

DC museum officials request \$40,000 more

Written by Austin Benson
Thursday, 25 July 2013 13:45 -

Commissioners told increase in expenses, decrease in donations

Dawson County Museum officials want more money—\$40,000 more.

Citing higher operational expenses and lower membership and donations, museum historical director John Woodward requested \$70,000 at a Dawson County Commissioner meeting on July 15.

Woodward noted that the number of museum memberships and donations are at an all-time low.

On a related matter, chairman P.J. Jacobson signed a contract for Miller and Associates Consulting Engineers to continue improvements at the museum.

Dawson Area Development community development coordinator Deb Jensen said funding for completed renovations to the museum came from a \$135,960 grant. Local money, added an extra \$40,781 to total \$176,741, Jensen said.

No action was taken on the request, according to Dawson County clerk Karla Zlatkovsky, because the amount has to be figured into the 2013-14 budget, which has not yet been set.

The Dawson County Ag Society also submitted a budget request—for \$228,165.

Zlatkovsky said property valuations will determine the amount of tax money those entities can receive.

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In other business, commissioners decided to transfer \$480,000 in monthly—instead of yearly—installments of highway allocation fund from the general to the roads fund.

On another matter, commissioners referred a deed of conservation easement for Wetlands America Trust Inc. to the Dawson County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Zlatkovsky said the action has to do with property owners and their rights to water.

“We send this to the planning commission and they inform us who meets water regulations, she said.

Commissioners also approved a special use permit for Kent Guthard to operate a butcher shop/meat locker in a building east of Darr and north of Highway 30.

It's estimated that 30 cows and hogs will be processed in the building each week.

Members also voted to renew a United States Department of Agriculture contract with animal specialist Seth Townsend for \$14,132.

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