

County considers closing courthouse entrances

Written by Deb Egenberger

Thursday, 10 February 2011 15:13 -

ONE- AND SIX-YEAR ROAD PLAN

A public hearing for the 2011 Dawson County one- and six-year road plan is scheduled during the commissioners' Feb. 15 meeting. Chairman Dean Kugler said because money is tight, few projects are on the one-year plan. The overlay between Overton and Sumner that was started last year remains on the plan because weather prevented the project's completion. Kugler said moving a road to allow entrance into Rock Haven Camp east of Gothenburg is also on the one-year plan and should finally get done in 2011. He said road tape and weather also delayed that project last year. Bridge repairs, using soft match funds from the state, also appear on the one-year plan, he said. The public hearing is set for 9 a.m.

LEXINGTON—Four public entrances to the Dawson County courthouse may be inviting danger to employees and patrons.

During the county board's regular bimonthly meeting on Feb. 1, commissioner Bill Stewart of Lexington asked fellow commissioners to consider keeping three of the exterior doors locked at all times and leaving only the east entrance open to the public.

In the wake of recent acts of violence in Nebraska and across the country, public safety concerns have risen to the forefront.

But commissioners want to know how the public might be affected.

The east entrance would be made handicap accessible with automatic doors.

County clerk Karla Zlatkovsky said there would be minimal impact on courthouse employees because they would continue to have key card entry through any door and all exterior doors would still function as exits.

"In some courthouses, like in Platte County, there is a uniformed guard who walks around the courthouse all day," Zlatkovsky said. "That may be a little too much for Dawson County."

Still, safety concerns remain. Stewart said he would bring feedback to the board at a later meeting.

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In other business, commissioners approved

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