

City Clerks
and Municipal
Finance Officers
Association of Kansas

newsletter

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CONGRATULATIONS TO DOROTHY

City Clerk Dorothy Soderblom, Hays, was successful in her campaign and was elected fifth vice-president of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks at the annual conference in Toronto. Nice going.

COMMITTEES SCHEDULED TO MEET

The Program Planning and Educational Committees are scheduled to meet on August 20 in Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn. Committee members will receive a letter with further details, but should mark their calendars now.

NOSTALGIA STILL STRONG

McPherson city residents, largely because of memories and a nostalgic feeling, are rebuilding their picturesque Fish Pond in Memorial Park west of the county courthouse. Spearheaded by John Casebeer, former state representative and county commissioner, a "Save the Fish Pond Fund" was initiated, with many individuals, clubs, etc. contributing to it. Total of the fund is now over \$10,000, with an additional \$3,000 assured by the McPherson county commissioners who are also interested in the park lying adjacent to the courthouse which they are now renovating. Fond memories are recalled by many who played as children in the park, or courted their wife, or fed the fish, or watched the beautiful swans which many years ago swam in the pond. Casebeer now has decorated paper containers in various business places, where the public may give their extra quarters, dimes, etc., and it all accumulates. He feels that this is one way everyone in the community may participate in some way to retain

something which has a lot of meaning, past and present. Another generous resident has offered to donate a colored water fountain which will be another feature. There will still be an island with a bridge leading to it. The project will be completed this summer, after about a year of discussion before finally determining that the pond should be retained rather than demolished.

PERSONNEL NOTES

City Clerk, ELDON SAYLER, Belleville, has submitted his resignation effective August 1. He has been city clerk for over fourteen years. CATHERINE KETTERMAN, billing clerk, has been hired as new city clerk.

The city of Oswego has a number of new appointments including NADINE HERRIDGE as city clerk, RUFUS MONROE as city counselor, PAUL HIGGINS as chief of police, RONALD BLAIR as assistant chief of police and TROY REYNOLDS as sanitation superintendent.

DEAN CONN will retire on June 30, 1980, after eleven years of service as city clerk for the City of Osborne. Dean began his appointment September 1, 1968. VICKI DAISE will replace Dean as city clerk. PAT BOYD has been appointed city treasurer.

CITY CLERKS AND FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

LINN PETERSON, McPherson

McPherson now has a new 1980 Model 129-G Cat Motor Grader, after trading in the old 1959 model, and securing permission to sell no fund warrants to finance the difference of some

\$59,000. The warrants will be paid off over a period of three years.

After expending some \$5,800 for a park and recreation survey performed by a Lincoln, Nebraska firm, the city commission has now appointed a Special Recreation Implementation Committee to make recommendations to the city commission in carrying out certain of the consultant's recommendations. The committee consists of the chairman or president of the following: Y.M.C.A.; Park Board; Recreation Commission; School Board; Arts Council; Central College; McPherson College; as well as a representative of the Council of the Aging and a representative of the various scouting organizations in the city. Key to many of the proposals is financing, and the city commission will be the final authority in the decisions made. A key proposal to combine the Park Board and Recreation Commission has been delayed for the time being.

VIC PERKINS, Iola

The Iola city commission, which normally meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at 1:00 p.m., will hold the 4th Tuesday meeting in the evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. for the next three months as a trial period for the convenience of the public.

WAYNE MUSGROVE, Cawker City

Thirty-six new "WELCOME" flags have just been purchased by the city and new "AMERICAN" flags have been purchased by the American Legion.

The city's auto liability and general liability coverage has just been extended to \$500,000.

The city council and the Community Club have decided to continue with their annual program of matching funds up to \$300 each to be used for buying new Christmas decorations.

The city has received final approval for matching funds for our Lake Side Park Development through the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The total project cost for work at this time is \$35,542.

JOYCE SMITH, Altamont

The City of Altamont has installed a new federal warning siren at the cost of \$9,405.26. Funding was through the Civil Defense on a 50 - 50 share basis. The new siren has three tones which can be activated through the county and city.

New metal Halide ball lights are being installed at the city's new ball diamond. Cost of the project is \$12,950.

The city has joined with other cities and rural water districts in organizing a Big Hill Public Wholesale Water Supply District for purchase of water from the Big Hill Reservoir.

HELEN HARTSELL, Stafford

Word has been received by the Recreation Commission advising that the Kansas State Park and Resources Authority has authorized a community development block grant in the amount of \$59,125 for park improvement. This is a joint effort of the Recreation Commission, School District #349 and the City of Stafford.

A cable T.V. franchise was granted to operate and maintain a cable T.V. system in the City of Stafford. The company is to pay 3% of the gross revenues. The City of Stafford also leased three lots belonging to the city to establish a tower and electronics system. Don Veach of Ellinwood is in charge of the operation.

With the help of the City of Stafford, local veterinarian Dr. Maxwell conducted a dog and cat clinic. He offered rabies shots and distemper shots at a reduced rate to all who brought their animals in. Due to lack of money, the city did not pay for the serum as usual; however, it ran the ads in the paper and furnished Dr. Maxwell with a place to hold the clinic.

