

Steakhouse owner hopes to add keno

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Walker gets DC commissioners' approval.

LEXINGTON—When groups come into Walker's Steakhouse & Lounge to play in pool or poker tournaments, customers invariably ask where to find the keno operator.

There isn't one, owner Steve Walker responds.

"I just like to try and please my customers," Walker said. "I figure it's money for the county, why not give it a try?"

Walker approached the Dawson County board of commissioners at the regular bimonthly meeting on Sept. 15 requesting initial approval for a keno license.

It is only the first step in adding keno to the restaurant and bar. Walker said there are plenty of paperwork, background checks and regulations to fulfill with the Nebraska Department of Revenue before customers can actually play.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to recommend Walker for a keno license.

The application had to be passed by county officials rather than the Gothenburg city council because Walker's Steakhouse is outside city limits.

There is one establishment in Gothenburg that already offers keno. Pete's Lounge has the lottery game available after 5 p.m. on most business days.

If Walker's is approved for the keno license, the state, the county and the business will each

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share profits from the game.

In other county business, commissioners passed the 2009-10 budget as presented without any comment during a public hearing.

The total budget is just over \$22.1 million with a tax asking of \$6.7 million and a levy set at 39.8 cents per \$100 in property value.

Commissioners also authorized county grant writer Janna Pierce to continue cooperative work with Dawson County Public Transit toward securing federal stimulus funds to purchase an existing building in Lexington to serve as a bus barn.

A large building is available at the intersection of Van Buren and Plum Creek Parkway that could house the three public transit buses as well as the handibus office.

Commissioners agreed to spend between \$175,000 and \$200,000 to buy the building, contingent upon receiving the stimulus funds.

The handibus office is now in the Lexington Grand Generation Center. With some handicap accessibility upgrades, the new building could be used as an office and bus barn.