

Property valuation protest numbers unusually low

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 13 July 2012 13:53 -

LEXINGTON—It's been several years since the number of property valuation protests filed in Dawson County dropped below 100, possibly even decades.

County commissioners will consider only 89 requests during their annual protest hearings on Thursday, according to county clerk Karla Zlatkovsky.

"There have been several years when we've had 200 or more protests," Zlatkovsky said. "This is unusual."

Valuation notices sent by the county assessor last spring made changes in several areas, Zlatkovsky said, so she was surprised at the low number of protests.

The requests for a hearing by the board of equalization, essentially the county commissioners, came from 53 landowners for the 89 parcels all across the county.

Zlatkovsky said there is no particular trend in the land types being protested.

The board will announce its rulings later this month.

In other action during the commissioners' regular bimonthly meeting on July 2, the board heard a budget request from John Woodward, executive director of the Dawson County Museum.

Woodward told commissioners that with increasing costs for everything, the museum would need more funding than in years past.

For several years, the museum has requested \$30,000 for operating funds from the

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commissioners. This year, Woodward asked for a \$10,000 increase.

The county board has begun initial number crunching for the 2012-13 fiscal year budget, which will be approved in September.

In other business, commissioners:

heard a roads department update from superintendent Jon Mooberry and approved a professional services agreement between the state department of roads and the county for local projects.

approved, with conditions, a request for the Central Platte Natural Resources District to install a culvert across a county road southeast of Overton. Milt Moravek, a representative of the NRD, said the culvert would be an experiment redirecting water toward the Platte River. Among other stipulations, Mooberry requested a contract that would prevent Dawson County from suffering any liability with the project.

received a report from treasurer Sharon Wood that \$85,965 of the \$105,545 issued in distress warrants was collected by the sheriff's department, an average percentage.

listened to a proposal from Dan Schwartzkopf of the Krull Agency in Hastings that would allow the county to increase life insurance policies for county employees as a group from \$2,500 to \$10,000 with an increase in premium of only \$150 annually. Colonial Life is the current life insurer for the county. Commissioners agreed they should allow that company a comparable bid.

recognized Virgil Branstiter of Lexington for 35 years of service to the roads department following his retirement.

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