



Times-Herald

Thursday, February 17, 2005, 16 pages, vol 86, no. 7

The Kolache Festival • Main Street Community

USPS #955-460
PRAGUE, OKLAHOMA 74864

New Dominion Donates Close To \$1 Million For Prague Water Project

By: Sharon Maggard

The big news at the City Council meeting Monday night came at the end of the meeting during PPWA. That news was the donation by New Dominion, LLC of approximately \$933,000 for the City of Prague water project.

"This is probably the greatest gift a community could receive," Prague's City Manager Jim Thompson stated.

New Dominion has deeded the water rights of 400 acres to the City. The land is located south of town at Keokuk Falls, formerly owned by James and Judy Akerman, who executed the water rights deed.

Of the \$1,115,000 estimated project cost, the City of Prague will be responsible for \$182,000.

The City's cost is \$50,000 for chlorination/polyphosphate feed building, \$40,000 for SCADA instrumentation and control, \$2,000 for DEQ permit, \$10,000 for legal fees, \$65,000 for Engineering, and \$15,000 for Inspection.

Besides the water rights deed, New Dominion will drill two water wells at a cost of \$450,000, 24,000 l.f. of 8-inch water line at \$264,000, 4,500 l.f. of 6-inch waterline at \$36,000, driveway construction at a cost of \$25,000, six fire hydrant assemblies costing \$15,000, bore and case for waterline \$18,000; gate valve \$4,000; eight-inch tie-in at a cost of \$3,000, and creek crossing \$25,000.

Thompson had stated prior to the meeting that the two wells should provide enough water for a community of 5,000 residents, for an indefinite period of time.

"New Dominion is a good corporate citizen, paying Oklahoma income tax and production taxes on oil and gas revenues. We expand our operations with local employees, helping the community. We plan to be here for a long time and want to do all we can to encourage growth in the community. We are committed to a part-

nership with the community and local businesses. We encourage everyone to come and participate in the upcoming New Dominion Dayz," stated David Chernicky, President of the company.

Three resolutions pertaining to the water project were approved: the PPWA accepting of ground water lease, easement and right of way and water rights deeds; a resolution providing for the construction and operation of water wells and piping in conjunction with New Dominion, LLC; and PPWA accepting partial assignment of right of way and determining the value of donations made to the Authority by New Dominion, LLC (\$933,000).

Other items handled during PPWA were the write off of utility bills for the Prague Historical Society and a Memorandum of Understanding for PPWA to provide them with utility services retroactive to the date the Historical Society began. An item was also added to the Memorandum upon request by council member Johnny Hall regarding the Historical Society staffing the museum.

Items approved: payment of \$70,221.60 to Chickashaw Roofing for roof replacement work at the hospital; payment of \$39,400.00 to WDB Engineering from the water/sewer improvement fund for part of the Engineering fee for the water project

with New Dominion; February purchase orders for Prague Municipal Hospital which are over \$5,000; contractals for January for Prague Municipal Hospital (Medicare \$58,567.43, Medicaid \$35,541.64, Insurance \$24,085.55); Prague Municipal Hospital bad debts totaling \$28,170.49 to be turned over to collection agency.

Doug Erickson, Chief Financial Officer for Prague Hospital, presented the January 2005 Financials.

"The good news is we made a profit," Erickson said. The presentation revealed the hospital made \$75,808.07 last month.

During the council meeting Mr. Roger Anderson gave an airport

(Continued On Page 8)

City Council Seats Filled

By: Sharon Maggard

There will not be a need for an election as the two Prague City Council seats have been filled since no other candidates filed on Wednesday, February 9.

Monte Johnson is the new Ward I councilmember. He will replace Harold Vanzant, who did not seek re-election.

Bryan Benson will retain the Ward II seat of which he was appointed to a few months back when John Husted moved out of town.

Both seats are for a four year term and begin April 11.

Legislative Breakfast This Friday In Prague

For the first time in several years the Prague Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Lincoln County Legislative Breakfast. The event is planned for this Friday, February 18, at 7:00 a.m. at The Fillin Station Restaurant.

Rep. Danny Morgan and Senator Harry Coates will attend. They will be available to answer questions or concerns and to provide information on current legislative activities taking place during the 2005 Legislative session.

Mike Matlock Sworn In At School Board Meeting

The Prague school board meeting was called to order last Monday evening with approximately twenty guests in attendance. All board members, except Roger McKee, were present.

The administration of Oath of Office was given to Mike Matlock and the reorganization of officers went as follows: Karl

Beachler, President; Randy Stricklin, Vice President; Mike Matlock, Board Clerk.

First item on the agenda was presentations by the public. Karl Beachler read a statement pertaining to this item of business. It gave stipulations concerning what would be answered publicly, or whether the party should

Most of these questions were not answered at the time of the board meeting, but there were questions where the Superintendent and Alberta Grimes did respond.

On the questions about the cheering at ballgames, Martin stated there is a committee that is being set up to help alleviate