

Richardson County Commissioners Hear Concerns About Home Assessments

Richardson County Commissioners met with Highway Superintendent Scott Huppert Tuesday to discuss bids received for several projects. The county received a bid of \$321,621 to armor coat a little over 13 miles of county road, and a bid of \$160,000 a mile for an asphalt overlay on six miles of county roads. Commissioners took no formal action on the bids. The also took no action on the purchase of a crane.

Alvin Simon met with commissioners to express concerns he has about the ongoing review of Falls City homes being conducted by the Assessor's office.

Simon said he was concerned about the possibility of photos being taken inside homes. (play audio :44)

According to Richardson County Assessor Pam Vice, photos are taken of the outside of homes and buildings – and some of those pictures are posted on the Internet. Vice says they do not take pictures inside homes unless there is a protest of valuation.

Commissioners told Simon that the inspections are required by state law, and property owners are not required to allow the interior inspection of their property.

The residential inspections are required every five years. It's been more than a decade since the last inspection in Falls City. The reviews began June 21st.

In other business this week, Richardson County Commissioners approved an agreement between the county and the Department of Health and Human Services Child Support Enforcement Program with the Clerk of the District Court.

Commissioners approved payment of all claims, including those from Emergency Management Director Jim Gerweck that were held from last week. The board reviewed those claims further as they were submitted over 90 days ago.

The board approved an agreement with Snaks-4-U of Wetmore, Kansas, to place vending machines in the lobby of the 3rd floor Sheriff's Office.

And the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 571 informed commissioners that the union would no longer represent employees of the Sheriff's Department and Jail at the end of the current collective bargaining agreement. According to Sheriff Randy Houser, department employees voluntarily dropped out of the union and are not paying dues. The present collective bargaining agreement expires on Saturday.

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