney Adam Edmund possibly sitting in to make sure protocol is followed. If Connealy cannot attend a committee meeting, attorneys Amy Patras or Randy Cullers will serve as alternates. Applications for the public defender position will be accepted through Friday, April 19th. Five applications have been received as of the commissioner's meeting, and county clerk Cheryl Feist said at least a couple of those were from individuals in the eastern part of the state.

The commissioners also opened a variety of bids for new county equipment, including a new four-door, 4X4 pick-up truck, a used mowing tractor, new gravel trailers, and new packer rollers. The single bid for the mowing tractor was accepted by the commissioners and will be passed onto road superintendent Larry Hankin to look over. Commissioners Jake Stewart and Webb Johnson looked over the other bids and selected the equipment they thought was the best price or best fit for what the county needs. Commissioner Swinney and road superintendent Hankin were not at the meeting due to training elsewhere in the state.

For the new pick-up, commissioners Stewart and Johnson selected the bid for a 2013 Dodge 5.7 Hemi from Chadron Chrysler Dodge for \$24,890 with a \$4,000 trade-in for a total price of \$20,890, which was the lowest bid.

They also decided to go with a bid from Jim Hawk Trailers in Council Bluffs, Iowa, of \$65,600 minus a \$9,000 trade-in for a total price of \$56,600 on two 2014 CTS pack mule gravel trailers, even though a lower bid was received by Floyd's Truck Center in Scottsbluff. Floyd's bid for two 2014 Manac CPS 4C240AC00 trailers was \$62,970 minus a \$7,000 trade-in for a total of \$55,970. However, Floyd's had a delivery window of 60-90

days, whereas Jim Hawk's had a delivery date of 45 days. The commissioners agreed the sooner the better on having the trailers available and in use on county roads.

The county will also soon have two new Handy Hitch 570-WC12 90-inch packer rollers from Murphy Tractor and Equipment Company in Gering. That bid, at \$22,560 each, was a little higher than the bid from NMC Cat Corporation in Gering for two Walk n' Roll WR90 90-inch packer rollers, one without an accumulator for \$21,094 and one with an accumulator for \$22,930, for a total of \$44,024. However, the Handy Hitch packer rollers both had accumulators, and the commissioners seemed uncertain as to the hitch requirements of the Walk n' Roll packer rollers, because they had an option of a quick attachment for \$995 each, and there was no representative on hand to explain. The Murphy rep said his company would also subtract a \$500 freight adjustment from the order if both packer rollers were ordered from them. That made the Handy Hitch packer rollers \$44,620.

In other news, the council spoke to veteran's service officer (VSO) Alan Connell regarding his budget for the year. Connell shared that he shouldn't be over this year, despite needing a new office shredder. He also told them the new Vetra-Spec program is worth every penny and is saving him and his secretary a lot of phone calls and time. Connell is still helping in Box Butte County's VSO office once a week as they work to find a new officer there. Connell says they have three applications so far and a secretary who is a real asset to the office.

The commissioners also decided to invest a county CD, which had recently matured at First National Bank of Chadron, into an account at First National Bank of Gordon.

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