The city is applying for an amended vested water right for 546 acre feet of water.

The city office ladies restroom and the hallway have recently had a much needed face lift.

ARLENE SEJKORA, Chapman

The city will resurface 28½ blocks during the latter part of May. The contract was let to a private firm in the fall of 1979 and it will be completed in the time specified.

MAYREE MANGUS, Minneapolis

The city office is enjoying a new Adler typewriter.

A new truck for the street department has been purchased. It will be a Chevrolet, 6 cyl., automatic transmission and bed with electric hoist.

Bruce Barefield, City Attorney, is going to recodify the city's ordinances. The only other time this was ever done was in 1958 by the League.

The maintenance of the city connecting links with highway #106 has been turned over to the city.

The city offered free pickup of trash for three weeks in May, as they did last year.

An audit by EPA on the city's books for the sewage treatment facility has recently been completed.

RUBY FOSTER, Eureka

The city recently purchased a new FMC Bean sewer cleaner and a street sweeper.

YVONNE COON, Clearwater

The City of Clearwater issued no fund warrants for a Horton 100 Ambulance in the amount of \$46,750.

The city also has received from the Federal Safer Off-Systems Funds through the Kansas Department of Transportation a 70% grant in the amount of \$155,076.12 for the curb, gutter and paving of Gorin Avenue from Ross to Park.

VICKI DAISE, Osborne

On May 7, 1980, the city approved an ordinance calling for a \$500,000 industrial revenue bond issue for Osborne County Grain.

MARGARET AGEE, Belle Plaine

The City of Belle Plaine is pleased to announce that a grant has been received from the Environmental Protection Agency which will enable construction of a wastewater treatment plant. Notification of this grant was received on May 2, 1980, and construction is to be completed by March 1, 1982.

NADINE HERRIDGE, Oswego

Construction of the new city hospital, that began January, 1979, was completed in May. It will be equipped with 18 beds and operating facilities. It was funded with \$600,000 in revenue bonds, \$250,000 in GO Bonds and the remaining \$150,000 was collected in donations from people in and around Oswego in a three day period. Open House was May 18th. Advanced Health Systems will be operating it and the administrator is Pat Lawrence.

A swimming pool project consisting of a new filtration system and renovation of bathhouses is underway. Completion, hopefully, will be by the 1st of July.

An ordinance providing a cablevision franchise was passed by the council in August, 1979. Construction will start July 1 and completion will be sometime in August.

New ordinances passed by the council prohibit drinking on city property including all city parks and softball parks.

In December, the city purchased a new 18 cu. yd. Loadmaster sanitation truck.

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**THE MUNICIPAL CLERK:
2000 YEARS OF SERVICE**

The municipal clerk, along with the tax collector, is the oldest of public servants. The office can be traced to biblical times and even before.

St. Paul and his followers, during his missionary work in Persia (now Western Turkey), owed their safety to the action of a town clerk. As related in Acts XIX, 23-25, the artisans of Ephesus who made the idols of the time, feared the effect of Paul's missionary work on their trade. The incited a mob to seize two of Paul's followers. The town clerk, however, spoke out against this action and insisted that charges laid against these men had to be settled in the proper manner and before the proper authorities. There was no justification for riotous conduct. With that, he dispersed the crowd.

Ancient Greece had a city secretary who read official documents publicly. At the opening of a meeting, one of his duties was to read a curse upon anyone who should seek to deceive the people.

The early keepers of the archives were often called 'remembrancers' and before writing came into use, their memory was the public record.

The title as we know it is derived from the middle ages. A "Clerk" was any member of a religious order, a "cleric" or "clergyman." Since, for all practical purposes, the scholarship of the Middle Ages was limited to the clergy, the name "clerk" came to be synonymous with "scholar."

The Office of Clerk can be traced back to the year 1271 A.D. in the History of the Corporation of Old London. In the 1500's in

England there was not only the "Towne Clarcke" but also the "Clerc Comptroller of the King's Honorable Household." In 1603, there was a "Clarke General of the Armie." King Henry the Eighth had a "Clarke of the Spicery," and King Charles had his "Clerk of the Robes."

When the early colonists came to America, they set up forms of local government to which they had been accustomed, and the office of clerk was one of the first established. The colony at Plymouth appointed a person to act as a recorder.

Over the years, municipal clerks have become the hub of government, the direct link between the inhabitants of their towns and their government. The clerk is the historian of his community, for the entire recorded history of the town and its people is in his care.

The eminent political scientist, Professor William Bennett Munro, writing in one of the first textbooks on municipal administration, stated:

"No other office in municipal service has so many contacts. It serves the mayor, the city council, the city manager (when there is one), and all administrative departments without exception. All of them call upon it, almost daily, for some service or information. Its work is not spectacular, but it demands versatility, alertness, accuracy, and no end of patience. The public does not realize how many loose ends of city administration this office pulls together."

Those words, written 40 years ago, are even more appropriate today.