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Commissioners approve bid, hear from Carey about EDC

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners approved a bid for the purchase of a new plow truck for the Road and Bridge Department as well as a tractor purchase and heard a plea from a citizen regarding the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Economic Development Company (EDC) at their meeting Aug. 20.

During a meeting earlier in the month, the commissioners had opened bids from several companies seeking to sell the county a new plow truck.

Bids included the truck along with a plow package, dump box and sanding package.

Tri-State Truck and Equipment provided a bid of \$147,257. Jack's Truck and Equipment offered \$146,946 and an alternate bid of \$158,561.

Peterbilt of Wyoming sent a bid of \$162,349. Lariat International's offer was \$163,189, and CMI-Teco's bid came in at \$142,700, the lowest offer.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Ray Shaffer reviewed the bids before making his recommendation to the commissioners.

The bid was awarded to Jack's Truck and Equipment for a total of \$150,166. This included an up-graded engine option of \$3,220 added to the original bid of \$146,946.

A representative from Jack's attended the meeting, and once the bid had been awarded, informed the commissioners his company had just received notice of additional rebates available from the manufacturer, Freightliner. The rebate will lower the final price by \$1,100.

Shaffer also requested the go-ahead from the commissioners to purchase a new tractor for the department.

The tractor currently in use is 30 years old and Shaffer found a used New Holland tractor that has become available through the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) for \$5,400.

The commissioners approved the request, telling Shaffer because the plow truck had come in \$20,000 under what had been budgeted, he could go ahead and purchase the tractor.

Carey addresses commissioners

Fred Carey, owner of Riverbend Sheet Metal, approached the commissioners with concerns about his recent dealings with the EDC over a land purchase at the Red Rock Commercial Center.

Carey first told the commissioners he was disappointed none of them had been out to congratulate him or endorse him when he purchased the lot.

He went on to say he would like to see an investigation into the EDC.

After the purchase of the lot, Carey said he received a letter from an attorney stating he was in breach of the covenants associated with the Commercial Center.

Those items included signage, parking and residing on the property.

"What they're doing is wrong," Carey said. "I invested my own money. All they wanted to do was take my money and cause trouble."

"I shouldn't have had to go through what I've gone through. I've had to deal with individuals who weren't interested in seeing me succeed."

"The whole situation is petty and I want to know what you're going to do about it."

Commission chairman Brad Basse, who sits on the EDC board, first apologized to Carey for missing two EDC meetings because of prior commitments.

"I occasionally miss meetings due to business needs," Basse said. "I want to extend my personal apology and assure you my missing those meetings was not done on purpose or to avoid any issues."

"I was blind to what I was going to have to deal with," Carey said. "I was excited to put my sign up on the fence."

"I was told I needed to get it approved (from WYDOT) and I think it's sad it takes 30 days to get that approval."

Carey went on to say he disapproves of the commissioners budgeting \$25,000 for the EDC.

Commissioner Mike Baker explained the budget process for the county, reminding Carey that the budget process is always open to the public.

"You are welcome to come here at any time during that process," Baker said.

Carey said he knew there is an opening available on the EDC board and wanted to be selected to be on the board.

"Someone needs to keep an eye on them," he said.

Basse reminded Carey that because of contractual agreements, both he and the EDC are technically under a nondisclosure agreement.

"I don't know what the proper venue is for your situation," Basse said, "but bashing in a public meeting is not appropriate."

"I agree the letter to you from the attorney was probably a mistake. It should have been taken care of face to face."

Commissioner John Lumley agreed with Basse, adding, "We (the commissioners) are all on other boards. This is not county business."

"I just wanted it on the record that it's really unfair that you didn't come to visit me," Carey said. "And I want you to know I oppose you funding them (EDC)."

Superhero welcome



Super Reading Man, aka school board member Tom Sullivan, Jr., greets kindergartener Cian Kimes and his mother Sarah Kimes on his first day of school. Students in the district are participating in year two of the Spark a Fire reading program, known as the Superhero Challenge.

Healthy-opolis spots still available

by J.D. Stetson

Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital is continuing to take sign-ups for the Healthy-opolis program.

Marketing Manager TJ Schoenewald gave the hospital's board of trustees a brief summary of the program's current status during a meeting Tuesday evening.

As of the meeting, the hospital has had 10 people sign up for the class and three people sign up for the control group. The goal of the program is for 20 people in both the control group and the class group. Participants in the control group undergo evaluations, but do not participate in the classes or change their routines.

