



Commissioners To Continue Building Improvement Follow-ups

By **AMANDA LOOMIS**
Times-Herald Writer

ALLIANCE — The Box Butte County Commissioners met yesterday morning and discussed upcoming improvements to the Courthouse and Slagle building.

Following an opening prayer, roll call, the Pledge of Allegiance, acknowledgement open meeting act, the board accepted the agenda as printed with one addition.

KONE representative Randy Howard was present to discuss the elevator report done by the state of Nebraska inspector. Items on the list of deficiency corresponded with elevator repairmen safety and not directly general public safety. Howard noted many of these items have been codes for quite some time but previous inspectors failed to note these items. The problem is KONE, according to their contract, will not cover upgrading the elevator but will cover maintaining it.

The board discussed the Slagle building elevator and fire alarm

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proposal in a conference call with Tom Reiber from Protex Central. Continuing discussion to find a company who can work with high voltage systems will be placed on next meeting's agenda.

Grounds and Building job description will be put on the agenda for next meeting.

Jerry Berrgren with Berrgren Architect presented the master plan to the board for courthouse improvements.

Discussed under this item was possibly moving the District Court room and offices to the ground floor in a new building off of the jail. Hashman explained this would eliminate the general public being exposed to detainees. "It's a safety issue we need to consider," stated Chairman Doug Hashman.

Moving District Court and associated offices would also free up the entire third floor to

be used to expand offices such as the probation office or to be utilized as storage space. The commissioners will review the master plan and follow up at a later meeting.

Under Board of Equalization two corrections were signed in the correction book presented by County Assessor Michele Robinson.

Once moved out of Board of Equalization, minutes from the May 5 meeting were approved. The board reviewed one elected officials report from county clerk's office and correspondence was reviewed.

Board reports were given at this time. Sandy McCarthy attended the Northwest Community Action meeting and noted no changes to report at this time. She did report she received a phone call from a private citizen asking where the designated storm shelters are located at in Box Butte County. Upon some research McCarthy reported there are none.

Susan Lore attended the Extension Board meeting and reported they will be celebrating their 100-year anniversary June 12 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Extension office.

Hashman attended both the Area Agency of Aging and Panhandle Mental Health meetings. He reported Panhandle Mental Health will be seeing budget cuts in the future but is confident this will not affect service.

Robinson addressed the board with her concerns of the future of the south corner flower beds at the courthouse, explaining her office has personally purchased flowers and décor for the flower beds and would like to see the flowerbeds remain or be allowed to remove purchased items from them if plans change. It is the intentions of the commissioners to keep

flowerbeds and assured Robinson of this.

Gloria Swires, Veterans Service officer, gave her monthly report for April. She reported her office has seen 91 veterans within Box Butte County, has filed no hardship requests through her office and is on track for expenditures.

County Attorney Kathleen Hutchinson and Robinson discussed the continuing TERC versus Rosewood Estates. The board remains not in favor of keeping the same rate from year to year as rates change whether up or down and disagree on income configurations when determining rates. Hutchinson will follow up with parties involved and report back to the board.

Barb Keegan, roads superintendent, gave her regular road report, including an update on responsibility of the tower contract with Box Butte General Hospital, gave an update on ownership of CR 58 and presented updated job description for approval. It has been determined the Sheriff's department is not responsible for the BBGH tower and Keegan has not received word back from Dan Griess, BBGH CEO. In regards to CR 58 Keegan will meet with the city manager to further discuss the project but she noted the project will not take place this year and is hoping for next year.

Commissioners were to review sealed bids for the gravel retrieval but have not received any bids and it was decided Keegan will have the machine picked up from the department's shop.

The board reviewed and signed the Box Butte County Public Transit NDOR sub-grantee worksheet.

Department of Health and Human Services has not given

the board a clear answer in regards to what the department wants for space and the number of employees working within the Alliance area. Lore will continue to communicate with DHHS on this matter and report back to the board.

The board reviewed and signed monthly payroll and claims.

The floor was opened for public comment at which time Mike McGinnis asked the board where the money collected from court fines go. Lore responded by explaining speeding ticket fines goes to the schools and noted Joni Woods in the County Court office would be able to thoroughly answer this question.

With no further public comments offered the meeting was adjourned.