

County property goes smoke-free on July 1

Written by Deb Egenberger
Thursday, 28 June 2012 13:29 -

LEXINGTON—Beginning on Sunday, tobacco use will be prohibited on all Dawson County property, including county-owned vehicles.

Commissioners see the new policy as one way to curb tobacco use and to help employees live a more healthy lifestyle.

Employees, for the most part, have embraced the change.

County clerk Karla Zlatkovsky said only one commissioner reported a single complaint from an employee.

“He said the county couldn’t make him quit smoking if he doesn’t want to,” Zlatkovsky said following the board’s June 19 meeting. “This policy doesn’t mean anyone has to quit. They just can’t smoke on county property.”

Smokeless tobacco use is prohibited by the policy as well.

Commissioners adopted the stricter tobacco use policy in March and put it into resolution form last week.

“We’ve actually had multiple comments from people saying maybe this will help them quit,” Zlatkovsky said. “So some people see it as an opportunity.”

The tobacco-free policy applies to all county-owned buildings, property and vehicles, including large road equipment.

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“The commissioners agree it will be difficult to police, especially in vehicles,” Zlatkovsky said. “But when they go to replace a vehicle, they’ll know.”

The tobacco-free rule not only applies to employees but to visitors as well.

In other county business, commissioners:

heard the monthly crime report from sheriff Gary Reiber. There were 1,002 total calls for service in May, up from 867 in April.

authorized an amendment to the subgrant agreement for child support enforcement services with the clerk of the District Court, recognizing a change in the start date of the new contract from July 1 to Sept. 1.

re-appointed Susan Bennett and Lisa LeVan Steward, both of Lexington, and Anne Anderson of Gothenburg to the Dawson County Visitors Committee.

approved a special designated liquor license request from Last Call Bar & Grill in Overton for a fund-raising event for the Overton Veterans Memorial.

gave Court Appointed Special Advocate director Linda Shaw permission to apply for a national CASA grant that would fund a bilingual contract employee with the understanding that when the grant funds run out, the job ends.

renewed a contract with Maloley Real Estate for the old 4M Building at Eighth and Washington streets, which houses Health and Human Services, as well as a sublease of the building between Dawson County and the State of Nebraska.