The class involves a 15 week

nutrition program using evidence-based practices and opportunities for light exercise.

The program starts Sept. 9 and people can sign up by calling the hospital front desk at 864-3121.

Infection prevention

Chief Nursing Officer Kath Virgil-Belding asked the board to approve an Infection Prevention Program policy and appoint a director to oversee the program.

Virgil-Belding said the board has to review and renew the policy annually.

The policy states the program will be maintained and ensures the hospital has a functioning and coordinated program in place to identify people with infections or who may have a high

risk of contracting infections in order to prevent transmissions of infections among other patients, visitors or healthcare workers.

The board approved the policy and named Sheila Lutz as the Infection Prevention Program director.

Virgil-Belding also informed the board of the installation and functional use of a new HSCMH Fraud and Abuse phone hotline now available on the hospital's website.

The hotline is required in order for the hospital to comply with federal and state regulations and is intended for circumstances specific to HSCMH such as whistle-blowing or fraud specifically within the hospital organization.

Early deadline for Sept. 5 issue

The Independent Record office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 in recognition of Labor Day.

The deadline for classified, display and legal advertising in the Sept. 5 issue is 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30. The IR office will

be open until 5 p.m. on that day.

The deadline for editorial/news content for the Sept. 5 issue is noon Tuesday, Sept. 3.



Thermopolis Rotary Club member Wedg Taylor poses in the cooling ponds with several hundred plastic turtles during the Eighth Annual Great American Turbo Turtle Trek Saturday at Hot Springs State Park. — J.D. Stetson photo

Turtle Trek winners

Thermopolis Rotary Club members had a splash Saturday picking the winners in the Eighth Annual Great American Turbo Turtle Trek.

About 900 neon green turtles were dropped into a cooling pond at Hot Springs State Park. Club members used a leaf blower and a stirring stick to mix up the turtles.

Several children assisted in picking the winning turtles while club member Michael Wright called out the numbers.

The winners include:

Grand prize - \$100 in cash - Justin Taylor

2nd place - Mossberg 715T AR style 22LR rifle - Jacque Michel

3rd place - Big screen HDTV - Phil and Shurie Scheel

4th place - Weekend at Super 8 with swimming and dinner for two included - Lori Bowman

5th place - Two night stay in a deluxe room at Red Pole Lodge in Cody - Mark Whitt

6th place - One night stay and play package for two at Deadwood Gulch Gaming Resort - Colleen Anderson

7th place - Gas grill from Tumbleweed propane - Nell Dahl

8th place - Kindle Fire - Brook Miller

9th place - Microwave oven - Carol Dowdy

10th place - Blu-ray DVD player - Jessica Lutz

11th place - \$100 gift certificate from Thermopolis Hardware - Ellen Reed

12th place - \$100 gift certificate from Thermopolis EyeCare - Helen Thamm

13th place - \$100 gift certificate to Meeteetse Chocolatier - Jody Coleman

14th place - Remote controlled Ferrari car - Julia Schleusner

15th place - Remote controlled Porsche car - Colleen Anderson

16th place - Dinosaur Fossil Dig at Wyoming Dinosaur Center - Falina Hill

17th place - Social hour party for 10 at Days Inn - Sandy Dittmer

18th place - Guided white water raft trip for four with Wind River Canyon Whitewater - Cheryl Shero

19th place - Framed print - Kelly Andreen

20th place - Family pass to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center - Roland Leuhne

21st place - One night stay at Wind River Casino Hotel - Chuck Cooper

22nd place - \$50 savings bond donated by Mike Messenger - Isabella Jeunehomme

23rd place - \$50 gift certificate from Wind River Casino - Thermopolis EyeCare

24th place - One day swim pass for four at Star Plunge - Ryan Miller

25th place - One day swim pass for four at Hellie's TePee Pool - Anna Bressler

26th place - Four free nights/days boarding at MR Kennels - Finn Cowger

27th-32nd places - Propane cards good for one tank fill up from Tumbleweed Propane - Colleen Anderson, Jerry Kummerfeld, Laura Laughlin, Brawley, Kenzi Anderson and Duff Jenniges

33rd-36th places - Large pizzas from Pizza Hut - Carolyn Jo Marshall, Glenda Alberts, Carl Amos and Mandy Wilson

37th place - Wind River Casino gift basket - Teresa Gilbert